

HERITAGE COUNTS 2007

SOUTH EAST



Dave Baldwin, a trainee under the Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme, removing dead wood from a tree at Harcourt Arboretum, Oxfordshire

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Heritage Counts 2007 is the sixth annual survey of the state of the South East'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 required to maintain this valuable resource. 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 2007* report, available at www.heritagecounts.org.uk, where further statistics relating to the South East region can be found.

It's official. Heritage does count. In the past year both the Regional Spatial Strategy (the South East Plan) and the Regional Economic Strategy have acknowledged the contribution that the man-made environment makes to quality of life, giving us an economic edge over competitors by attracting a high calibre workforce. But just as businesses need the lifeblood of knowledge and skills in their workforce to survive and excel, so the historic environment sector needs to nurture the knowledge and skills needed to secure its future contribution to the region.

This edition of Heritage Counts celebrates the ever-strengthening partnerships across the region that are delivering inspiring learning opportunities. It also illustrates the myriad ways in which "inspiration is being turned into perspiration" as the specialised skills needed to maintain its outstanding qualities are passed down the generations. There is much work to be done, but through partnership and collaboration we are making great strides.

DR ANDY BROWN
CHAIR, SOUTH EAST HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

The South East Region Key Facts:

- Population of over 8.2 million people in 2006, the most populous of all the English regions. It is predicted to grow by as much as 11% by 2029.
- Third largest of the nine English regions (after the South West and the East of England) with an area of 19,069 sq. km., 14.6% of England's total land area.
- Second strongest economy after London with second highest Gross Value Added (GVA) per head in the UK in 2005.
- Pockets of severe deprivation exist, particularly in the region's coastal towns and isolated rural areas.
- Home to three of the four Growth Areas launched in the 2003 *Sustainable Communities Plan* (The Thames Gateway, Milton Keynes-South Midlands and Ashford) and a major new Growth Point in urban South Hampshire.
- Buoyant tourism industry – of the top ten South East visitor attractions in 2005, six are historic sites or museums, with a further three attractions located within predominantly historic settings.

COVER STORY – The Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme Dave Baldwin is one of several trainees increasing his horticultural skills through a training placement under the Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by a partnership comprising English Heritage, the Royal Horticultural Society, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh and the National Trust, the scheme targets specific areas of expertise in the conservation and management of historic gardens and landscapes. Through work-based training and career development opportunities, it is one way in which the sector is trying to mitigate some of the problems of recruitment and retention of appropriately skilled staff to maintain and conserve historic landscapes.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Key historic environment policy developments in the South East over the last twelve months include:

Heritage Protection Reform

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport published the much-anticipated White Paper *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century* in March 2007, setting the framework for heritage protection from 2010 onwards. The key proposals identified in the Paper 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, for demolition of locally listed buildings and for 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. In the main, the historic environment sector has responded enthusiastically to the proposals subject to allocation of sufficient resources and the finer detail on specific changes.

Suburbs

Many suburban areas in our region are undergoing significant change through infilling and intensification, whilst others struggle to retain their vibrancy as communities. English Heritage has responded to this challenge by publishing in March 2007 a position statement for the sector on ideal models of future planning within suburban areas and how local authorities can best respond to the challenges they face, based on a sound understanding of their local character. This advice was informed by three sub-regional workshops and by research carried out by the South East England Regional Assembly and English Heritage.



ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

The South East region participated in a pilot study at Rochester cathedral to feed into the heritage protection reform proposals. The project examined how HPR might impact on the Church of

England's management of its estate and in particular the Ecclesiastical Exemption. The designations at the site were revised and made fit for purpose using the existing Conservation Plan as a basis for improved and accurate descriptions of the entire cathedral precinct. English Heritage also worked with the Dean and Chapter and other partners on a draft Heritage Partnership Agreement which, combined with the revised designations, will enable streamlined and integrated management in the future.

The 2012 Games and the Cultural Olympiad

The South East has much to offer and to gain from the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The region has many resources and advantages which present opportunities to us to play a significant role in delivering the Games: our proximity to London; our position as a global gateway to Britain; our internationally competitive regional economy and talented workforce; and our world class sporting, cultural heritage and natural assets. In order to make the most of this once-in-a-generation opportunity, the South East Group for the 2012 Games has led the preparation of a framework for the South East region to maximise the transformational opportunities presented by the Games before, during and after 2012. Six working groups made up of regional partners, including English Heritage and Museums Libraries and Archives (MLA) South East have been developing plans across various areas including culture and communities and the visitor economy. In addition, nationally both the MLA Partnership and English Heritage have developed sector specific action plans to capture the opportunities of the Games.

Local Government Reform

In addition to the Heritage Protection White Paper, relationships with local authorities will also be affected by the local government reform White Paper published in October 2006. Amongst the various proposals, regional agencies will be expected to work with and support local authorities in service delivery to a greater degree than in the past. In particular, the importance of Local Area Agreements (LAAs), as the single delivery vehicle between central and local government and its partners, has been increased. To maximise the historic environment content in LAAs, English Heritage South East is working with other regional cultural agencies to produce an LAA Culture Toolkit.

COASTAL TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Introduction

In the coming years in the South East there will be a particular focus on traditional coastal cities and resorts and a concerted effort to seize the opportunities for their regeneration following years of decline. Rediscovery of coastal towns is being driven by, amongst other factors, nostalgia, upgrading of tourism standards and environmental concerns. Dynamic new attractions and innovative architecture are also propelling the transformation, for example the proposed *Turner Contemporary* art gallery in Margate. The sector will continue to advocate that the historic environment of traditional seaside towns and coastal cities must play an integral role in their renewal, maximising the wealth of cultural and architectural heritage they embody.

Regeneration in Historic Coastal Towns

English Heritage is responding to the particular needs of coastal towns in a new position statement and guidance

document. It recognises the distinctive built and historic environment of coastal towns and the increasing amount of evidence that highlights the particular economic and social issues facing many of these towns. It draws attention to the impact that heritage-led regeneration can have on the fortunes of coastal towns, improving the public realm and strengthening character and distinctiveness. Whilst diversification away from one-industry towns is necessary, the guidance encourages public sector investment in key historic assets and the need to ensure that new development is integrated with care so that it avoids damaging the existing character.

The South East Coastal Framework

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the South East 2006-16 is based upon three broad economic and geographic contours (the Inner, Rural and Coastal) and thereby recognises the particular needs and challenges facing the coastal areas of our region. In order to meet the aims of the RES, the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) has committed to working with partners to develop a SE Coastal Framework and action plan that maximises the economic potential of the SE coastal region. The Framework, being drafted and consulted on during 2007, recognises that the South East coast can provide vibrant, creative, cultural and business opportunities. The historic environment sector in the region is actively engaged with regional partners and SEEDA in refining the draft Framework and will play its part in delivering the action plan in the coming years.

MARGATE: HERITAGE AND REGENERATION

Like many British seaside resorts, Margate declined in popularity over the last four decades and suffered from social problems including unemployment and low wages. With property values low, its rich historic and architectural assets deteriorated through a lack of investment. In a bid to reverse this trend, the Margate Renewal Partnership was formed in early 2006 to oversee major regeneration in Margate and to coordinate delivery of numerous projects to redevelop the town. One example of a regeneration project has been the conversion of the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital into residential apartments, which was driven largely by the leadership and commitment of the developer to the quality of the scheme as a whole. In addition, many other derelict buildings have been brought back into use in the town centre through support from the HLF's Townscape Heritage Initiative, the Old Town has been designated a creative quarter and tourism is increasing.



HERITAGE SKILLS

To function effectively, the historic environment sector depends on a workforce which has a wide range of skills. There have been long-standing concerns that recruitment difficulties, arising from **skill shortages**, particularly in specialist crafts, are a major problem. In addition, **skills gaps** amongst existing staff have also received attention, for example from elected members who make decisions on development proposals to the voluntary sector who contribute so much to sustaining our knowledge about the historic environment. This section of Heritage Counts looks at the issues surrounding skills shortages and gaps, at initiatives to help overcome these shortages and at examples of how the South East has developed its own projects to address vital needs specific to the region.

In 2005, the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) published *Traditional Building Craft Skills: Assessing the Need, Meeting the Challenge*. The research was the first attempt to quantify demand, supply and training provision within the built heritage sector on both a regional and a national basis. The report estimated that 3,386 people were working on the repair and maintenance of more than 676,000 pre-1919 buildings (including some 76,000 listed buildings) in the region in 2004. However, regionally, over 700 additional people were needed in the following twelve months to meet immediate demand, ranging across such crafts as bricklaying, carpentry, roofing and thatching in order to maintain, repair and restore the region's heritage.

Following the publication of this report, a regional seminar was held in January 2006. The event publicised the findings and launched the idea of a regional action group to address the shortages through a targeted action plan. With support from the Learning and Skills Council, further seminars and key stakeholder meetings have been organised to capture ideas and opportunities for future collaboration. There now seems considerable scope and commitment across the region to initiate projects to address the needs and English Heritage is dedicating more staff time to coordinating this effort. In addition, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced it was providing £1 million towards a Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme to provide work-based training, skills development and knowledge improvement for craftspeople, trainees and career changers qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent.



RESTORING SHAW HOUSE, NEWBURY

Shaw House, a Grade I listed property built in 1581, has been the subject of a major restoration project funded principally by the

Heritage Lottery Fund, Vodafone, West Berkshire Council and English Heritage and re-opened in late 2006. The £6 million restoration project was exemplary for promoting traditional skills development and during the opening ceremony outstanding contributions to the project were recognised and awards made to the craftsmen and women who worked on the project. This included the leadwork team who received expert training, encouragement and leadership in their craft from Carl Chapman. One of Carl's staff, Roscoe Bowles, commented that 'everything I know I have learnt from Carl on this job and as a result I have really loved working here'. Shaw House is now a venue for council and community activities, both educational and cultural.



CONSTRUCTION AMBASSADORS

With the aim of raising awareness of the construction and heritage crafts industry as a career avenue, the Construction Ambassadors scheme

aims to provide a real-life perspective on working in the industry. Coordinated by ConstructionSkills, a Construction Ambassador's role is to share his or her experiences of a career in the construction industry with young people through presentations, demonstrations and practical activities. Clare Charlesworth, a Historic Buildings Architect, ran a seminar at the Weald and Downland Museum in West Sussex for teenage girls to learn about careers in maintaining the built historic environment. The day consisted of a tour of the museum, a brick making demonstration and activity session and an exercise based around a pair of timber framed dwellings. At the end of the day the girls were asked if they would consider a career working with historic buildings – three said they wanted to be an historic buildings architect, one a surveyor and one a brickmaker.

A second report published in 2005, *Cultivating Skills in Historic and Botanic Gardens*, explored the skills issues with regards to maintaining historic parks, gardens and landscapes. As well as quantifying the skills need, the report identified that most government funding is geared towards younger people rather than the career changers prevalent in the sector. The key result of this was the establishment of HLF funding for the Historic and Botanic Gardens Bursary Scheme, and two such placements were underway in the South East in 2006/07 at Harcourt Arboretum and Osborne House.



BUILDING IN CONTEXT TOOLKIT WORKSHOP, ISLE OF WIGHT

English Heritage is increasingly directing its funding into strategic capacity building projects. In partnership with CABE and The Kent Architecture Centre, English Heritage has used funding to create the *Building in Context (BiC) Toolkit*. The Toolkit comprises a series of practical workshops, for members, officers or community groups, designed to explore topical planning issues and stimulate higher standards of decision making, particularly in sensitive historic locations. The Isle of Wight Council held an event for over thirty council representatives in February 2007 to introduce alternative ways of assessing the quality of new development proposals in historic areas. Using a specific area of Cowes as a case study, the group worked through the BiC Checklist to better understand the relationship between the proposed scheme and the context within which it would sit. BiC aims to equip those involved in making decisions affecting historic areas with the skills to better understand the quality and impact of planning proposals, ultimately resulting in improvement of those decisions affecting the historic environment. www.building-in-context.org

The sector also relies on a wide range of other skilled groups to ensure it functions well. These range from professionals, such as archaeologists, architects and planners, to elected members and volunteers. Various skills gaps exist within these groups, particularly when considering the changes that the Heritage Protection Reform process will bring to historic environment services in local authorities and beyond. This section of Heritage Counts looks at these skills gaps and some of the projects underway to increase the expertise of those professionals and non-professionals looking after the region's heritage.

One of the central themes of the White Paper *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century* is the greater role that local authorities will play in the protection and management of the historic environment. The resources available to, and the capacity of, local authorities to undertake this enhanced role has been the subject of much debate. English Heritage has developed a training and information portal, Historic Environment: Local Management (HELM), to help train and develop the skills of historic environment professionals. At least two training events are held in the region each year, ranging across issues such as conservation area management to understanding and managing public historic green spaces. HELM will continue as a key facilitator for the dissemination of best practice and skills development as English Heritage prepares the sector to adopt the heritage protection reforms in 2010.

Promoting and developing the skills of non-professionals in the sector and potential new recruits to the sector has also been recognised as a key means by which predicted skills shortages can be addressed. The sector is supported by an army of volunteers whose time and energy contributes to the conservation of the historic environment. Professionals within the sector are actively seeking to train these volunteers to ensure their contributions are maximised and to promote some of the career paths and opportunities that working with the historic environment can provide.

HAMPSHIRE GARDENS TRUST STUDY DAY AT DOGMERSFIELD

The Hampshire Gardens Trust Research Group comprises volunteers who research parks and gardens of historic significance. The research and data become an integral part of the Hampshire Historic Environment Record, which can then be used to inform development proposals. In order to encourage and improve the research techniques required to recognise salient landscape features that should be recorded, the Research Group holds regular study days and workshops at notable gardens across Hampshire. One such event, supported by the County Council, was held in 2007 at Dogmersfield. It included a keynote speech by John Phibbs, a Historic Landscape Consultant, who gave an insight into how to observe historic landscapes, before leading the group on a guided tour to point out special features of the estate. The day was attended by over 60 people from a range of groups and organisations across Hampshire.



HERITAGE LEARNING

The historic environment offers a rich resource for lifelong learning. The Government has indicated its enthusiasm for fostering more learning outside the classroom using the historic and contemporary built environment more effectively for educating in their *Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto* published in November 2006. There are many examples of historic sites being used more creatively for learning and several of these are highlighted in this section of Heritage Counts.

Many historic properties open to the public and in particular those owned by English Heritage, the National Trust and the Historic Houses Association operate formal educational programmes at their sites. Since 2002, all of these organisations have seen marginal rises in the number of school visitors they welcome to their sites in the region. English Heritage in the South East welcomed 43% of all English Heritage free educational visitors in 2006/07 to its properties. A vast majority of these visits were to three sites, Dover Castle, Osborne House, and Carisbrooke Castle. In addition, English Heritage has developed new learning programmes and activities for school groups, Discovery Visits, and is currently establishing an education volunteering programme at Fort Brockhurst.

The National Trust also actively seeks to use their properties for imaginative educational uses. Of all the National Trust educational visitors in 2006/07, 13% were to sites and properties in the South East region. The Trust is the biggest heritage organisation to benefit from volunteers and the various volunteering schemes at its properties and landscapes promote lifelong learning for all ages. In addition, the Trust has also published research on the long-term benefits and lasting impacts of school trips to their properties [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-schools-guardianship-changing-minds.pdf].

The Historic Houses Association runs thirty formal educational programmes at its properties in the South East region. Similarly the cathedrals across the region tend to run educational activities aimed at National Curriculum Key Stages across different age groups. It is quite unusual for a parish church to have the resources to offer educational activities but in the South East we have two such churches that have found the means to do so – Dorchester Abbey and St Mary of Charity in Faversham.



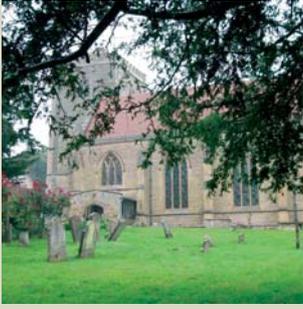
BATTLE ABBEY – AN EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

Battle Abbey in East Sussex is working to enhance its educational offer to school visitors through a number of projects. In February 2007, a new purpose-designed, £2.6 million visitor centre was opened with auditorium and exhibition space. Visitors can now immerse themselves in the Battle of Hastings using interactive exhibits and computer-generated film before exploring the battlefield and abbey themselves. Battle Abbey also launched Discovery visits for school groups in 2006 offering an exciting range of site-based workshops and interactive experiences. Led by specialist educators and site staff and covering learning needs across all Key Stages, the programmes aim to offer rich, fun and interactive learning experiences. The number of Discovery Visit programmes at Battle will increase in 2008. Finally, the *Big Bayeux Cartoon Challenge*, an educational drawing project, was staged for the 940th anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Hastings in October 2006 and was highly commended and awarded in the Heritage Section of the Drawing Inspiration Awards 2007.



ENGLEFIELD ESTATE: COUNTRYSIDE DAYS FOR SCHOOLS

Like many country house estates, the Englefield Estate in Berkshire, a member of the Historic Houses Association, hosts educational visits to facilitate practical, out-of-classroom learning about the local historic environment. Countryside Days for schools are held throughout the summer months, attracting some 1,500 school children annually to the 14,000-acre estate, where they study all aspects of farm, estate and heritage management. The day focuses on sustainable management and stewardship in action, demonstrating how to work with the land and the local community to maintain the landscape heritage of the area, providing a 'living' learning experience. The Estate produces print and web-based handbooks and worksheets, guiding teachers through making the most of the estate's resources to meet National Curriculum objectives and develop creative skills.



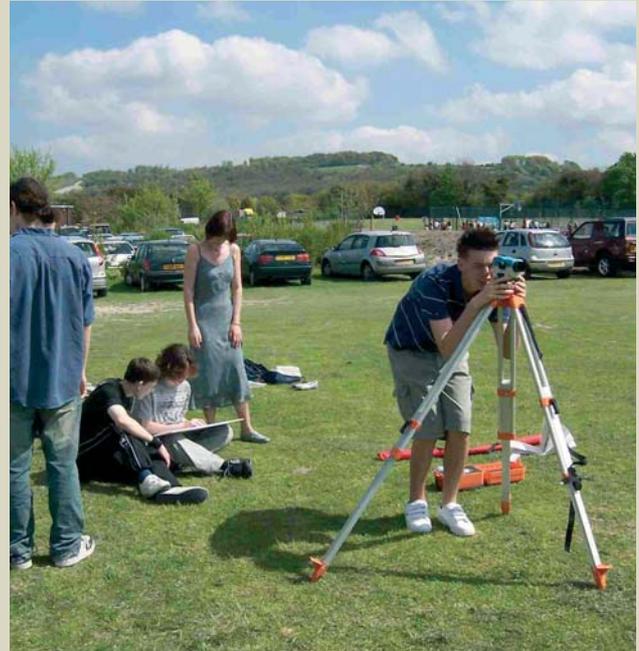
DORCHESTER ABBEY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Dorchester Abbey in Oxfordshire is one of the few parish churches in England able to provide an extensive and dedicated education programme. With an electoral register of just 116 people but the largest building in South Oxfordshire, the church is a focal point for local community activities, tourism and education. The church welcomes all ages of educational groups and can provide an individual programme and tour for each visit. For school children in particular the Abbey team has developed cross curricular visitor programmes that meet all four Key Stages of the National Curriculum and has developed worksheets to aid teachers in their planning for visits. Provision of educational visits is seen as a partnership between each school and the Abbey in order to capitalise on the unique history of the building and the richness of opportunities it provides and to offer quality learning experiences outside the classroom.



THE GATTON PARK PROJECT

Gatton Park is a Grade II eighteenth century mansion house and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown designed landscape, framed by woodland and punctuated with bodies of water. In somewhat fragmented ownership, the Park has long required a joint management approach to maximise the visitor appreciation of the site as a whole. The Gatton Park project is a partnership between The National Trust, the Royal Albert and Alexander School, Surrey Hills AONB and the Gatton Park Education Trust, and aims to restore the parkland setting and encourage more visitors to the enhanced facilities. The partnership is working to conserve the park by clearing features and restoring paths and is improving the already substantial educational provision through enhanced interpretation panels, leaflets and educational materials for school groups and workshops.



UNLOCKING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S PAST

Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past is an online resource of the Historic Environment Record for Buckinghamshire. Funded by £150,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and match-funding from the County Council, work began in 2004 with the aim of increasing public use of the record by making it available online and creating supporting material linked to the National Curriculum for teachers. Since then 22 schools, 132 teachers and 1,601 pupils have been involved in developing the educational content. The website now hosts extensive teaching resources, from overviews of periods in Buckinghamshire's past to interactive games and a virtual excavation. Teachers can also make use of the record by using factsheets, glossaries, lesson ideas and interactive teaching methods. Lifelong learning has been supported by giving information on how to get involved in archaeology and where research resources are held. In addition, the project staff have developed outreach activities to make the Historic Environment Record information available as widely as possible and regularly host public talks and events to promote the collection and their work.

A key challenge for any learning activity is to find ways of motivating people and increasing their engagement with heritage. Many other key players in the sector carry out lifelong learning and outreach activities which have educational aims intended to maximise use of and engagement in the historic environment. Archives, such as local authority historic environment records, are actively seeking to increase usage of the vast number of records they hold by making them available and accessible online and by providing teaching materials to assist in using them. Many will also be linking in to the *Heritage Gateway* project which aims to provide access to local and national heritage information resources through one online portal, for both professionals and the general public alike.

The English Heritage regional Outreach department delivers community-based projects that engage new audiences in learning experiences aimed at exploring and sharing perspectives on heritage. Projects aim to empower people to engage in their neighbourhood, learn about their local history and increase understanding between different communities. Skills acquisition is also an important part of projects, as is sustainability beyond the extent of English Heritage direct involvement.

Heritage Open Days (HODs) is an annual programme coordinated by English Heritage and the Civic Trust. For four days every September buildings of every age, style and function open their doors free of charge with the aim of enthusing and educating people about the built environment and heritage. All the sector's major property owners and managers participate every year and host educational events, activities and tours.



Guildford Castle

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Any historic property can choose to participate in welcoming visitors free of charge to their site during the annual Heritage Open Days (HODs) scheme each September. The aim of the Civic Trust, who coordinate the programme, is to bring people together to explore buildings and conquer the barriers that stop some people from enjoying and learning from their wider surroundings. The education team provides encouragement and support to both education professionals and event organisers and devises fresh ways to involve children and families of all backgrounds through their HLF funded programme. A Teacher's Pack has been produced to encourage schools to use HODs and a handbook was also created with ideas for working with schools and the wider community and for publicising and funding events. Finally a successful series of workshops and INSET sessions were held to bring teachers and organisers together to learn from experts and each other.



SPRINGLINE: TACKLING TRADITIONAL CRAFT SKILLS AND RURAL ISOLATION

The English Heritage Outreach Strategy for the South East recognises that despite its relative affluence there are pockets of rural deprivation across the region. Young people are particularly at risk of social exclusion from lack of access to public services. The Outreach team developed a project in Hampshire and West Sussex to tackle some of these issues at the same time as drawing attention to traditional skills shortages to maintain the historic rural landscape of the surrounding South Downs. The project, called *Springline*, aims to engage young people aged 12-15 in exploring their connections to the surrounding countryside. The group learnt about biodiversity and sustainability at the Sustainability Centre in Hampshire and then moved on to be taught traditional skills at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in West Sussex. By understanding the need to protect the historic landscape and local distinctiveness of the South Downs and its villages, the project hopes to engage the group in the area's long-term conservation and encourage them to think of this as a future job option.



PLACEMENT SCHEME FOR SOUTH EAST'S MUSEUM STAFF

The South East Sharing Skills programme focuses on developing and improving skills in key areas of need for museums, and tests creative ways of sharing these through partnership working. Sharing Skills includes a number of innovative schemes including a 'staff placement scheme'. Now in its second year, the regional staff placement scheme allows people to develop their skills, meet new colleagues and get a taste of how other organisations operate. The 2007/08 scheme offers over 100 placements at more than 50 different organisations. Paid staff and volunteers, working at any level in Registered/Accredited museums in the region can apply for a short term placement in another organisation, working alongside or shadowing staff with a wide range of skills and experience. Staff who have undertaken placements highlight how the experience inspires enthusiasm and new ideas. Hosts report the benefits of having a fresh perspective and a stimulating professional dialogue.

REGIONAL INDICATORS

Heritage Counts 2007 aims to analyse trends in indicator data since the first *State of the Historic Environment* report in 2002. Key headlines associated with this data are highlighted here; sub-regional and regional indicator data are available in full in the online web report at www.heritagecounts.org.uk The National Monuments Record, which holds the national database for listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments, has undertaken a great deal of work to produce consistent data over the time series being analysed in *Heritage Counts 2007* and consequently some figures quoted may vary from those in previous years.

Understanding the Assets

- Regionally, numbers of designated historic assets in April 2007 were:

WORLD HERITAGE SITES	2	CONSERVATION AREAS	2,090
LISTED BUILDINGS TOTAL	75,855	REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS	6
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	1,706	PROTECTED WRECK SITES	19
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	3,828	AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY	9
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	70,321	NATIONAL PARKS	1
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	2,640	DESIGNATED HERITAGE COASTLINE	5 areas or 72km
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	364	ANCIENT WOODLAND	123,600ha approx

- Overall, the numbers of designated historic assets have not changed greatly since 2002, in keeping with the national picture.
- Nationally, protected landscape designation has changed little since 2002, except for the designation of the New Forest as a national park in the South East in 2005. This one major change reflects that the region faces intense development pressures due to rising population and economic prosperity.

Caring and Sharing

- The English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register 2007 records that the region has 176 entries of buildings at risk, down from 185 in 2006 and 233 since the 1999 baseline was set. This represents a 25% reduction over the time series and means that 1.9% of all Grade I or II* buildings in the region were at risk through decay or neglect in 2007, down from 2.5% in 1999. Because buildings have also been added to the register annually, a real total of 97 have actually been removed since 1999. Defence heritage sites continue to characterise the region's buildings at risk, with 55 such entries.
- Data supplied by local planning authorities on the overall number of planning applications showed that in the South East there were 113,600 planning applications made in 2006/07.
- There were 6,769 applications for Listed Building Consent in 2006/07, the second highest number of all regions behind the South West, reflecting the high numbers of listed buildings in the two regions. The latest figures indicate that 8.25% of all listed buildings in the region have been subject to Listed Building Consent, a higher proportion than the overall national figure of 5.7%.
- There were 218 Scheduled Monument Consent decisions issued in 2006/07 in the South East, the highest number of any region, even the South West which has more than double the number of scheduled monuments.
- The Garden History Society (GHS) records that they were consulted on 212 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens in 2006/07.

Funding:

- English Heritage administers seven grant schemes in total, including the Places of Worship scheme on behalf of the HLF, and the figures indicate a decline in grant spend since 2001/02 when the region spent £3,380,000 compared to £2,680,000 in 2006/07, a reduction of 21%. This is the second largest reduction of all the regions behind the East of England and is well above the overall national decline of just 2%. These figures equate to an even greater decline in funding because they refer to actual spend and take no account of inflation or the relative value of the grants.

- National Trust figures for total grant income in the region (which includes London) indicate little change between 2003/04 and 2006/07 from £1,999,164 to £1,927,712.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund is the largest source of funding to the sector. Since 1994, the HLF has made 3,068 awards totalling £364,574,480 in the region. This equates to 10.5% of the total number of awards made nationally and approximately 9.2% of the total national sum awarded. The success rate of applications in the region was 65.9% and this was the second lowest of all the regions.

Employment:

- Accurate levels of employment in the sector are difficult to determine, however, some data exists to provide an indication. The NHTG 2005 craft skills research indicated that 3,386 people were employed in traditional crafts in the region. The VisitBritain annual survey 2006, indicated that historic attraction respondents employed on average 60 staff each. English Heritage employed 349 staff in the region in total in July 2007. In 2006, the National Trust employed almost 900 people (not including seasonal staff or volunteers). HHA member properties employed 3,923 people in the South East in 2006.
- Elected member Champions for the historic environment have increased since 2006 and the South East in July 2007 had 43 of its 74 local authorities with a Champion.

Using and Benefiting

Participation:

- The Department for Culture Media and Sport's Taking Part Survey indicates that about 76% of all adults in the region attended at least one historic environment site in the last twelve months, significantly higher than the national participation rate of about 70% and higher than any other region. This may be linked to the concentration of historic sites and the higher levels of disposable income when compared to other regions. Attendance by priority groups is also higher than the national average in the region. 44% of the regional adult population visited at least one museum or gallery in the last twelve months and 7% visited at least one archive, a higher proportion than any other region.
- The VisitBritain survey of visits to historic attractions in 2006 showed that, of the 169 properties which returned questionnaires, there was a total of 13,060,000 visitors in the South East in 2006/07, representing 21% of the total. 3,895,224 people visited HHA sites in the South East in 2006.

Membership:

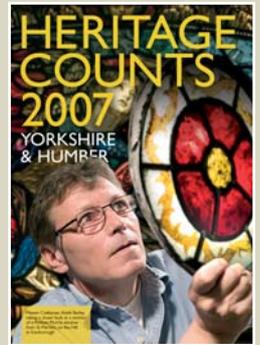
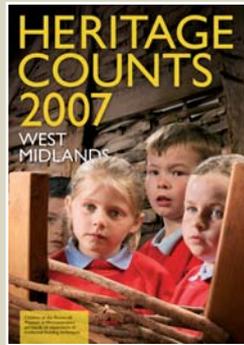
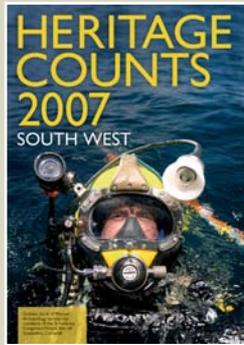
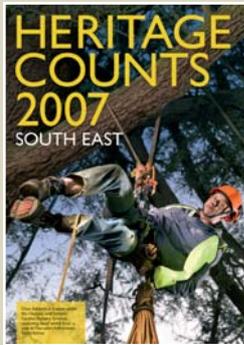
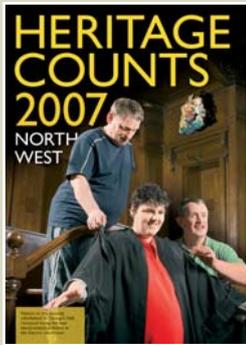
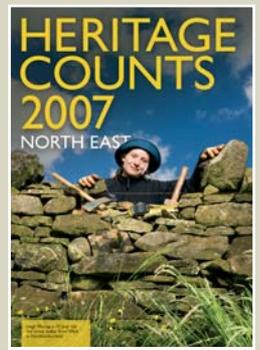
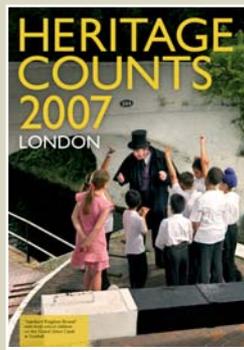
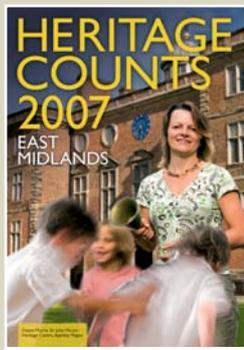
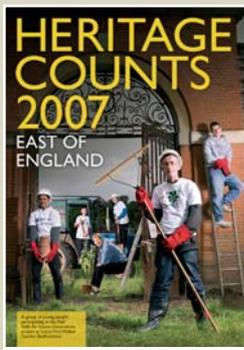
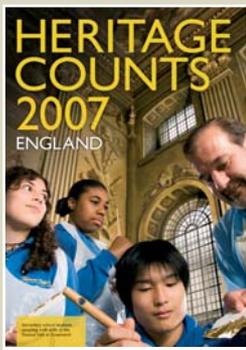
- There were 630,000 English Heritage members in 2006/07 of which about a quarter were from the South East, a proportion little changed since 2004/05. Again this probably reflects the concentration of sites in the region and the higher population. Trend data on National Trust membership is unavailable regionally, but in February 2007 there were 1,118,917 members in the South East (including London) and nationally since 2001/02 there has been a steady increase in overall numbers.

Volunteering:

- The sector is heavily dependent on volunteers. VisitBritain's annual survey of *Visits to Visitor Attractions* indicates that 55% of staff at historic attractions were unpaid volunteers in 2006. The National Trust reports 8,454 volunteers across the South East and London in 2006/07. This is an increase of 1,709 since 2002/03.

Education:

- The National Trust in the South East (including London) welcomed 63,470 school visitors in 2006/07, an increase of one-fifth since 2002/03 and representing about 13% of all visits nationally. English Heritage in the region received 182,760 free educational visitors to its sites in 2006/07, up modestly from 176,593 since 2001/02 and representing a massive 43% of all educational visitors to English Heritage properties. This is principally due to the concentration of EH properties in the region compared to other regions. The HHA operates 30 formal educational programmes at its sites in the region. The MLA South East schools database now contains 40,000 records of schools that have used museums in the South East, based on information from 220 of the region's 265 registered or accredited museums (September 2002-July 2006).



South East Historic Environment Forum Partners:

- Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT)
- Association of Preservation Trusts (APT)
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO)
- Civic Trust South East
- Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
- Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
- English Heritage (EH)
- Government Office for the South East (GOSE)
- Heritage Link
- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)
- Historic Houses Association (HHA)
- Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation (IHBC)
- Kent Architecture Centre (KAC)
- Museums, Libraries and Archives South East (MLA South East)
- National Trust (NT)
- Natural England
- South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
- South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA)
- Tourism South East (TSE)

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