



HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of the
SOUTH EAST'S
Historic Environment

2005

Key headlines

**Cover image:
Stowe Park.**

A volunteer at work near the Wolfe Obelisk in the grounds of Stowe Park. The obelisk has recently been restored as part of the Wider Landscape Project, an initiative achieved through the partnership of the National Trust, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The growing population of the nearby Milton Keynes-South Midlands growth area will benefit from the restoration of this beautiful, accessible 18th-century rural parkland.

HIGH LEVELS OF INTEREST AND RECOGNITION

- Largest percentage of visitors to English Heritage sites of any English region
- Highest level of museum visiting of any English region
- More conservation areas than any other English region
- More registered historic parks and gardens than any other English region
- Second highest number of contractors' and sole traders' apprentices completing craft skills courses of the English regions

VERY SIGNIFICANT RATES OF CHANGE

- Almost ten per cent of the region's listed building stock subject to a listed building consent decision in 2004/05
- Since the 1980s, more farm building conversion than any other English region
- A greater increase in the number of conservation areas than any other English region except London in 2004/05
- Most notifications about planning consents concerning registered parks and historic gardens of any English region in 2004/05

MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Since 1919, the greatest loss of historic parkland of any English region
- Since 1945, more recorded archaeological sites lost than any other English region
- More entries in the Buildings at Risk Register than any other English region
- More entries on the Buildings at Risk Register that will require funds in excess of £250,000 to restore in 2004/05 than any other English region
- More than 90 per cent of the region's contractors and sole traders have no employees with a specific craft skill
- Coastal historic assets under threat from sea-level change

Heritage Counts 2005 in the South East

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

Our historic environment is all around us, permeating our daily routines and enriching the quality of our lives. It expresses the collective memory of our communities and has the power to define places. It is also a key contributor to business success through its attractiveness to the workforce that our economy requires.

Environments change, and in *Heritage Counts 2004* we highlighted the many and complex pressures that bear on the historic environment. Change, though, is not another word for harm. The cherished streetscapes and landscapes of the South East are the product of long-term change. Our generation's responsibility is to ensure that desirable and necessary change still nurtures that which we hold dear.

Change that brings redundant farm buildings back into use and promotes rural regeneration; change that breathes new vitality into flagging neighbourhoods; change that makes more places accessible to more people – all of these are positive changes for the historic environment, if done well. Change that erodes local distinctiveness, however, or is at the expense of irreplaceable and cherished historic assets, is change that will not benefit anyone in the long run.

This year, *Heritage Counts 2005* highlights the dramatic changes in the character of our countryside during the 20th century. Almost unnoticed, half of the region's historic parkland has disappeared. Archaeological sites in the region have been destroyed at an unsustainable rate – an average of three a week. Working constructively with partners and with stakeholders, we must help to find ways to channel future change in a way that enhances rather than destroys. Nowhere is this more essential than in the countryside, where rural businesses, for example, need our support. This report illustrates just a few of the ways in which partnership in the historic environment sector is already delivering results.

Dr Andy Brown
Chair of the South East Historic
Environment Forum

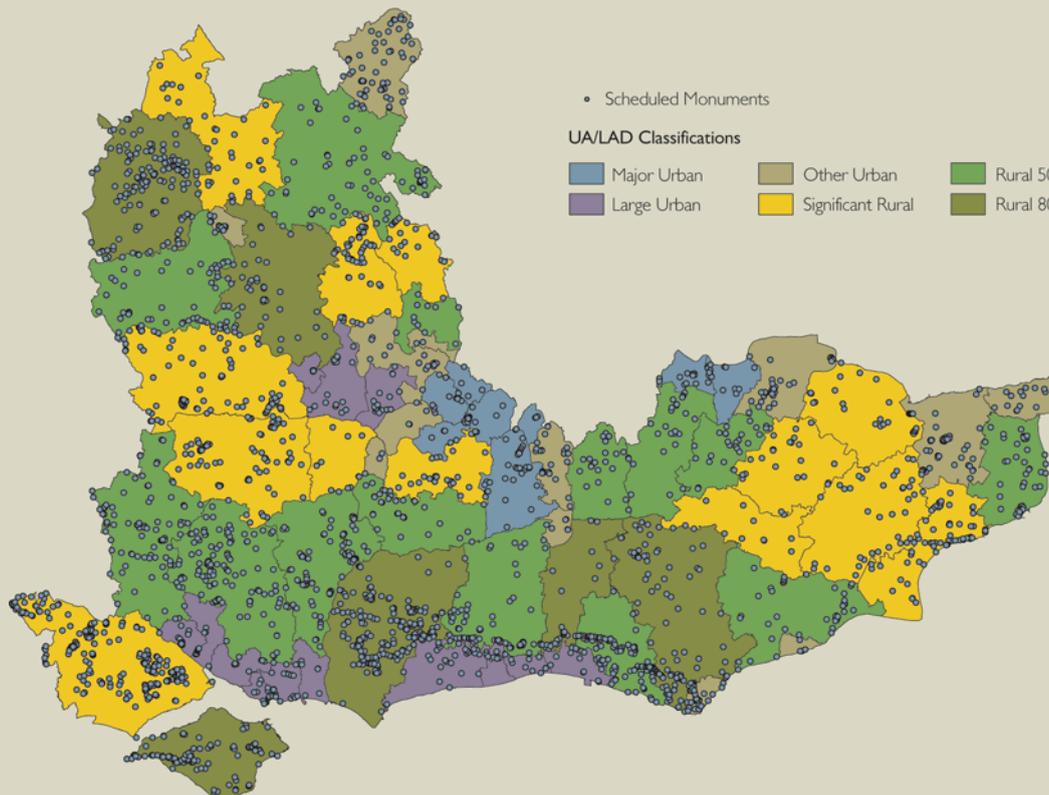
The historic environment in the South East: distribution of assets

South East – Regional Data

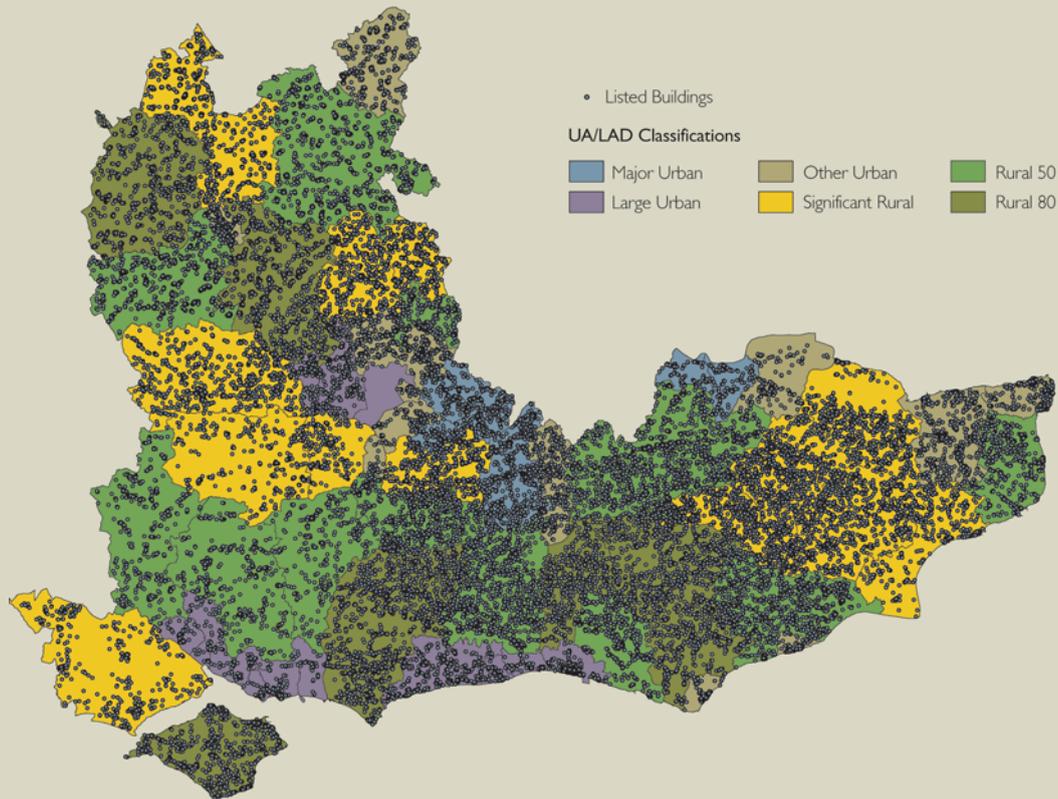
UNITARY AUTHORITY	DISTRIBUTION OF LISTED BUILDINGS	DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED PARKS & GARDENS AND BATTLEFIELDS	DISTRIBUTION OF CONSERVATION AREAS
BRACKNELL FOREST	259	12	6	3
READING	503	2	5	13
SLOUGH	63	2	4	4
WEST BERKSHIRE	1,883	85	15	52
WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD	993	17	12	27
WOKINGHAM	638	18	7	16
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	5,791	145	33	177
MILTON KEYNES	1,076	48	3	26
EAST SUSSEX	6,342	303	36	120
BRIGHTON & HOVE	1,220	15	6	17
KENT	17,321	345	58	585
MEDWAY	610	72	2	15
HAMPSHIRE	11,503	677	56	338
ISLE OF WIGHT	1,944	119	8	25
OXFORDSHIRE	12,081	292	60	242
SURREY	6,494	165	41	238
WEST SUSSEX	7,521	352	33	234

Source: English Heritage

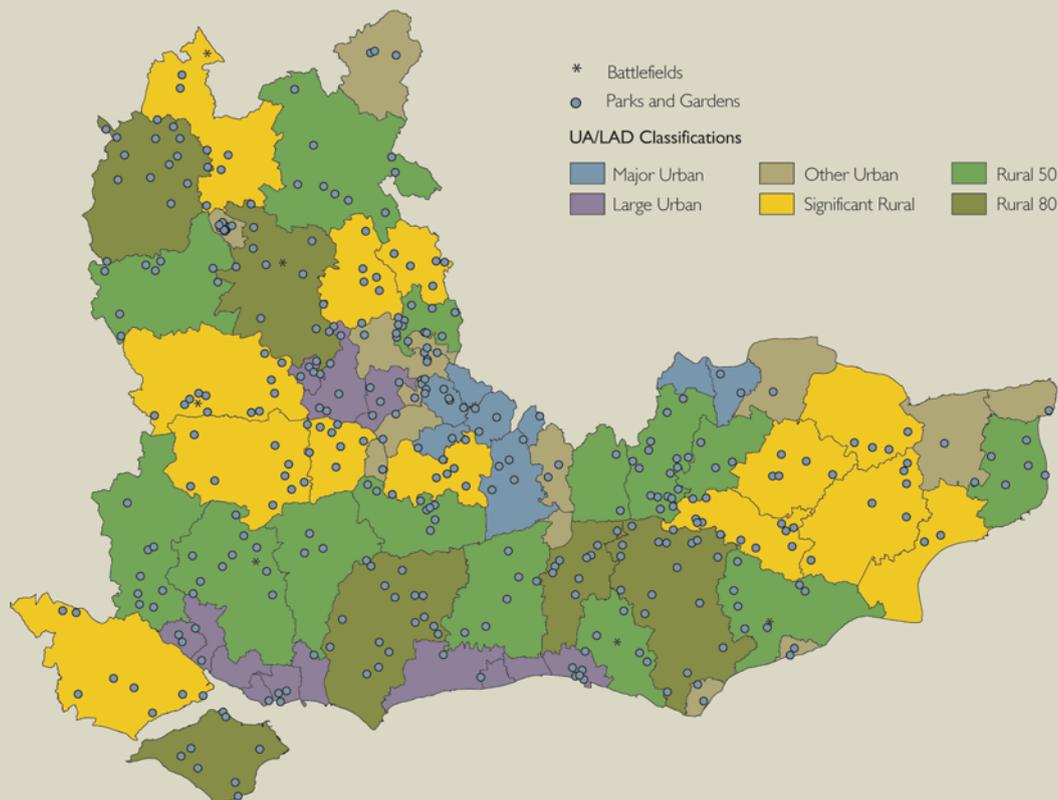
Scheduled Monuments in the South East Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



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



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



The regional context



An early 19th century octagonal dairy with a verandah carried on rustic posts. The Grade II listed dairy was altered to serve as a pill box during WWII.

© Bob Edwards

The South East is the third largest region in England and the gateway to the United Kingdom from continental Europe. Just over eight million people make their home in the South East, one seventh of the United Kingdom's entire population. The region has a particularly strong economy: if it were a country, its economy would rank as the 20th strongest in the world. However, the large population and the region's economic success mask the issue of social deprivation. The South East Museum Library and Archive Council's (SEMLAC) Social Inclusion Strategy for 2005-07 states that 900,000 people in the South East are economically or socially excluded.

Recent research by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has developed a more detailed definition of 'rural' that indicates that even though the region has experienced significant population and economic growth, almost 50 per cent of it is categorised as rural. There is also a considerable rural component to the region's economy with 23 per cent of all South East businesses based in rural areas.

The substantial coastline and vast array of landscape types in the South East mean it has developed a remarkably diverse and rich historic environment as people have adapted to their surroundings over time. There are many nationally and internationally significant historic places in the region and even more historical expressions of local identity that provide distinctiveness and a sense of continuity and well-being for their communities. Such places attract visitors too, with more than 11 million visits to historic tourism attractions in the region in the past year; 20 per cent of all visitors to historic tourism attractions throughout the country. This makes a valuable contribution to one of the region's largest industries, as tourism generates over £10 billion per annum in visitor expenditure in the South East.

Interest in history and the historic environment is very strong in the South East, with substantial levels of membership of both the National Trust and English Heritage and high visitor numbers at Historic Houses Association properties. The South East also has the highest level of museum visiting in the country and the highest proportion of volunteer-managed community museums of any English region. The region's local authority record offices have hosted 83,000 visits by people researching their family history in the past year.

The region's spatial strategy is being prepared by the South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA) this year. The South East Plan will contain a vision for the region to ensure that the South East is economically competitive while remaining an attractive place to live. It will need to recognise the historic environment as a key asset for the region and its potential to provide a sense of community and identity to the Government's regeneration and growth areas: the Thames Gateway, Ashford, and Milton Keynes-South Midlands. The Plan will also need to respond positively to the pressures facing the sector, such as affordable rural housing, inadequate public transport for rural locations and climate change, if the potential contribution of the historic environment to the South East is to be maximised.

The importance of the many historic sites in the South East is recognised through specific statutory designations. Currently, the Government is working on proposals to improve the way these work, which may involve merging them into a single format. More detail about the different types of designations and how they might be changed in the future can be found on the *Heritage Counts* web site: www.heritagecounts.org.uk

A.1

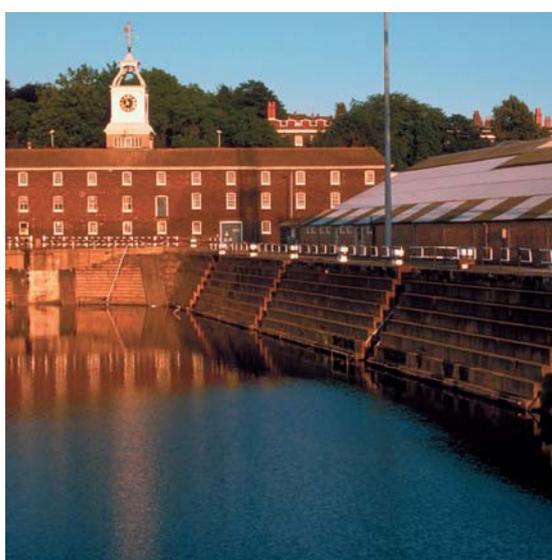
DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

The historic environment of the South East provides the physical evidence of previous generations' interaction with the region's landscape. This evidence is a vital reminder of how the region, and indeed the country, developed socially, politically and economically, making it essential to a proper understanding of today's challenges in a long-term context. In order to collect this evidence, there are several ways of identifying different historic environment assets. An inventory of the region's designated historic assets is as follows:

• World Heritage Sites	2
• Scheduled Monuments	2,669
• Listed Buildings	76,242
• Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	374
• Battlefields	6
• Registered Historic Vessels	9
• Protected Wreck Sites	17
• Military Remains	3

The number of scheduled monuments has increased by 59 designations since 2004, due to the identification of these as nationally important assets through surveying work in the region. Research has also identified that, since 1945, the South East has experienced the greatest loss of recorded archaeological sites in the country. The number of listed buildings in the region has increased by 75 in the past year, and more than half of these are located in rural parts of the region. The South East has more registered historic parks and gardens than any other region in the country.

The National Register of Historic Vessels is a database of vessels that were built in the UK before the end of 1955 and conform to a set of specific criteria. The Register is maintained with support



Chatham Historic Dockyard

The historic dockyard at Chatham in Kent is currently on UNESCO's tentative list for inscription as a World Heritage Site. It is a site of international maritime heritage significance having played a vital role in supporting the Royal Navy for over 300 years. Over 400 ships were built here including HMS *Victory*, Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar. Today it is the most complete Dockyard of the Age of Sail to survive in the world. Encompassing an area of around 80 acres, with approximately 100 buildings and structures, 47 of which are scheduled monuments, it has been very successfully regenerated by the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust with grant funding of £13.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and ongoing support from English Heritage.

© Britain on View

from English Heritage and the National Maritime Museum. There are two types of entry on the register – vessels in the core collection, which are of pre-eminent national importance, and designated vessels. There are 58 vessels in the core collection and nine of these can be found in the South East ports of Southampton, Portsmouth or Chatham.

A.1 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS
A.2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES



The South Downs

Approximately 39 million day visitors a year are attracted to the South Down's rich cultural heritage that stretches back more than 4,500 years. It includes: churches, historic tracks, hill forts, Roman villas and burial sites. It also has nearly 400 nationally designated scheduled monuments as well as several hundred more sites of local significance identified in Historic Environment Records. This makes it one of the richest archaeological areas in the country.

Currently under consideration for National Park status, the South Downs is the subject of characterisation work by English Heritage, the National Trust and a range of local conservation agencies, archaeological societies and community groups. The purpose of this work is to improve the management of the archaeology and historic buildings of the area so that they are appropriately preserved for future generations and to encourage local communities and visitors to understand, use, enjoy and care for the area.

© English Heritage – Paul Roberts

Historic wreck sites are designated under Part One of the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973). There are 58 wrecks designated under this Act and 17 of these, including the Mary Rose, are located in the South East. The Protection of Military Remains Act (1986) also extends protection to three wreck sites in the region.

A.2

HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

As well as designation of individual historic environment assets, areas and landscapes are also identified as having special historic value. An inventory of the region's designated historic areas and open spaces is as follows:

• Conservation areas	2,132
• Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	9
• National Parks	1
• Designated Heritage Coastlines	5
• Ancient Woodland	123,600ha

Almost a quarter of all the conservation areas in England are to be found in the South East. This year's figure represents an increase of 146 on last year's total, with most new examples in Hampshire and Kent. This is the highest level of increase in conservation areas in an English region. The New Forest was designated as a National Park on 1 March 2005.

The South East region was the first to have a designated heritage coastline when the Countryside Commission recognised the white chalk cliffs between Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters and Seaford Head as a stretch of coastline of particular natural beauty or importance. Heritage coasts are a non-statutory landscape definition and are defined by agreement between the relevant local maritime authority and the Countryside Agency. Five stretches of the South East coastline are designated as Heritage Coastline. The others are: South Foreland, Dover, Hamstead Coast and Tennyson Coast on the Isle of Wight.

The Forestry Commission launched a new policy on ancient woodland, setting out a range of actions to improve its protection and quality – *Keepers of Time: a Statement of Policy for England's Ancient and Native Woodland*. Plans include revising the inventory entries for High Weald and ensuring that every English region establishes initiatives for working with those owners who are not currently actively managing their ancient woodland holdings.

A.3 ACQUIRING INFORMATION

A.3

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A wide range of research is being undertaken in the South East to better understand the historic environment assets in the region.

English Heritage and its partners have made significant progress with Historic Landscape Characterisation work in the South East, with projects completed in Kent, Surrey, Hampshire and West Berkshire. Projects are also underway in East and West Sussex, the Isle of Wight, Buckinghamshire and East Berkshire.

Further characterisation work has been completed in the form of the *Historic Farmsteads: Audit and Evaluation* project, commissioned from the University of Gloucestershire by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency. This has demonstrated that in the South East, 37 per cent of historic farm buildings have been subject to some form of conversion – the largest rate of alteration in the country and, if done well, the best way of preserving this historic resource.

To help strategic coastal planning policies properly provide for archaeology, English Heritage is currently sponsoring detailed surveys of areas of coastline to establish an overview of coastal change and an assessment of the degree and nature of threat to coastal historic assets. Wessex Archaeology have released findings of field surveys undertaken in 2004 and 2005 as the second stage of their assessment of the North Kent coast for English Heritage. The initial desk-based work revealed 1,864 previously unrecorded archaeological sites, including a significant prehistoric site on the Hoo Flats of the River Medway, a prehistoric submerged forest at Dartford, and Late Iron Age/Romano-British salt working and butchery sites around Burntwick Island.



Hampshire Historic Farmsteads Audit and Evaluation

A pilot project in Hampshire, now being rolled out in other parts of the region, has demonstrated how a complete understanding of the stock of farm buildings in the county can help identify patterns of historic land use and settlement in the wider landscape. Existing data sets, derived from listed building records and the results of historic building recording, are inadequate for this purpose due to incompleteness. The mapping of the date and distribution of all farmsteads provides a much clearer idea of the number and quality of examples of historic farmsteads that remain in the county. Of the 5,050 farmsteads that have been recorded across the whole of Hampshire, 54 per cent did not appear on the Historic Environment Record. There will be many practical applications of this work, notably in enhancing the capacity of Historic Environment Records to offer advice, identifying priority areas for research and developing toolkits that will enable better recognition and design for local distinctiveness.

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B

Conserving and engaging

Park Loss 1918–95 analysed by Joint Character Areas



Park Loss 1918-1995 (hectares)



Loss of Parkland

At the turn of the 20th century, the Ordnance Survey recorded that the extent of parkland and associated woodland in England was approximately 400,000 hectares. By the turn of the 21st century, this had been reduced to as little as 180,000 hectares. Analysis of the data on parkland loss reveals that at the turn of the 20th century, parkland was concentrated in the south east of England – the Cotswolds, Chilterns and High Weald. Further analysis of historic maps shows that since 1918, the South East region has lost almost 50,000 hectares of its parkland, which is far more than any other region. This amount equates to nearly half of the parkland that existed in the region in 1918 – an area greater than that of the Isle of Wight and more than three times that of the New Forest.

B.1

HERITAGE AT RISK

The *Register of Buildings at Risk* is maintained by English Heritage and records all those Grade I and II* listed buildings and standing scheduled monuments considered to be at risk of loss through neglect and decay. The region experienced a decrease in the overall number of buildings on the register from 2004 as these fell to 208. However, this is still higher than any other region. When compared with the other English regions, there is also a notably higher number of properties on the Register in the South East that require funds in excess of £250,000 to restore them. Ten entries have been removed this year, but this has been offset by the addition of five new entries covering seven individual buildings. Four of these have strategies in place to help secure their future.

The plight of redundant rural churches is evident on this year's Register of Buildings at Risk with 26 entries in the South East alone. A promising example is the former church of St Mary Magdalene that sits in a secluded location on the River Thames at Boveney near Eton. Constructed in the 12th century, when there was a busy wharf nearby, the church is a significant reminder of the changing pattern of human activity in the locality over the years. In 2003, the Friends of Friendless Churches, who own a 999 year lease on the church, were awarded a grant of £152,909 by English Heritage to repair the church's belltower. Completed at the end of 2004, the next phase of work, which will involve securing the building's roof, is projected for 2006. Once finished, the church will no longer be considered at risk and may once again open for services and a range of cultural uses by the communities of Boveney, Eton and Windsor.

B.2 MANAGING CHANGE POSITIVELY

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This year, the final stages of development of the South East Plan, the region's spatial strategy, will be completed in accordance with the new national structure for spatial planning. The South East Plan will establish a new strategic framework for the region until 2026 within which the positive management of the historic environment is essential. The completed plan will be submitted for Government approval in Spring 2006. Upon completion of the South East Plan, local authorities' Local Development Frameworks will then be required to be in conformity with it.

The South East currently has Heritage Champions in 25 local authorities, 15 more than last year. Historic Environment Champions provide leadership for heritage issues within local authorities and promote consideration of heritage concerns in the development of the authority's policies and strategies. For example, Elmbridge Borough Council's Heritage Champion ensured the local authority continued work originally begun as a pilot project for engaging the community in developing conservation area appraisals.

There are various methods for assessing and planning effectively for the historic environment. These range from World Heritage Site management plans through conservation area appraisals to shoreline management plans. This year, conservation area appraisals have been included in the Government's Best Value Performance Indicators together with the requirement to produce management proposals for them in consultation with the local community. Conservation area appraisals will help local communities and developers to understand better the factors that contribute to cherished local scenes.



Bletchley Park Conservation Plan

Located near Milton Keynes, Bletchley Park was designated as a conservation area in 1992 because of its significance as:

- the site where code decryption crucial to Allied success in World War II occurred
- the world's only site with a range of structures relating to the development of the first programmable computers and signals intelligence systems
- a unique example of a country property adapted for wartime use

The secret nature of the work conducted at Bletchley Park, was not revealed until 1974. This secrecy almost worked against the site's long term well-being as its appearance is not compelling if the historical significance is not appreciated. Aside from the Victorian manor house, the site is made up of a series of huts in a barracks format, many of which are empty and decaying.

Currently the Park is open as a museum and also houses the Milton Keynes Enterprise Hub, sponsored by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). English Partnerships, the government's regeneration agency, has commissioned a Masterplan to examine the options for a range of development scenarios for the Park. These options will focus on preserving and enhancing the historic fabric of the Park while maximising the economic and social benefits for the surrounding area, promising an inspiring future for this intriguing site.

© English Heritage – Lyndsay Riddell

B.3 PLANNING TRENDS



Cuckmere Haven Estuary Partnership

Cuckmere Haven in East Sussex is remarkable for its landscape beauty, birdlife and cultural heritage, including a network of World War II anti-invasion defences. It is a man-made landscape of medieval and post-medieval fields, which today is still artificially protected by river flood-banks and a barrier beach at the mouth of the estuary. Over the next century, however, sea levels are predicted to rise at three times the recent rate, which will increase the likelihood of the river flooding and storm surges overtopping and breaching the barrier beach.

It is the Government's policy to move away from unsustainable artificial defence towards more naturally functioning defensive shores, and Cuckmere estuary has been identified as an area that could be returned to rare inter-tidal salt marsh, although it will be essential to understand the historic landscape of the valley to inform and mitigate the change. The Cuckmere Estuary Partnership (of English Nature, the National Trust, the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and the Environment Agency) is developing options for future management of the estuary.

© English Heritage – Lyndsay Riddell

B.3

PLANNING TRENDS

District planning authorities in the South East decided a total of 123,097 planning applications in 2004/05, at least 36,000 more than any other region in the country. Of these, 7,197 were listed building consent applications, an increase of 558 from last year and the second highest level of decision making in the country. This number of listed building consent decisions also means that nearly ten per cent of the 76,242 listed buildings in the South East have been subject to decision.

The Garden History Society recorded 200 notifications of planning applications affecting a registered park or garden (up six from last year). Illustrating the pressure on green space in the South East, this figure was significantly more than double every other region but the South West, which still received 58 fewer applications.

English Heritage logged 173 applications for scheduled monument consent in 2004/05, the second highest level of application of the English regions and 18 per cent of the national total.

The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) provides a forum representing archaeological officers that work for local authorities, including national parks. In the 2004 calendar year, 75.5 archaeological staff were employed by the 17 ALGAO member local authorities in the South East. These services reviewed over 115,000 planning applications, more than any other English region. Of these, 3,388 development proposals (including 3,086 planning applications) were assessed to have archaeological implications. This resulted in 260 recommendations for pre-determination assessments and archaeological conditions on 2015 planning consents. A total of 22 planning applications were refused on archaeological grounds.

B.4 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

B.4

CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

In 2004/05, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded £41.64 million to projects in the South East. A grant of £664,000 was made to the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, for Sea Your History, a project to enable a 'virtual museum of the 20th century navy'. Another recipient was the Tin Hut, Farnham, Surrey. Once typical of many rural schools and villages, tin buildings are now relatively rare. A grant of £46,700 has enabled a corrugated iron classroom, originally constructed for a local school in 1909, to be re-erected at the Rural Life Centre and restored as a base for educational activity.

The total value of English Heritage grants offered in the South East Region in 2004/05 was over £3.95 million. Of this funding, £1.36 million was offered as English Heritage's contribution to the Regional Grants for Places of Worship scheme. This is a national grant scheme administered by English Heritage in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund, who provide 44 per cent of the overall funding for it. This degree of specialised funding reflects the particular challenges of preserving churches in smaller rural communities. The Church of England has published *Building Faith in our Future* to highlight the issues that arise in caring for these special places.

Introduced in April 2002 to provide funds to reduce the impact of aggregates extraction on the environment, the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) has allowed English Heritage to distribute over £4.5 million to more than 70 projects in the past year. They have ranged from large research-based projects to smaller community-based ones.

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) has developed two grant programmes in an effort to ensure the future of the region's farming activities and the redevelopment of redundant buildings. In 2004/05, the Redundant Building Grant programme approved a total of £114,667 in funds for five applications to adapt redundant buildings for re-use. The Farm Diversification Grant programme approved £207,590 in funds for eight applications to re-use redundant farm buildings.



Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund: Wrecks on the Seabed

Wrecks on the Seabed is a Wessex Archaeology project funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF). It aims to provide industry, regulators and contractors with guidance on the archaeological assessment, evaluation and recording of wreck sites. Year I of the project concentrated on the initial assessment and rapid evaluation of wreck sites, and Year II focused on methods of in situ recording. Methodologies were developed on a sample of known, but generally unidentified, wreck sites off the coasts of Hampshire and Sussex, including both metal and wooden-hulled vessels, and aircraft.

The findings of the first round of the project enabled a second round of work to be undertaken to provide industry, regulators and contractors with a framework for the incremental investigation of wreck sites. This framework is relevant when considering cost and time implications for marine investigations. It is also important for effective communication between industry, regulators and contractors.

© Wessex Archaeology



Wet Trades: Weald and Downland Museum

The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum is recognised as a centre of excellence in teaching the use of traditional building materials, tools and methods. Its 48 re-constructed historic buildings make it an unrivalled teaching resource across most aspects of building conservation. Until recently, however, the Museum had no permanent facility for the teaching of the 'wet trades' – brickwork and the use of lime mortars. With the support of a grant of £23,000 from SEEDA, the Museum now has this facility and has recently used it very successfully for courses in the repair of traditionally constructed brickwork and gauged brickwork.

The facility is sited behind the Museum's brick drying shed where regular demonstrations of brick making by hand take place. Its timber frame was built from scratch by groups of students using local green oak. The roofing and joinery followed very quickly using local contractors, one of whom is one of the Museum's MSc students. The internal panels of brickwork were then built by a member of the teaching staff and his team. These are permanent but include replaceable features that can be used by successive groups of students.

© Weald and Downland Museum

B.5

SKILLS AND TRAINING

This year, the National Heritage Training Group released *Traditional Building Craft Skills* – a skills needs analysis of the built heritage sector in England. This report uncovered a serious shortage of the necessary skills to maintain the country's historic properties. In the South East, the rate of re-use or adaptation of historic buildings means that carpenters, decorators and bricklayers are likely to be in high demand in the coming 12 months. Of all contractors and sole traders in the region, over 90 per cent have no employees with a specific craft skill. This makes it difficult to find particular trades in the region such as carvers, thatchers, stonemasons, lead workers and gilders. More positively, however, the South East has the second highest number in the English regions of contractors' and sole traders' apprentices completing craft skills courses.

In response to the overall findings of the skills report, the National Heritage Training Group has developed a Skills Action Plan to address skills shortages and encourage more people into the sector. For more information and to see the full report, visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.5184

There are also a number of training initiatives in the South East to address other heritage skills needs. The National Trust's careership training scheme trains and develops future generations of National Trust gardeners and countryside wardens. Historic Environment – Local Management (HELM), English Heritage's local government training scheme, offers Design in Context training for local authority staff. In addition, individual historic sites contribute to skills development. For example, Englefield Estate in Reading provides work placements for leisure and tourism students.

B.6 BROADENING ACCESS

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A region's historic environment gives it a 'tale to tell' providing a starting point for social interaction and development. Using historic places in this way is also important for their long-term well-being, as it ensures that they have a broad base of supporters to help care for them. A range of heritage outreach projects are undertaken by various organisations in the region. The National Trust funded a photography programme for Asian teenagers from the Walton Road Youth Centre, which culminated in the group of 14 – 17 year olds exhibiting their images of Trust properties at the Woking Visitor Information Centre this year.

The European Union and SEMLAC have funded the Traveller Project, which is designed to encourage greater access to the region's museums, libraries and archives for the South East's large Gypsy and Traveller population. The project is the British contribution to a three-year pan-European effort to remove barriers in accessing cultural heritage. SEMLAC has also published a social inclusion strategy for 2005-07 to assist and encourage those working to eradicate social exclusion through museums, libraries and archives.

English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have jointly published *Easy Access to Historic Landscapes*, which aims to help property owners and managers reconcile access improvements for all visitors, with conservation of the significant historic features of sites. Barriers to access and individual site specific solutions are illustrated throughout the guidance to stimulate ideas and new access solutions.



Chichester Harbour: Rhythms of the Tide projects

The Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), an internationally significant wetland, a Special Protection Area for wild birds and a candidate Special Area of Conservation.

In 2004, the Chichester Harbour Conservancy, which manages the area, received a £1.27 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant for a series of 40 projects designed to enhance the AONB and increase access to it.

The access-related projects include the provision of:

- All-terrain wheelchairs and new wheelchair paths.
- A cycle route linking Chichester to West Wittering.
- Free field visits to the Harbour for disadvantaged and special needs students.
- A solar powered vessel to be used by school groups as a 'floating classroom'.
- A number of archaeological projects involving volunteers and local experts.
- Website enhancement to include interactive maps, a links directory and an information search point.
- A traditional wooden boat apprenticeship.

Engagement with the projects by the local community has been excellent. The number of school visits to the harbour has tripled since the projects began, and around 1,000 students have taken a free field visit to the area. The use of the solar powered vessel has been expanded to include trips for the general public, of which 60 have happened this year alone.

© Chichester Harbour Conservancy



Turner at Petworth 2002 and the Strange Partners Project

The 2002 Turner at Petworth exhibition, which ran from July until September, has resulted in significantly increased visitor numbers at the property during the last few years. The exhibition, which presented an opportunity to forge new perceptions of the National Trust and Petworth, attracted 90,000 people, double the usual number for that period.

In addition, the Strange Partners project – set up by Chichester District Council, Pallant House Gallery, West Sussex County Council, the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and the Leconfield Estate at Petworth – funded two residencies for contemporary artists. Andy Goldsworthy's installation, *The Moonlit Path*, attracted over 3,300 bookings as well as school and family group bookings, drawing visitors from the entire South East Region, Wales, the North East and the North West.

The Turner at Petworth exhibition generated additional income totalling almost £500,000 from admission fees and visitor-spend in the retail and catering outlets. Local businesses reported that the Turner at Petworth and Strange Partners projects generated extra business in the wider area, especially in Petworth itself. Wide press coverage also raised awareness of West Sussex as a cultural tourism destination.

© Britain on View

C.I

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The historic environment contributes to the economy of the South East in a variety of ways. As well as being a significant employer, the historic sector plays a vital role in regeneration and tourism in the region.

There are 7,500 people employed at historic properties throughout the region, the highest level of employment in this part of the sector in the country.

A survey of historic visitor attractions undertaken by English Heritage in 2004 indicates that the South East hosts at least 11 million visitors to historic properties in the region annually. This equates to 20 per cent of visitors to historic properties throughout the country. Canterbury Cathedral is the third most visited historic site in the country and the second most visited tourist attraction in the South East. A listed church can be the principal reason for visiting some of the smaller places in the region, generating a vital stream of income for the area.

Historic Houses Association (HHA) properties hosted 4.12 million visitors in the region over the last year and employed 2,600 people in the South East. The HHA estimate that their economic contribution to the region is £493 million.

The Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Townscape Heritage Initiative (THIs) supports comprehensive packages of repair, regeneration and enhancement of conservation areas in partnership with local, regional and national interests. In the past two years, the HLF have earmarked £3.2 million for this in the Isle of Wight, Rochester and Chatham Riverside, Ramsgate and St Leonards. These grants are matched by other sources such as local authorities or European funds.

C.2 SOCIAL BENEFITS

C.2 SOCIAL BENEFITS

The historic environment plays an essential part in developing a sense of community and local identity. Although people might be of different backgrounds, cultures or ages, discovering more about the place they live in and how it came to be the way it is can be a catalyst for bringing them together. The Local Heritage Initiative, a partnership between the Countryside Agency and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), helps communities preserve and enhance their local heritage by providing them with funds, advice and support. At the same time, it collects records and stories to create a national archive of England's rich and diverse local heritage. There are 121 Local Heritage Initiatives underway in the region.

Membership of key heritage agencies has been strong in the South East in the last year. The National Trust has a membership of 770,000 in the region. English Heritage has 135,461 members in the South East, nearly a quarter of English Heritage's overall membership. The South East has 22 per cent of all visitors to English Heritage sites nationwide. This is more than any other English region and equates to more than one million visits. Also, ten million visits are made to museums in the South East each year, the highest level of visitor numbers of the English regions.

Volunteering is of enormous benefit to the heritage sector: Last year, in South East England alone, the National Trust was helped by 8,466 volunteers who contributed a total of approximately 421,436 man hours. The National Trust calculates that this equates to a value of approximately £2.65 million, using a standard rate of £6.25 an hour. The South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service provides an array of services for the preservation and enhancement of the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These services include maintaining paths, leading guided walks and researching conservation methods.

The historic environment also plays a critical role in the provision of out-of-classroom learning opportunities for school children and lifelong learning activities for people of all ages. In 2004/05, National Trust properties in the South East hosted 1,400 school visits involving 49,000 children. For the same period, 183,072 free educational visits were made to English Heritage properties, and 2,500 visits incorporating 65,000 educational visitors were made to Historic Houses Association properties.



Local Heritage Initiative: Park Farm Cherry Orchard

Park Farm Cherry Orchard forms the basis of a Local Heritage Initiative project to promote the importance of the orchard as part of Kent's cultural landscape. The Lynsted area is part of the North Kent Fruit Belt and was once a sea of orchards. The very first orchard-grown cherries in the United Kingdom were established less than two miles away in the time of Henry VIII. Unfortunately, yield on traditional large, standard trees is rapidly diminishing and cherry growing no longer tends to be commercially viable in the area. This Orchard is one of the last standard cherry orchards in the parish.

The project activities include: encouraging an interest in local history and recording some of the oral history relating to cherry farming; installing interpretation boards and materials; producing leaflets and literature, to explain the management, heritage and natural history of the Orchard; and improving access to the orchard, including gates for those with mobility problems or push-chairs.

Between 70 and 130 people have attended the Halloween, Blossom Day and Cherry Day events held by the Orchard to date. The local junior school has a strong level of involvement with the Orchard's projects, particularly in the design of a sculptural seat for the Orchard for use in its reminiscence activities. As part of its programme of wildlife studies, the Orchard has undertaken three moth surveys and is currently monitoring bats on a weekly basis.

© Lynsted Orchard



Appuldurcombe Park, Environmental Stewardship Partnership Project

In 2003, the Owen family, who own and manage Appuldurcombe Park at Wroxall – arguably the Isle of Wight’s most beautifully located 18th-century estate – decided they wished to repair it. The estate incorporates a park landscaped by ‘Capability’ Brown and a Grade I listed, neo-baroque house that is maintained as a roofed ruin in the guardianship of English Heritage. The estate had been in decline since the mid 19th-century, with most of ‘Capability’ Brown’s trees felled and the park turned over to agriculture. Scrub invaded, the estate wall collapsed in places and the drives were lost under cornfields.

A landscape study and management plan, jointly funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and English Heritage, resulted in an Environmental Stewardship Agreement with Defra to help fund the family’s ten-year restoration programme. The former arable fields have already been returned to grazing, with dividing fences removed. Tree planting and the re-surfacing of the drives will follow. Along with more environmentally friendly farming practices and improved public access, the renewed landscape will allow visitors to appreciate the estate’s 18th-century character.

© Skyscape Balloon Photography

C.3

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The historic environment sector is responsible for some of the most beautiful landscapes and places in the South East. Such environments are essential for the distinctiveness of the region and the well-being of its inhabitants. There are a number of issues that should be of interest to the historic environment sector in caring for these landscapes:

- **Biodiversity:** Historic environments are often key repositories for rare species such as the endangered Exmoor ponies in the South Downs.
- **Renewable technologies:** Wind turbines have an important role to play in the reduction of carbon emissions but need siting in a way that respects historic landscapes.
- **Climate change:** Coastal erosion, flooding and drought are just some of the effects of climate change that have repercussions for the historic environment.
- **Brownfield development:** This is seen as the key way to ensure that housing levels are maintained without compromising green landscapes. The appropriate adaptation of historic sites can go a long way towards achieving these levels.
- **Countryside management:** With a decline in food production, farmers need assistance in diversifying their activities and countryside, and heritage tourism can provide solutions for them.

The South East Historic Environment Forum

The South East Historic Environment Forum (SEHEF) has been established so that, as a sector, those concerned with the historic environment can combine their expertise and wield an influence greater than the sum of their parts. Its activities on behalf of the historic environment in the South East Region include:

- Providing coordinated leadership for the historic environment sector.
- Promoting an understanding and appreciation of the social, economic and environmental value of the historic environment.
- Developing and reviewing policy for the historic environment, taking into account appropriate national, regional and local strategies.
- Acting as a consultative group on historic environment issues.
- Gathering and sharing intelligence, information and best practice concerning the historic environment and each other's activities.
- Providing coordinated responses to proposals concerning the historic environment where possible.
- Developing an integrated and sustained approach to the marketing of the historic environment in the region.
- Seeking resources in a coordinated way, making the most of opportunities for collaboration.

SEHEF can be contacted by telephoning Lyndsay Riddell, South East Regional Policy Officer for English Heritage, on 01483 252 055 or via Lyndsay.Riddell@english-heritage.org.uk



MEMBERSHIP OF SEHEF:

Association of Preservation Trusts (APT) www.heritage.co.uk
 Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) www.algao.org.uk
 Civic Trust – South East www.civictrustsoutheast.org.uk
 Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) www.cabe.org.uk
 Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) www.cpre.org.uk
 Country Land and Business Association (CLA) www.cla.org.uk
 Countryside Agency www.countryside.gov.uk
 English Heritage www.english-heritage.org.uk
 Government Office for the South East (GOSE) www.gose.gov.uk
 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) www.hlf.org.uk
 Historic Houses Association (HHA) www.hha.org.uk
 Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) www.ihbc.org.uk
 National Trust www.nationaltrust.org.uk
 Regional Action and Involvement South East (RAISE) www.raise-networks.org.uk
 South East Museum, Library and Archive Council (SEMLAC) www.semlac.org.uk
 Tourism South East www.visitsoutheastengland.com

OBSERVERS:

South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) www.seeda.co.uk
 South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) www.southeast-ra.gov.uk



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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