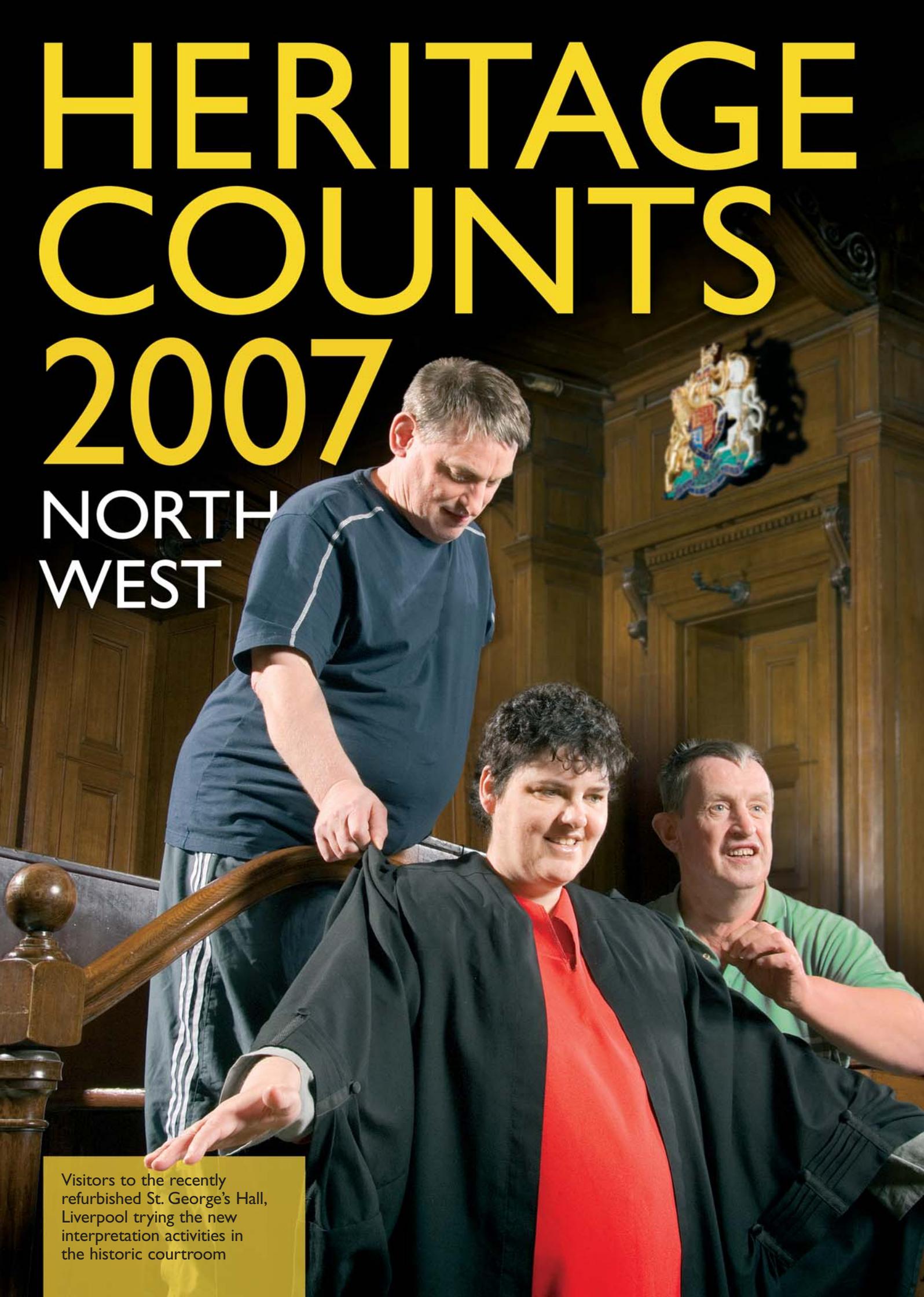


HERITAGE COUNTS 2007

NORTH
WEST



Visitors to the recently refurbished St. George's Hall, Liverpool trying the new interpretation activities in the historic courtroom

HERITAGE COUNTS 2007

NORTH WEST

Heritage Counts 2007 is the sixth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is five years since the publication of the original *State of the Historic Environment Report* and this year's report looks at the principal changes which have occurred in the historic environment since 2002. It also includes a focus on the historic environment as a learning resource and on the issues faced by the sector in relation to the skills of the workforce. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the North West's Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2007* report, available at www.heritagecounts.org.uk.

This sixth edition of Heritage Counts for the North West demonstrates the impressive range of activities which are taking place across the region. Whether it is the publication of an archaeological research framework for the North West, the development of heritage tourism, or work on the heritage craft skills agenda, there is much activity which is noteworthy.

There is a particular focus on Liverpool as it celebrates the 800th anniversary of its charter through a programme of events which are raising awareness of the outstanding history of the city. This combines with the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery, a trade in which Liverpool played a prominent part, and which has left an indelible mark on the city. The *Reading the Signs* leaflet provides a sobering insight into just how far the tentacles of this appalling human traffic reached into the fabric of Liverpool.

The concluding section of this report, on regional indicators and changes and trends over the last 5 years, identifies areas where the historic environment sector and its partners need to work together to improve the situation. This applies particularly to buildings at risk, where the North West has the second highest proportion of entries at risk of the 9 English regions in the English Heritage register. Nevertheless the results of the DCMS Taking Part survey shows a healthy level of engagement with the historic environment with large numbers visiting historic attractions and doing voluntary work. While the level of participation clearly needs to be developed and encouraged, the fact that 68% of adults in the region visited a designated historic site in the past 12 months demonstrates the high level of popular interest in the remarkable historic environment of the North West.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LIVERPOOL AND THE ACCESS TO HERITAGE PROJECT

The magnificent St George's Hall that Sir Nikolaus Pevsner said was "...the finest neo-Grecian building in England and one of the finest in the world" was re-opened in April 2007 following a £23 million restoration. Now open to the public, free of charge, it had a remarkable 25,000 visitors in the first week.

The Access to Heritage Project is a forum of people with learning disabilities from Merseyside. For over two years, they have been looking at ways of making heritage sites and attractions more accessible and enjoyable for visitors with learning difficulties. The forum members and their support staff regularly visit different museums, galleries and historic houses in the region, recording their impressions and discovering what excites and stimulates their group. Working with the Project Co-ordinator, artist Ticky Lowe, the group have been exploring alternative means of interpretation, including sound, touch, smell and the use of symbols to replace text in signage.

Recently, the forum completed its first 'live' project. Members worked with the Heritage Manager of Liverpool Culture Company, to develop a major interpretation centre within St George's Hall. Forum members wanted a visitor experience which appealed to all the senses, so sound, smells and hands-on activities are central to the exhibitions.

The Access to Heritage Project is now exploring a further range of heritage issues, including guided tours, pre-and post visit information and volunteering opportunities in the heritage sector for people with learning difficulties.

KEY RELEVANT POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Introduction

Nationally 2007 has seen the publication of several key documents which will set the framework for the historic environment for a number of years to come. The Heritage White Paper and the Planning White Paper are explicitly linked, with the former stating that heritage protection needed to be an integral part of the planning system and the latter emphasising the role of planning in protecting and enhancing the historic environment in the first paragraph of its ministerial forward. The historic environment sector's enthusiastic response to *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century* was tempered by concern about whether the resources would be made available for its effective implementation, hence the importance attached to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. These are all outlined in the national version of Heritage Counts. However, in the North West, there are several additional developments that affect the heritage sector – these are elaborated on below.

The Heritage White Paper

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport published the long awaited White Paper *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century* in March 2007, setting the framework for heritage protection from 2010 onwards. The key proposals include:

- A unified designation regime and register for all national heritage assets. Local authorities will remain responsible for designating conservation areas and lists of locally important assets.
- A unified Historic Assets Consent regime.
- Statutory provision for voluntary Heritage Partnership Agreements for large and complex sites providing advance consent for certain repetitive or routine works.
- Strengthened protection for archaeological remains on cultivated land, demolition of locally listed buildings and World Heritage Sites.
- Statutory duty for local authorities to maintain or have access to a Historic Environment Record.

The guiding principles underpinning the reforms were to unify the system making it simpler; to create a system that engages local communities in the protection of their heritage, and to put the historic environment at the heart of a reformed planning system. The historic environment sector has responded enthusiastically to the proposals – pending allocation of sufficient resources.

Planning White Paper

A major challenge for the heritage sector is to ensure that heritage interests are fully considered at all stages in the revised planning process that is likely to emerge from the Government White Paper *Planning for a Sustainable Future*. These reforms are designed to streamline planning, giving households greater flexibility to make minor extensions for example, and establishing national policy statements, an improved application process and an independent commission to take decisions on major projects. It is, however, essential that the heritage protection legislation and the planning legislation are coordinated and aligned.

Impacts 08 benchmark indicators

Liverpool has been designated the European Capital of Culture for 2008 and evaluation of the whole process is seen as important. The initial part of developing what has become known as 'The Liverpool Model', exploring the impacts of the Liverpool Capital of Culture, has been the selection and population of benchmark indicators. These will be used as the programme celebrating the Capital of Culture develops and in the aftermath of 2008. Work is underway to develop good practice in balancing conventional economic and event participation figures with an exploration of the social, cultural and physical impacts. The main benchmarks selected so far include: the strength of the local economy (measured by gross value added or GVA), employment and skill levels (which already indicates a rise in employment in the creative industries of around 50% from 2002 to 2005, well ahead of the national average) and the impacts of tourism (to include visitor expenditure, hotel room occupancy etc). Benchmarks in the cultural sector examine, for example, the size of the creative industries, the number of events and the way these have been reported by the media, the sustainability of the system and the contribution of the Culture Company (for example over 13,000 days of artist employment were made possible through Culture Company grants in 2005/06). Monitoring of the number and type of events along with the levels of participation are being put in place. This includes the number of volunteers, the social composition of the performers and participants and the population's interest in culture. Interestingly, Liverpool residents have a higher than average attendance at museums and galleries (60% in 2005 compared to 52% nationally). Data is also being collected to measure the image, identity and sense of place amongst local residents, compared to national and international impressions. There are specific benchmarks established to measure the investment in heritage infrastructure and also new construction.

Whilst the intention has been to establish a wide range of indicators, in many areas it has proved very difficult to collect and measure data, either because of a lack of suitable data or because of inconsistencies in the way it had been collected. However, the Impacts08 team are working on this, along with the establishment of comparison data with other Capitals of Culture. One initial finding is that the

city is attracting a high percentage of new visitors – 41% of tourists in 2006/07 had never visited Liverpool before, compared with an average figure of 26% for other destinations, and visitor expenditure is growing (totalling £629 million in 2004).

Heritage Environment Forum advocacy documents

One of the main priorities for the Historic Environment Forum (HEF) in the NW has been the promotion of the interests of the historic environment. In order to provide evidence and comment on various aspects of the sector the HEF is in the process of producing a series of factsheets; these will be either thematic, such as on the History Matters campaign 2006, or are on particular elements of the sector, such as the historic houses or parks and gardens. The intention is to have these stored on the Regional Culture Observatory online from where they could be downloaded. It is hoped that the information on each sheet would be used in presentations to relevant audiences, in supporting debate and argument for resources for the historic environment, or for general information and as a signpost to key contacts. The intention is that those advocating on behalf of the historic environment will have access to more information – which can be easily kept updated by the HEF. The first of the factsheets should be available early in 2008 from the observatory at www.northwestcultureobservatory.co.uk

The Northwest Culture Observatory

This is the region's strategic culture research and intelligence network, with the remit to champion evidence, share insight and build intellectual capacity across the cultural sector. The Observatory works across the breadth of cultural domains (including sports, the arts, heritage, tourism, museums, libraries and archives and creative industries) and across the North West region. The Observatory is the research arm of Culture Northwest, the Regional Cultural Consortium, and is funded by regional partners.

The observatory has created an on-line resource which went live in July 2007, providing easy access to cross-sector and region wide cultural intelligence. The focus is on cultural research and data that underpins the development of the North West's cultural sector. The Observatory Online provides access to a constantly growing databank of intelligence and showcases research to the widest possible audience. It also contains news, events and tenders and has cultural discussion forums online. Users are able to create their own professional profile, bespoke library and tailored e-communications.

In addition to the Observatory Online, the Northwest Culture Observatory manages national pilots, for example the CLG and Sport England Improvement Project for Public Value, Sport and Culture. It also initiates demonstration projects such as Impacts 08 - The Liverpool Model. The observatory convenes continued professional development through networks such as Culture Observatory Intelligence

Network. The observatory has an innovative research event partnership with the Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) at The University of Manchester and can offer tailored support on strategic projects e.g. Manchester International Festival Research and Evaluation Programme and the development of evaluation frameworks for regional heritage initiatives such as the Historic Environment Liverpool Project. By publishing intelligence such as the Taking Part Survey in the NW, the Observatory helps further understanding of engagement and participation in culture. The observatory can be found at www.northwestcultureobservatory.co.uk

Regional Design Panel

Places Matter! is a major new programme from RENEW Northwest, the Regional Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Communities, to drive up the quality of place making in the region. Places matter because of their importance in driving economic activity and in helping to determine quality of life. They are the essential fabric for where we live, work, learn and play. The quality of buildings, streets, squares, markets and parks is not only important individually, but is key in contributing towards defining a place. The programme facilitates improved decision making and commissioning skills, as well as increased awareness of, and expectations for, high quality design amongst clients and developers. Places Matter! consists of a number of complementary strands including a regional design review service, offering expert advice and comprehensive assessments of schemes to public and private sector clients and developers. Design Review is a tried and tested method of improving the quality of new masterplans and developments by offering constructive, impartial and expert advice to developers, planning authorities and regional agencies on development schemes. Reviews happen at proposal stage allowing beneficial changes to be accommodated at marginal cost. Heritage is represented on the panel and English Heritage also has participant observer status for relevant cases. The programme was launched in conjunction with the dissemination of the findings of a major research project into the economic value of good design, which clearly demonstrates the economic added value gained from implementing high quality design. Other activity includes a schools education programme, a support and training network for public sector champions and decision makers, and a public realm good practice guide.

The Historic Towns and Cities in England's North West report

Following publication of this report, sponsored by the North West Development Agency and English Heritage, awareness has been raised of the enormous potential contribution of heritage to the tourist economy. In one of the cities identified, Lancaster, a group including staff from the local museum, the City Council, Culture Northwest and others has come together to see what simple steps can be taken to boost the profile of heritage in the historic city centre. This has led to Lancaster Vision putting in

considerable funding to develop and market the Lancastrian cultural tourism offer; promoting the history of the area and aligning it with the City's future development plans. The publication of the report has acted as a spur to pull together the efforts of what in the past were often uncoordinated activities.

An Archaeological Research Framework for the North West

The formulation of a Research Framework for Archaeology in the North West was initiated by English Heritage and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), and led by a full-time co-ordinator. The results have been published in two volumes, in 2006 and 2007. They are the outcome of widespread consultation amongst the archaeological community in the region.

The first stage was to produce a comprehensive assessment of the archaeological remains and knowledge for the region, published as Volume I of the Research Framework. Each chapter was organised chronologically and together they form a comprehensive review of the archaeology of the North West. This assessment was then used to identify where the most important gaps in knowledge lay. It was only when the archaeology of the region had been assessed, that it became apparent how large and real the gaps were. This led to the creation of a research agenda, again formulated via period-based groups and with participation from the wider archaeological community. Finally, a research strategy for the North West region was written up and published as the Research Framework Volume II.

While the North West excels at some areas of research it has perhaps lagged behind other parts of the country in others. Post-excavation and publication of long-stalled projects need to be addressed, alongside an increase in the use of scientific techniques and methods, and improved access to archaeological reports and information not formally and routinely published. But, there are areas of excellence to pursue too, including large-scale landscape surveys and assessments, and research into the more recent post-medieval and industrial periods.

Production of the Research Framework has brought together many parts of the archaeological community, and this in itself has been a worthy exercise, but ultimately the final documents will help make sure that, as far as possible, all projects are designed to produce the maximum return in terms of research outcomes, using appropriate techniques and methodologies. It must be stressed that in identifying particular types and periods of sites as a priority for active investigation, there is no presumption that other periods or site types are less valued or a lesser priority for protection and future research. It is equally important to emphasise that the Research Strategy is not intended to straight-jacket or stifle new research initiatives, but to gain the greatest benefit for understanding the region's archaeology from



Archaeological investigation at Wood Street, Nantwich

NANTWICH WATERLOGGED DEPOSITS PROJECT

Nantwich is one of Cheshire's historic salt-working towns. Exceptionally good preservation conditions within the town have resulted in over 3 metres of organic-rich deposits, including timbers that have been dated by dendrochronology to Roman and medieval times. In effect Nantwich has a "dark earth" which still retains much of its organic origin, and this wealth of material is found not only in salt-working areas beside the River Weaver, but also on the higher ground in the core of the medieval town. Such waterlogged conditions on river terrace sands are surprising. English Heritage has funded Cheshire County Council's Historic Environment Team and SLR Consulting to undertake a multi-disciplinary strategic study of these deposits using archaeologists, geologists, hydrogeologists, palaeoecologists and GIS. The investigation will map the extent of wet remains through desk studies and a programme of boreholes, to characterise the scale and extent of the deposits and to understand what factors have led to waterlogging. The work will result in a management strategy to inform decisions on future development within the town and so ensure that these remains are managed and preserved for the future. This is intended also to inform work on such deposits elsewhere in the country which will be provided by a seminar discussing the results and, arising from this, a leaflet on best practice.

every opportunity and initiative that arises for archaeological work. Progress will be reviewed in 5-10 years time and the final texts will be available for use from the project website at <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/arf>

SKILLS

To function effectively, the historic environment needs a workforce which has a wide range of skills. There have been long-standing concerns that recruitment difficulties resulting from *skill shortages* are a major problem, particularly in relation to some craft skills. Meanwhile *skills gaps* amongst existing staff, for example those working in local authority historic environment services or as volunteers (and their managers) in the sector, have also received attention. This section of Heritage Counts refers to the most recent report into craft skill shortages and one way in which the region is responding to it. Also included here are two case studies that illustrate some of the examples of good practice in the region.

Heritage Craft Skills in the North West

A report published in June 2005 by the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) into the built heritage sector found that 3,728 people were employed in the repair and maintenance of some 848,000 pre-1919 buildings (including over 25,000 listed buildings) in the region in 2004; however, almost 400 additional people were estimated to be needed just to meet immediate regional demand. This included over 50 speciality bricklayers, carpenters and slate and tile roofers, over 40 lead-workers and stonemasons, and over 30 joiners, painters and decorators to work in an industry estimated to be worth over £3.5 billion across England in 2004. There were also shortages in smaller trades, such as wheelwrights and thatchers. The effect of these shortages meant that while almost 66 per cent of public and commercial stockholders and private home dwellers were satisfied with the work done on their property, 54 per cent of public and commercial stockholders and 42 per cent of private stockholders were unhappy with the time taken to complete the work.

Following the publication of the NHTG report in 2005, a series of regional seminars was held to publicise the findings and to launch the idea of regional heritage craft skills groups being established, with an action plan to address the craft skill shortages identified in the report. Like other regions, it has taken time to establish a regional steering group and action plan in the North West; however, that has not meant that things have not been happening in the region. Indeed the range of building craft skills initiatives at places and organisations such as Cumbria, Gorton Monastery and Victoria Baths in Manchester; the Heritage



Heritage Trust for the North West craft workers outside Higherford Mill, Pendle

PENDLE CRAFT SKILLS ARCHIVE

A Collection of 70,000 photographic images and documents of historic buildings in the North West, built up over a lifetime by W J Smith, an architectural historian and buildings archaeologist, has been donated to Heritage Trust for the North West, a registered building trust, whose headquarters are in North East Lancashire. Under the terms of the gift, a separate body has been set up, the North West Traditional Buildings Trust, which with gift-aid, will care for the material and make it available for study. The Collection will complement and support the proposed Centre for Traditional Building and Craft Skills which the Trust is establishing in industrial buildings and St Mary's Church, Nelson, both of which are owned by the Trust. Planning permission has already been obtained, and considerable funds raised towards the project. The Trust has also formed its own building construction company "Conservation Services NW" which employs ten craft workers, specialising in traditional building skills, undertaking building restoration work for the Trust, providing opportunities for training in construction skills, as well as generating funds for the Trust.

Trust for the North West and Elevate in Lancashire, and various colleges such as Accrington & Rossendale, St Helens and Liverpool, has led to a rather complex regional picture of activity. There is a clear need to identify, amongst other things, what the regional provision of skills, courses and training is, who is providing it and where. Care must also be taken that any action plan is inclusive of all of the key organisations in the region and is aligned with the Regional Economic Strategy. To this end English Heritage is working with the Monastery of St Francis and Gorton Trust and supported by the NHTG to develop a regional Traditional Building Crafts Strategy, underpinned by research into the requirements of the workforce, the levels of demand, the current provision of heritage craft skills, and likely future requirements. This strategy will lead to the creation of a regional action plan and will be driven by a steering group drawn from all parts of the building craft sector. The intention is for this to be completed by 2008.



A National Trust trainee gardener at work in the greenhouse at Dunham Massey, Cheshire

CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HERITAGE GARDENERS

As part of its commitment to supporting learning and skills and in order to enable recruits to move into careers within the heritage sector, the National Trust has run a Careership Programme since 1991, supported by the National Gardens Scheme. Every year the Trust appoints 12 gardeners and 8 wardens to train under this programme. After three years of working on a National Trust property and studying at Reaseheath College, successful trainees graduate with NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in Amenity Horticulture. Trainee wardens also receive NVQ levels 2 and 3 in Environmental Conservation. The programme provides a unique blend of practical skills and vocational qualifications in formal and informal learning environments and has attracted students from a variety of backgrounds. Graduates gain the skills and knowledge to take up a position in the Trust and have the chance to train further to become a head gardener or warden. In the past 3 years, 47 trainees have successfully graduated, and most have found employment with the Trust. There are currently 60 people in the country on the programme. Dunham Massey in Cheshire is hosting a gardening trainee and there is a trainee warden at the Trust's property at Morecambe Bay. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the scheme in 2005 found that students were very positive and that most managers felt their properties benefited from having the trainees on site. The Trust intends to move towards a system of having lead training properties become a base for trainees, supported by several satellite sites.

LEARNING

The Government has indicated its enthusiasm for fostering more learning outside the classroom and using the built environment (historic and contemporary) more effectively for learning. This is something that has been taken up with some enthusiasm in the North West as the examples below indicate.

Education visits to historic (staffed) properties in the North West

There are 2 sets of data that show education visits to historic properties in the North West; those from the National Trust and from English Heritage.

The National Trust data shows no clear trend in education visits to its sites in the region over the period, with the decline of 9.7% since 2002/03 based on a weaker performance in 2006/07. The North West still represents 15.5% of the total number of education visits to the Trust's properties for 2006/07, however, and the national trend for education visits to the National Trust shows a steady increase over the period.

The data from English Heritage spans 2001/02 to 2006/07 and whilst the trend over 6 years shows a slight increase of 5.5%, this shows that the educational visits for the region increased steadily up to 2004/05 and have declined since then. This does mirror the national trend for English Heritage sites. The North West has by far the lowest number of education visits to EH properties at only 3.6% of the total, a reflection of the low number of sites it has in the region. The EH national figures also show that just 4 sites (3 in the South East and 1 in the South West) account for 40% of the entire EH education visits.

Educational visits to historic properties in the North West 2001-2007

Organisation		Year					
		2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
National Trust	North West	N/A	81,743	84,691	77,412	82,442	73,776
	National	N/A	416,142	461,727	444,407	468,792	475,271
English Heritage	North West	14,477	17,677	18,569	18,940	15,780	15,269
	National	405,274	426,278	438,534	447,305	440,733	424,793

Source: English Heritage and The National Trust

THE BLACKDEN TRUST GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMME

The Blackden Trust cares for a parcel of land that has been occupied for over ten thousand years. The timber frame houses that stand on the site, and the archaeological artefacts belonging to it, have determined the educational policy of the Trust, which is to provide intensively-supported courses to small numbers of Gifted and Talented students, giving them the opportunity to work with primary evidence, and enabling them to contribute to the making of history. On each course, nine students become researchers for the day. They are given time to observe and comment on the buildings and on the archaeological materials. They wash unsorted artefacts, and by referring to a type series of locally found pottery, they date and identify the pottery that they wash. At secondary level, students also study aerial photographs, copies of historical maps, wills and probate inventories, which they correlate with the pottery, thereby acquiring a sense of the lives of the people that lived at Blackden and also skills that they can apply to other disciplines.

As the courses are led by academics and supported by graduate specialists, anomalies in the emerging evidence are immediately identified, adding to the knowledge of the site. Students experience the excitement of intellectual discovery and several have returned as volunteers to further the work of The Blackden Trust, where education and research are inextricably linked. Future prospective projects include developing archaeology courses to be taken into the classrooms of local schools, and starting a literary club.

There are several points to make in regard to interpreting this collection of education visits data. Firstly, 2003 was the end of the Foot and Mouth outbreak – which affected this region particularly badly, and perhaps the peaks of 2003/04 indicate a renewed effort for educational visits to sites. The importance of location of sites in relation to population cannot be emphasised enough too – the South West has a concentration of sites owned by both the National Trust and EH and that would account for the high proportion of visits there. This is supported by the contrast with the North West where the Trust has more sites than EH and attracts far more educational visits. The region has many museums and galleries and they have shown increases in educational visits, particularly when they have targeted resources in this area. For example, the number of children participating in outreach and on-site informal education throughout the NW Museum Hub (a network of 6 museums around Manchester) increased by 104% in 2006 to a total of 1.36 million. The number of children visiting NW Hub museums with their families has also increased to nearly 29,000.

The Historic Houses Association has 83 houses in the North West of which 36 are open to the public. 8 of these have formal educational activities, a proportion of 1 in 5

which compares very favourably to the other neighbouring regions and is perhaps a reflection of the prominence of the issue in this region amongst property owners (see Blackden Trust case study above).

The Ancoats 'skills, schools and stories' programme

'Skills, Schools and Stories' is an integrated programme of activities designed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in the restoration of Murrays' Mills and the regeneration of Ancoats. The £145,000 project, led by the Ancoats Buildings Preservation Trust, has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with contributions in kind and financial support from the Manchester Education Partnership, the North West Regional Development Agency, Wates Construction Group and many volunteers.

Construction skills taster days for 14 to 19 year olds have been held at Murrays' Mills, as a way of raising awareness of the construction industry as a career avenue. Apprentices from Wates Construction have worked alongside students who have tried their hand at brick-laying, joinery and roofing, using traditional materials and techniques. The scheme has been enjoyed by young people from Ancoats, young offenders and school groups, who found the one-to-one vocational training inspiring and relevant.

Around 300 primary school children have had the opportunity to visit the construction site at Murrays' Mills and to participate in a series of story-telling, drama and art workshops. Materials handling on site has given the young people a 'feel' for the construction industry, whilst artefacts have been used to inspire children about industrial archaeology and the recent past of their own grandparents and ancestors. A teachers' resource pack on CD Rom, containing maps, photographs, census extracts and other archive materials, oral history recordings, and a self-guided trail, has been distributed free of charge to all Manchester Education Partnership primary schools. The response from all those involved has been overwhelmingly positive.

The stories project has used volunteers to help track down former residents, who were moved out to new estates during the 1960s housing clearances, with the aim of recording their memories of the area to pass on to the new community of the Ancoats Urban Village. The theme is 'Ancoats – All work and No Play?', with an emphasis on recording the good times in this former industrial suburb – the playground games, dance classes, football teams and other social activities. As part of the project, personal photographs and other memorabilia has been scanned and stored digitally. The stories have been used on the schools' CD resource pack and on a sound loop for exhibitions. An illustrated publication is planned for 2007. The volunteers in the programme realise that part of the success of the regeneration of a community is the retention of its community spirit and identity. This is what the project has aimed at preserving and passing on.

Bicentenary of the Parliamentary Abolition of the British Transatlantic Slave Trade

The Bicentenary of the Slave Trade Abolition Act, which took place in March 2007, was seen as an important national event by government and evoked a range of responses within the heritage sector. In the North West there have been numerous exhibitions and events such as the contribution from the National Trust which published information on the links between its properties and the slave trade as well as developing the performance piece "Hetty, Esther and Me" at Quarry Bank Mill, in which young people explored the connections between slave grown cotton and the child labour in an English mill (reported in *Heritage Counts 2006*).

Manchester, and its surrounding towns were obviously very connected to the slave trade during the 17th and early 18th centuries due to the predominance of the cotton industry, but the area was also influential in the abolitionist movement too. For example, Manchester Cathedral was the location of the first public meeting of the Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade on the 28th October 1787, when Thomas Clarkson spoke to a packed congregation following his tour of the main British slave-trading ports. The resulting petition to Parliament was signed by around 11,000 people, 20% of the Town's population. This event has been remembered in an exhibition at the Cathedral during 2007. The 8 museums and galleries in the Greater Manchester area combined together to explore the legacy of the slave trade through their exhibitions and a series of events, tours and stories. Examples of the many successful events so far include the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester which held its first event in March that saw the museum staff work with a poet and visitors on an exploration of the 'union envelope', an item from the museum's collection. The 8 museums have also launched a website www.revealinghistories.org.uk to both promote and inform visitors on the venues of the slave trade related activities and exhibitions.

In Liverpool, which was a major British port involved in the slave trade, the focus of activity during 2007 has been the opening of the new International Slavery Gallery in the Merseyside Maritime Museum on the 23rd August (Slavery Remembrance Day). This replaces the old Transatlantic Slavery gallery and is more than double its size. The second phase of the museum will be the creation of a new international archive and resource centre. This will focus on making the extensive records and archives more accessible through digitisation, performances, lectures and public events. Further information is available at www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism

The anniversary has been addressed by the historic environment sector as an important part of British history, sometimes painful and sometimes inspiring, rather than an event of interest to a specific minority. It has been



Blackburne House built in 1790 by wealthy merchant John Blackburne

'READ THE SIGNS' – STREET NAMES, TRANSATLANTIC SLAVERY AND ABOLITION IN 21st CENTURY LIVERPOOL

The Historic Environment of Liverpool Project specially commissioned research into 12 of Liverpool's streets which are named after some of the best known individuals involved in the transatlantic slave trade and its abolition. The information has been incorporated into a free information leaflet aimed at a popular audience. It has demonstrated that trading in enslaved Africans was one of a range of business activities that merchants made money from in the city and that even after abolition in 1807 in Britain, vast fortunes were to be made in trading slave-produced goods.

The connections between the slave trade in Liverpool and the hinterland, including North Wales, Cumbria, Lancashire, Warrington and St Helens are also illustrated, offering a more holistic view of how other areas were involved, and how many of the merchants came specifically to Liverpool to make their fortune. Copies of the leaflet are available from key historic venues around Liverpool.

demonstrated that there is a wealth of evidence available to address a previously under-represented aspect of our shared past. This is a valuable foundation on which to build a more inclusive account of our heritage.

FOCUS ON LIVERPOOL

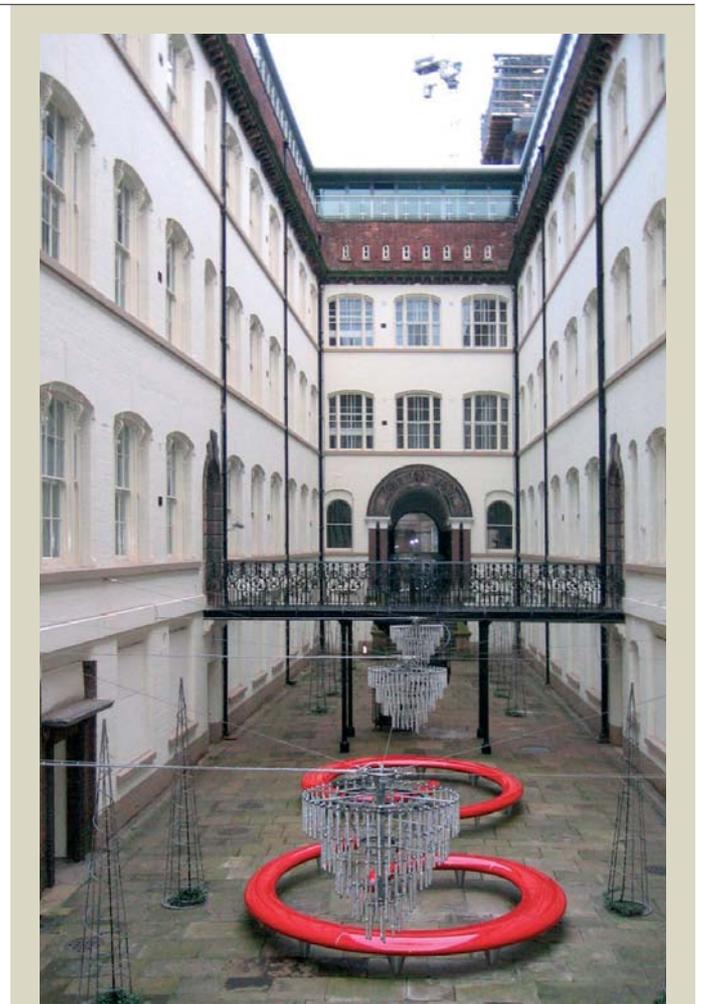
2007 – YEAR OF HERITAGE

On the 28 August 1207, King John's Charter created the Borough of Liverpool. It is that event that has been celebrated throughout 2007 and it is a reflection of the importance of Liverpool's heritage to the city that it is the final year in the build up to the city being 'The European Capital of Culture' in 2008. The Liverpool of 1207 consisted of seven streets, Dale Street, Bank Street, Castle Street, Moore Street, Mill Street, Chapel Street and Juggler Street. To the south was the Pool, the presence of which provided the reason for King John's interest as it was a good natural harbour for the launching of his ships to invade Ireland. The 800th birthday celebrations have included numerous history trails, such as the World Heritage Site Trail mentioned below, numerous websites such as www.liverpool2007.org.uk and a marketing campaign involving The Capital of Culture Company, Visit Liverpool and the Mersey Partnership. Prominent amongst all of these things has been the importance of Liverpool's built environment, which is featured in the sections below.

The Liverpool Buildings at Risk (BAR) project

With over 2,300 listed buildings, 34 conservation areas, 9 registered historic parks and gardens and 1 World Heritage Site, the historic environment is clearly an important asset to Liverpool. However, the long period of economic decline from the mid-20th century onwards, the severe bombing in the Second World War and some of the planning decisions from the 1960s and 1970s, left a legacy of neglect and decay on this historic environment. Public concern over this led to the Liverpool Echo's 'Stop the Rot Campaign' chaired by the Bishop of Liverpool, which also involves Liverpool Vision, the City Council, English Heritage, the North West Development Agency.

Liverpool took part in the pilot BAR scheme in 1990 with a full review of all its listed buildings, finding that 13% (351) of buildings were classed as 'at risk' and a further 16% (417) as 'vulnerable'. This meant that almost a third of Liverpool's listed buildings were in a poor condition or vacant. Eleven years later 50 buildings had been lost altogether due to collapse or forced demolition. It was the combination of public pressure and this physical evidence that led to the 6 year BAR project being established in 2001. This initiative was ground breaking within the UK on account of its scale and the level of consensus which made it possible. English Heritage and Liverpool City Council



Above: The Albany Building, Liverpool, a Grade II* former Building at Risk now restored to apartments, a restaurant and commercial space. **Below:** Some Buildings At Risk still blot the environment such as in Seel Street in the Ropewalks, Liverpool.

jointly funded a BAR officer, whilst the Liverpool Echo maintained pressure by singling out 'problem buildings' and acknowledging efforts being made to repair or bring buildings back into use. The BAR project focused on encouraging the repair and re-use of the 65 most critical cases, through the use of statutory powers available to the City Council where owners failed to respond and implement works to keep the buildings weather-proof and make them safe from vandalism or theft. £1 million of funding from the Regional Development Agency in 2003 allowed the programme to continue until April 2007.

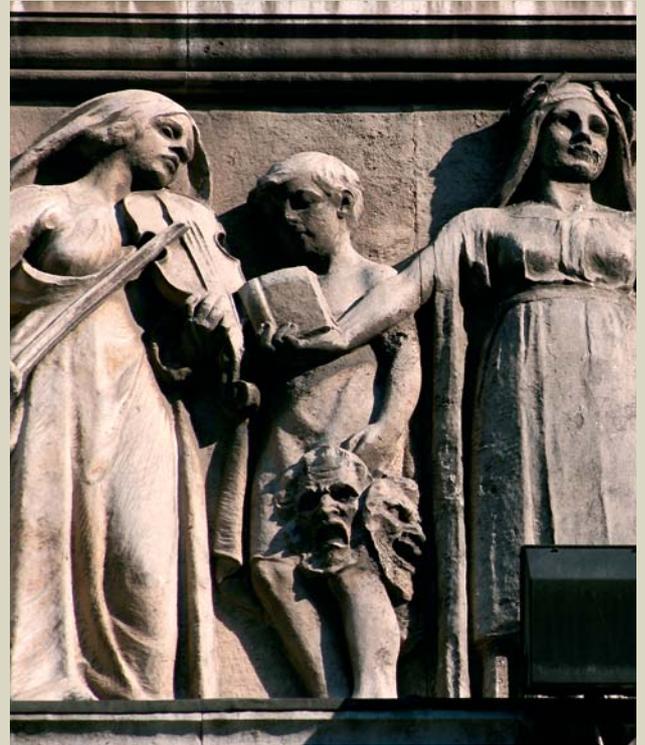
Evaluation of the project has found that its targets have mostly been met. For example, 55 initial survey inspections were completed out of a target of 50 and 9 Urgent Works Notices were served and implemented out of an original target of 15. Of the target to repair and bring back in sustainable long term use 6 properties at risk, a total of 16 has been achieved. In purely financial terms, whilst almost £4.5m of public funding has been made available for these problem buildings, significantly more private investment has been levered in during the course of the programme.

Since the BAR Project commenced it is clear that the combination of incentives with the threat of statutory action by the City Council has helped to initiate a significant number of redevelopment projects involving historic buildings throughout the City. However, a general upturn in the market for historic properties as part of Liverpool's regeneration has also accounted for the revival of a growing number of other 'vulnerable' listed buildings. A new initiative is now planned for the Ropewalks area of the city (part of the World Heritage Site designation) under the title 'Creative Ropewalks'. This should assist in the redevelopment of some 17 buildings found on the original BAR list. The repair and re-use of these buildings will have a significant impact on the appearance of this historic part of the city.

Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site

When Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City WHS was inscribed onto UNESCO's World Heritage list in July 2004, it provided the acknowledgement by independent experts that Liverpool is a city of true global significance. Liverpool's outstanding universal value stems from its vital role in world history through maritime trade, mass emigration and its place at the forefront of innovations in building/port technology. The extraordinarily rich historic townscape and outstanding cultural and historical collections bear direct witness to that historic significance. The international status helps to give confidence about the future of Liverpool and is a source of great pride. Together with Liverpool's success in being named Capital of Culture for 2008, World Heritage Site status is a convincing factor in creating a new image for Liverpool as a vibrant cultural and historic city.

Liverpool's new image and status has had a positive impact on the regeneration of the city and given a boost to the visitor economy as tourists are attracted to the World Heritage site. The requirement to manage this site led to the City Council, the Liverpool Culture Company and English Heritage commissioning a WHS Visitor Management Strategy in 2005, which is now being implemented. There is also a site Management Plan, a valuable planning tool in ensuring proper conservation and management. This is explicit in promoting new development opportunities on vacant sites and the sites of inappropriate existing buildings, provided that they respect the significance of the Site and are appropriate to its historic, spatial and townscape context. To further guide conservation and development



Detail on the Royal Insurance Building, Liverpool, taken as part of the Look up Liverpool project

'LOOK UP LIVERPOOL'

Look Up Liverpool is a creative project led by young people from the Yellow House Project, which aims to increase knowledge and participation in the historic built environment through photography and interaction with heritage professionals.

'Yellow House' works in a creative and holistic way with young people who, for a combination of reasons, feel marginalised in society. This might be through a lack of success in mainstream education, disability, family circumstances, health, culture, financial constraint or other factors. What all the young people have in common is a desire to be fully involved in society, to be heard and seen and to be creative.

The 'Look Up Liverpool' project encouraged those young people to look beyond their usual horizons by looking up at the parts of buildings which often go un-noticed: unseen engravings, mysterious carvings, fascinating symbols and clues to the past use of buildings. The participants themselves chose which buildings to photograph in different sections of the city centre. Along the way they have become fluent in architectural terminology and are avidly interested in current debates surrounding redevelopment and conservation in the city and beyond. The finished exhibition was on public view for 2 months from August 25th at St George's Hall in Liverpool.

Look Up Liverpool has been supported financially and in other ways by a range of organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, Liverpool Culture Company, English Heritage through the Historic Environment of Liverpool Project, Liverpool Housing Trust, National Museums Liverpool and others.



Heritage Open Days with the county archaeologist at the big screen in Liverpool

HISTORIC MAPS ON THE BIG SCREEN, HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN LIVERPOOL

English Heritage has funded a piece of research through the Merseyside Archaeological Service (MAS) as part of the Historic Environment of Liverpool Project (HELP) into the historic character and development of the area. This has resulted in historic maps of Liverpool and the surrounding boroughs being digitised and made available through a database.

One of the main applications for this digital information is within local authority planning and conservation departments. However, it has become clear over time that there is a much wider audience for this information too – the general public. People love to find out what has happened in the past in the area they live in, especially if it can be particularly tailored to their own street, school, place where they got married or grew up, for example.

Over the past few years, archaeologists from the MAS have taken the database out to community groups so that local residents can access information about where they live. Last year as part of Heritage Open Days, HELP and the MAS teamed up with the BBC Big Screen in Liverpool and BBC Radio Merseyside to bring the digitised maps to a cinema-sized screen in the city centre. Members of the public were invited to join the archaeologists and the presenter from the radio station while they were shown historic maps of where they live – on a large scale!

In 2007, the database was available during Heritage Open Month in Liverpool at Toxteth Town Hall all day on Friday the 21st September. Work is now ongoing with National Museums Liverpool to make this database freely available in the new Museum of Liverpool Life, due to open in 2010.

around the WHS, the City Council has commissioned the production of a Supplementary Planning Document *Harmonious Design and Exemplary Conservation* with funding from English Heritage and the NWDA, and hopes that it will be adopted in 2008.

The City of Liverpool is proud of its past achievements, but does not see World Heritage as an exercise in nostalgia. Rather, it is about realising the potential of the heritage resource and creating a thriving future, where old and new can combine in a high quality environment of international significance. For further information on the WHS, visit www.liverpoolworldheritage.com

England's First Free WHS Pod cast

Narrated by Loyd Grossman, this downloadable MP3 guide takes visitors on a walking tour through the main parts of the City's World Heritage Site. It has been created by the Culture Company and funded by the North West Development Agency as part of the 800th birthday celebrations and appropriately for an international site is available in many languages. The tour takes visitors to many of the most famous and historically significant buildings of the city centre such as the Pier Head, St Georges Hall, The Cavern Club and the Town Hall. An illustrated map accompanies the tour and is also easily downloadable to a computer. Liverpool has an easy city centre to walk around and is ideally suited to this innovative use of modern technology. The pod cast is available from www.liverpool08.com/AboutLiverpool/WorldHeritage/HeritageTour

'Seeing Is Believing' – a project taking a long-term view of built heritage in Liverpool from the personal view of 98 year old George Cross through his paintings.

At the time of the first public exhibition of his paintings in June 2007, George Cross was 98. Staff from 'Liverpool Community Spirit' had met George during work which they were doing in the Liverpool 8 area of the city. After visiting George at home, they became aware that following his retirement, he had taken up painting and produced a substantial number of paintings over the following 30 years. All of the paintings are of buildings and streetscapes in Liverpool, some of which do not exist anymore. George's work had not been displayed publicly before; this was about to change. As part of the project, George spent time with pupils in local primary schools talking not only about his paintings but about the built heritage of the area where he has lived for all his adult life, from terraces of houses to churches and open spaces.

The launch event for the exhibition, hosted at St George's Hall in the new *World Heritage – Your Heritage* public space, was attended by people of all ages and was a fitting display of support for this genuinely inspirational, unsung artistic talent.

REGIONAL INDICATORS

This section of Heritage Counts contains the main headlines for the regional indicators for the historic environment in the North West. The report is accompanied by a data document containing the raw data and more detailed comment. This is available from www.heritagecounts.org.uk

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

- The distribution of the region's historic assets is to be found on the map page at the back of this document.
- The historic assets of England are not evenly distributed around the regions. The North West, with 13.6% of the national population and 10.8% of the land area, has only 6.8% of the listed buildings, 6.7% of the scheduled ancient monuments and 8.1% of the registered parks and gardens. There are several reasons for this uneven distribution of historic assets, amongst them are that patterns of population settlement favoured the southern regions in the pre-industrial era, which helps explain why there are so many archaeological sites in the South West, listed churches in the East or historic parks and gardens attached to big country houses in the South East. It is also the case that when the first designations lists were drawn up there was less coverage given to some regions than others.
- There were 25,370 listed buildings in the region in 2007, an increase of 147 over 2002. There were 485 at Grade I, 1,506 at Grade II* and 23,337 at Grade II.
- There were 1,329 scheduled monuments in the North West in 2007, an increase of 61 from the 1,268 in 2002.
- There were 129 registered parks and gardens, 8.1% of the national total. This is an increase of 16 since 2002.

CONSERVATION AREAS

- There were 857 conservation areas in the North West in June 2007. 27.3% had had an appraisal over the last 5 years, an increase on the 2006 figure. This increase may be a reflection of the Best Value Performance Indicator for conservation area appraisals. The same survey found there were 56.1 conservation officer posts in the region and that 40 of the 47 planning authorities had at least a part time conservation officer. Furthermore, 109 (12.7%) conservation areas had a management plan.

BUILDINGS AT RISK

- In 2007, there were 108 Buildings at Risk (BAR) in the North West representing 5.4% of the total number of listed entries. This is a fall of 3 from 2006 and of 25 against the 1999 baseline. However, new entries have been added to the Register each year. The North West has the second highest proportion of BARs in the country, after the North East on 7.6%, and compared to the East of England on 1.7%.
- There is no complete record of locally maintained registers of BARs and therefore no complete record of numbers of Grade II buildings at risk. Estimates in 2004 suggested that around half of local authorities nationally maintained a register – and that more than 17,000 grade II buildings were at risk.

North West Buildings At Risk 2007 compared to 1999 baseline

Region	Listed Building entries, Grade I and II*	Buildings at Risk entries at Grade I and II*	% of entries at risk	Scheduled Ancient Monuments (not also listed) at risk	Total BAR entries
North West 2007	2,009	108	5.4	33	141
North West 1999	1,962	133	6.7	24	157
National 2007	30,544	966	3.2	269	1,235
National 1999	29,874	1,158	3.8	270	1,428

Source: English Heritage BAR Register 2007

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CHAMPIONS

- The North West had 24 Champions in July 2007, representing 52% of its local authorities. The national average is 58%.

PLANNING

- There were 63,000 planning application decisions made in 2006/07 in the North West. 1,923 of these decisions were on applications for listed building consent.
- The numbers of conservation area consents remains small in the region; there were 275 in 2006/07 representing 0.43% of the total planning decisions. Nationally there were 3,430 representing 0.58% of all planning decisions.
- In 2006/07, there were 78 scheduled monument consent decisions in the North West.
- There were 50 applications received by the Garden History Society in 2006/07, 33 at Grade II and 17 at Grade II*.

GRANTS TO THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- English Heritage offered £4,933,000 in grants in 2006/07 (which includes the repair grants for places of worship operated in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund). In the North West the total spent via the Historic Buildings, Monuments and Designed Landscapes scheme has declined from £3,305 million in 2001/02 to £2,977 million in 2006/07.
- Grant awards from all sources to the National Trust in the North West rose from £1,570,087 in 2003/04 to £2,465,821 in 2005/06 and fell back slightly to £2,414,076 in 2006/07.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund cumulative total for funding in the region now stands at £435,293,323 (from 1994/95 to 2006/07).

PARTICIPATION IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- The Taking Part Survey conducted on behalf of the DCMS has found that in the North West around 68% of adults visited a designated historic site in the past 12 months, only slightly less than the national figure of around 70%.
- The participation rates for the 3 target groups the DCMS set the sector were: ethnic minority groups approximately 50%, those with limiting disabilities or illness approximately 56%, and the lower socio-economic groups approximately 55%.
- The Historic Houses Association (HHA) estimates it had a total of 13,204,834 visitors to members' properties in 2006/07. In the North West the total was 1,173,647 visitors to the 36 houses that are open to the public (out of 83 in the region). The HHA also found their members employed 112 full time and 276 part time staff, and a further 148 seasonal staff, representing an important contribution to the regions' visitor economy.
- Nationally, English Heritage membership numbers have increased from 293,860 in 1992 to 630,000 in 2007. Regional EH membership data only extends back to 2004, however; for the three years covered, the proportion of EH members in each region has remained relatively unchanged. Only 5.48% of EH members lived in the North West in 2006/07, a similar proportion to the 5.34% in 2004/05. The NW has the lowest number of EH members, arguably a reflection of the comparatively low number of EH properties in the region, particularly near the main centres of population.
- Nationally, National Trust membership numbers have increased from 2,843,930 in 2001/02 to 3,480,188 in 2006/07. In the North West the National Trust membership in 2006/07 was 345,092.
- National Trust volunteering data shows that the region had the biggest increase in the number of volunteers over the period, from 1,772 in 2002/03 to 5,756 in 2006/07.

THE HISTORIC ASSETS OF THE NORTH WEST



Blackpool	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	0	0
Listed Buildings	39	39
Parks and Gardens	1	1
Conservation Areas	N/A	2
World Heritage Sites	0	0
Battlefields	0	0
Buildings at Risk	0	1

Halton	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	7	7
Listed Buildings	123	124
Parks and Gardens	0	0
Conservation Areas	N/A	10
World Heritage Sites	0	0
Battlefields	0	0
Buildings at Risk	1	2

Merseyside	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	36	38
Listed Buildings	2,992	3,011
Parks and Gardens	16	22
Conservation Areas	N/A	108
World Heritage Sites	0	1
Battlefields	0	0
Buildings at Risk	19	17

Cumbria	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	815	855
Listed Buildings	7,515	7,540
Parks and Gardens	18	19
Conservation Areas	N/A	113
World Heritage Sites	1	1
Battlefields	1	1
Buildings at Risk	38	35

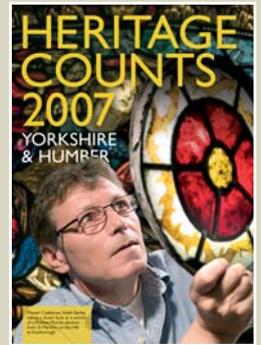
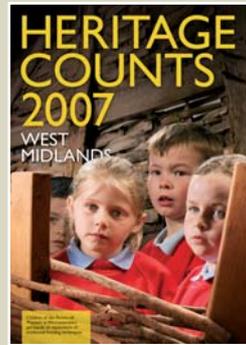
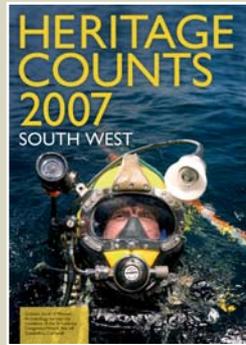
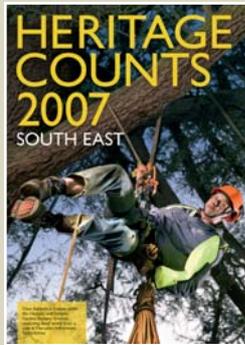
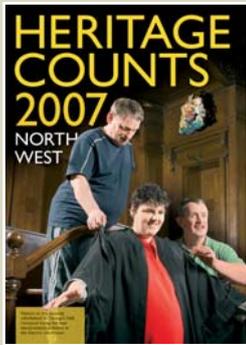
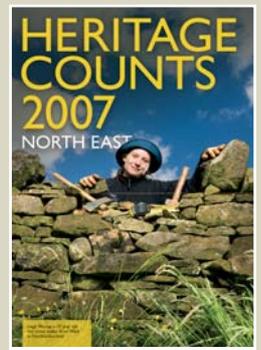
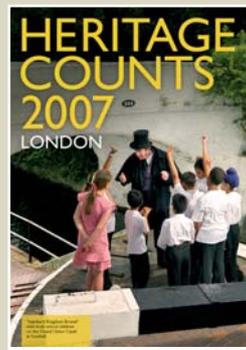
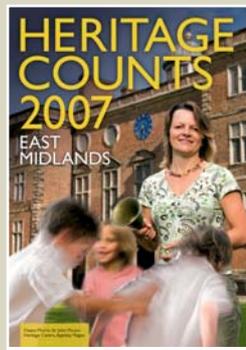
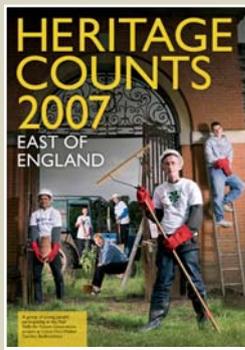
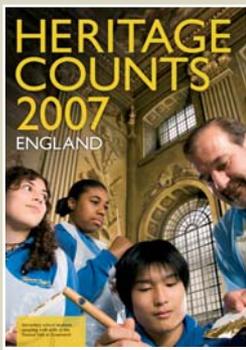
Lancashire	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	132	140
Listed Buildings	5,144	5,169
Parks and Gardens	29	31
Conservation Areas	N/A	201
World Heritage Sites	0	0
Battlefields	0	0
Buildings at Risk	31	27

Blackburn with Darwen	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	5	6
Listed Buildings	220	221
Parks and Gardens	6	6
Conservation Areas	N/A	14
World Heritage Sites	0	0
Battlefields	0	0
Buildings at Risk	2	1

Greater Manchester	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	43	45
Listed Buildings	3,725	3,778
Parks and Gardens	22	29
Conservation Areas	N/A	233
World Heritage Sites	0	0
Battlefields	0	0
Buildings at Risk	42	31

Warrington	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	12	13
Listed Buildings	352	363
Parks and Gardens	0	0
Conservation Areas	N/A	16
World Heritage Sites	0	0
Battlefields	0	0
Buildings at Risk	5	4

Cheshire	2002	2007
Scheduled Monuments	218	225
Listed Buildings	5,120	5,141
Parks and Gardens	22	26
Conservation Areas	N/A	198
World Heritage Sites	0	0
Battlefields	2	2
Buildings at Risk	24	23



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. Forum members are the:

- 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 *
- Defra (North West)
- 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
- North West Association of Civic Trust Societies
- North West Development Agency *
- North West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council *
- North West Regional Archive Council
- North West Regional Assembly
- The Dean of Liverpool (on behalf of faith communities)
- The National Trust *
- National Museums Liverpool

An executive group to take forward specific initiatives was established in 2006. Members of this group are marked with a *.

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