

# HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of  
**YORKSHIRE'S**  
Historic Environment

2005



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# Heritage Counts 2005 in Yorkshire

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*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 heritage. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the Yorkshire Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2005* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

This latest annual survey of the historic environment in Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire provides some very encouraging trends and several major challenges.

We warmly welcome the importance which Yorkshire Forward's draft Regional Economic Strategy affords to 'quality of place' and the contribution which the region's outstanding heritage makes to its economic well-being, not just in terms of tourism (worth £4 billion of Yorkshire's GDP) but also in terms of attracting investment to places where people feel it is desirable to live and work. The projected increase of 27 per cent next year in investment in Yorkshire's historic buildings is a striking confirmation of this, though real challenges face our sector in ensuring that we retain and develop the craft skills essential for the repair and maintenance of historic places.

Great progress is being made in reducing the number of major historic buildings at risk in the region. Since 1999, nearly half the buildings originally recorded on English Heritage's *Register of Buildings at Risk* have been saved – more than in any other English region. Nevertheless, the proportion of current register entries that have no solution has risen to 60 per cent.

*Heritage Counts* this year brings particular focus on the rural historic environment. The survey provides striking figures on the loss of our historic parklands and the threat to field monuments in the region. We are encouraged, however, by the priority which the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme affords to the heritage and are optimistic about the benefits this can bring to our rural landscapes, monuments and historic buildings.

John Hinchliffe  
Acting Regional Director

This year's report is divided into two sections. Section 1 provides a summary of all historic assets, the way they are used and cared for, and the benefits they provide to the economy and people's lives. Section 2 repeats these topics for the rural historic environment, specifically Scheduled Ancient Monuments, places of worship, landscapes and parkland, woodlands, and the coast.

Both sections are supported by the data contained in a Statistical Appendix, which is available on [www.heritagecounts.org.uk/regions](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk/regions). Hard copies can be obtained from English Heritage at the address on the back cover of this report.

## Key findings include:

- The number of highly graded listed buildings restored to favourable condition is growing faster than the national average.
- The amount of money spent on historic buildings in Yorkshire by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) since 2000 is estimated to be £110 million.
- The amount of money to be invested in historic infrastructure is predicted to rise at over twice the national average rate in the next year.
- The region needs 155 additional traditional construction workers to meet current and future needs.
- In the East Riding of Yorkshire, two-thirds of scheduled ancient monuments are vulnerable to plough damage.
- Nearly half the region's historic parkland has been lost since 1918.
- It is estimated that the region's listed churches require £40 million to meet repair costs.
- Bucking national trends, visits to Yorkshire's coast and historic houses are increasing.



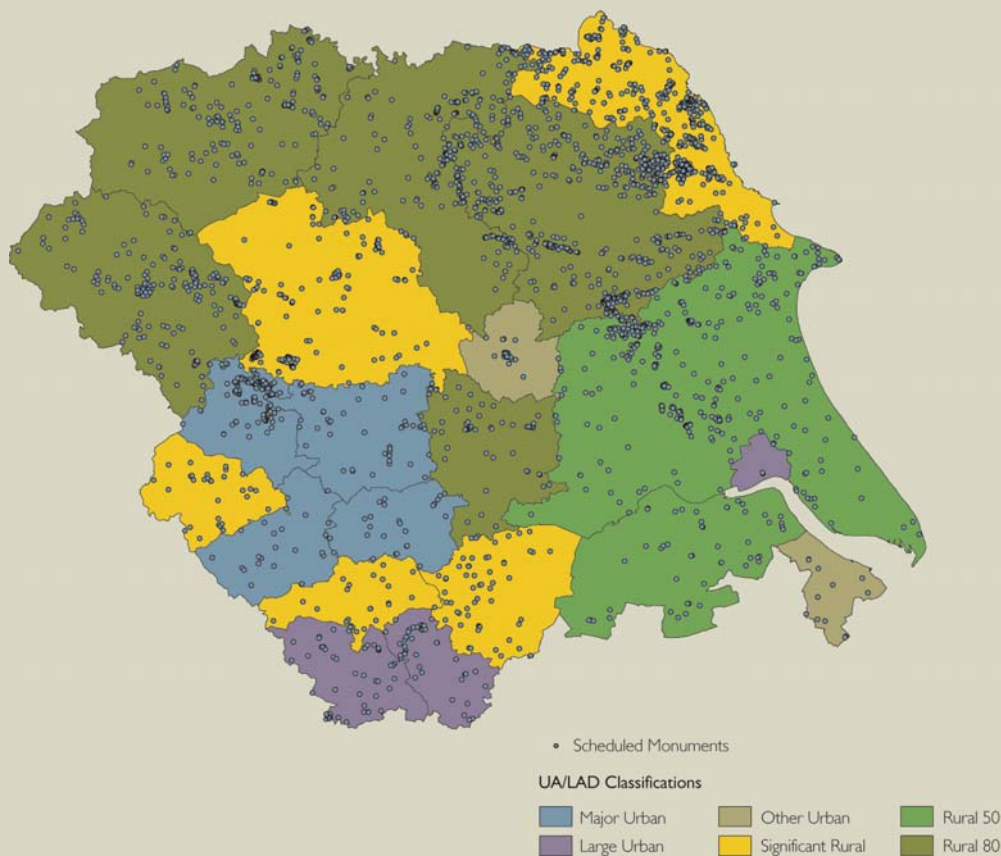
# The historic environment in Yorkshire: distribution of assets

## Yorkshire – Regional Data

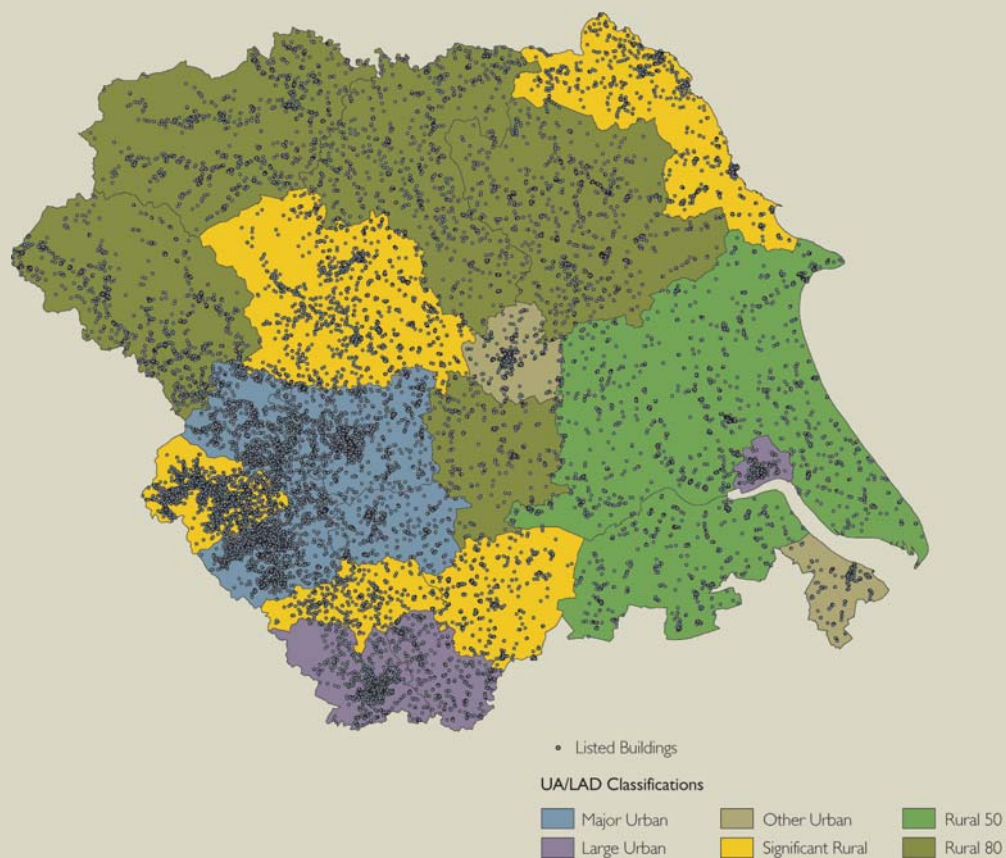
| UNITARY AUTHORITY        | DISTRIBUTION OF LISTED BUILDINGS | DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS | DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED PARKS & GARDENS AND BATTLEFIELDS | DISTRIBUTION OF CONSERVATION AREAS |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| HULL AND THE EAST RIDING | 0                                | 0                                   | 10  | 0                                  |
| EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE | 2,388                            | 344                                 | 8   | 80                                 |
| KINGSTON UPON HULL       | 458                              | 1                                   | 2   | 24                                 |
| NORTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE    | 0                                | 0                                   | 2   | 0                                  |
| NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE  | 221                              | 11                                  | 1   | 14                                 |
| NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE       | 918                              | 44                                  | 1   | 17                                 |
| NORTH YORKSHIRE          | 12,260                           | 1,759                               | 46  | 262                                |
| YORK                     | 1,579                            | 21                                  | 4   | 33                                 |
| SOUTH YORKSHIRE          | 3,145                            | 156                                 | 26  | 125                                |
| WEST YORKSHIRE           | 10,897                           | 327                                 | 42  | 224                                |

Source: English Heritage and local authorities

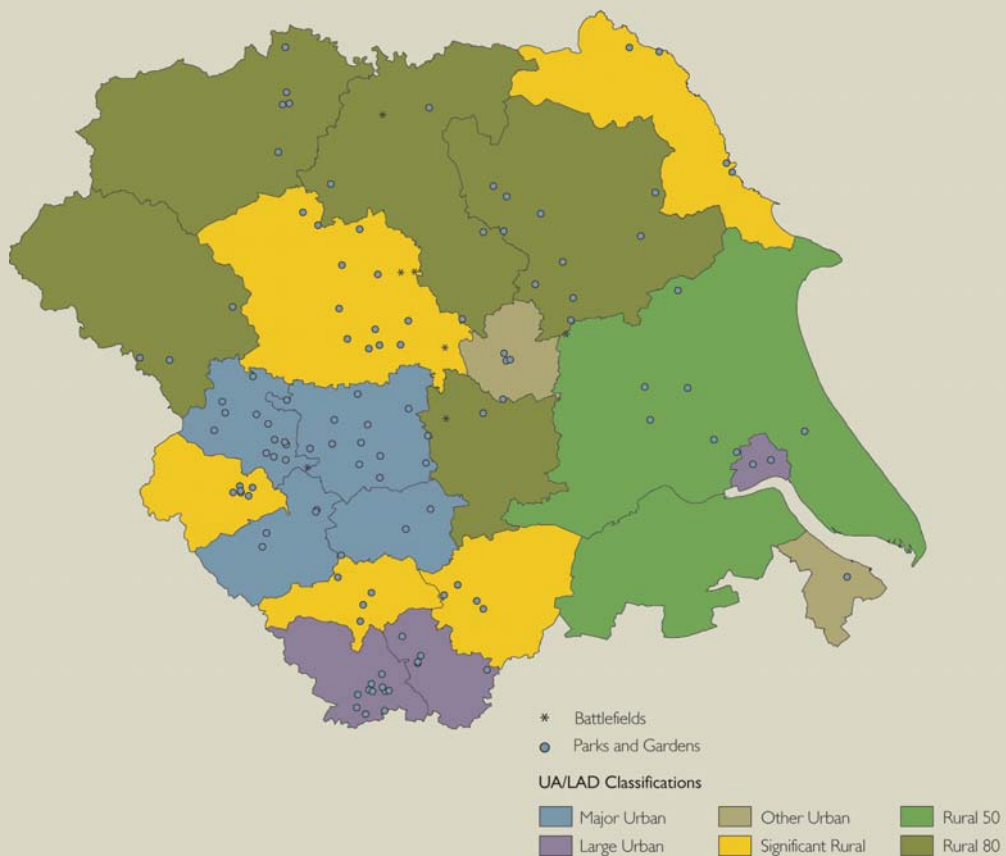
## Scheduled Monuments in the Yorkshire Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



## Listed Buildings in the Yorkshire Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



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



# Understanding the region's assets



## WHAT ARE THE DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS?

Yorkshire has 31,866 listed buildings (8.6 per cent of the England total). Of this, 6.9 per cent are Grade I or II\*, and 93.1 per cent are listed at Grade II, a profile roughly in line with that for England. There are 2,663 scheduled monuments in Yorkshire, approximately 13.5 per cent of the national total. The region has 122 registered historic parks and gardens, with a higher than national proportion listed at Grade II. The region has 779 Conservation Areas according to the local authorities, roughly eight per cent of the national total. There are two world heritage sites in the region – Saltaire in Bradford and Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal in Harrogate. There are seven battlefields on English Heritage's register of historic battlefields. A statistical summary of the region's designated assets is presented in the Statistical Appendix to this report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk/regions](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk/regions).

## I.I.2

### DEFINING YORKSHIRE'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Countryside Agency's Countryside Character Programme divides England into 159 'Joint Character Areas' (JCAs) on the basis of their physical characteristics, land cover, land use and settlement. JCAs provide a means of characterising the region's historic environment and have been used in two major new policy developments for Yorkshire:

- **The Regional Spatial Strategy**

The Regional Assembly is currently producing the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the Yorkshire Region. This will replace Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) and will form the upper tier of the Development Plan providing the policy context for Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). The Regional Assembly, English Heritage and the Yorkshire Historic Environment Forum commissioned a study to identify the opportunities for the historic environment in Yorkshire to contribute towards the RSS. The distinctive historic assets and characteristics of each JCA in the region were defined, and linkages between the historic

environment and other policy areas were explored. The study, the first of its kind in England, recommended not only that there should be a specific high-level policy for the historic environment but also that the historic environment should be included within other topic areas – particularly where it has the potential to contribute towards meeting wider regional objectives, for example, tourism.

- **Environmental Stewardship Scheme**

JCAs were also used in developing targeting statements for the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ES). The ES scheme has enormous potential for improving the condition and management of the rural historic environment, and the statements will influence the range of options that farmers and landowners with historic assets on their land can build into ES agreements. (see page 24).

Another way of defining Yorkshire's historic environment is through techniques of landscape characterisation. Characterisation takes a comprehensive view of the historic environment and identifies what is special about a place. It has important applications in informing change in the historic environment. Characterisation initiatives can range from large, sub-regional projects, such as that currently under way in South Yorkshire as part of English Heritage's Historic Landscape Characterisation programme, to local, discrete settlements including villages and suburban neighbourhoods, such as at Far Headingley in Leeds. In 2005, the Far Headingley Village Society published a Neighbourhood Design Statement which will now form part of the Local Development Framework. Ten distinct character areas were identified, and the process resulted in the extension of the Far Headingley Conservation Area and the creation of a new conservation area in the Edwardian West Park.

## Caring and sharing

### 1.2.1

#### WHAT HERITAGE ASSETS ARE AT RISK?

There are common factors which affect the long-term sustainability of heritage assets – redundancy or loss of original function, uneconomic repair or maintenance costs, vandalism, neglect and development pressure. The production of 'at risk' lists and registers does not in itself guarantee that the historic environment is any better protected. However, where such information does exist, it can help to prioritise actions and resources and raises awareness. This is true of English Heritage's *Register of Buildings at Risk*, which is published annually and lists Grade I and II\* listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments known to be vulnerable through neglect or decay.

#### BUILDINGS AT RISK

Yorkshire has a relatively high proportion of Grade I and II\* buildings at risk – 4.6 per cent, compared to 3.5 per cent nationally. Despite this, the region has been successful in finding solutions to many of these buildings. Of the 176 entries on the *Register* in 1999, 85 (48 per cent) have now been removed, 14 in the last year alone. By comparison, the number of entries on the national *Register* has decreased by 36 per cent over the same period. In addition to those buildings already rescued, solutions were agreed last year for five other buildings, including Hunslet Mill and the Glass Furnace at Bolsterstone.

By contrast, nine buildings for which a solution had previously been agreed reverted back to a 'no solution agreed' category, joining the 60 per cent of the region's at risk buildings which have no agreed repair or re-use plan. Among these are the 18 most at risk buildings in the region, eight of which have been in this category since 1999. This suggests that, although the number of buildings at risk is falling at an encouraging rate, an increasing proportion of the buildings remaining on the *Register* are complex cases which have no immediate solution.



#### Gayle Mill

Gayle Mill was featured in BBC's *Restoration* in 2003 and came third in the national telephone vote. Its solution involved a combination of private and public sector grants plus strong community engagement. Phase I repairs are now complete.

© English Heritage

Only eleven (nine per cent) of the region's buildings at risk are now deemed economic to repair (from 25 per cent in 1999). The conservation deficit on the rest of the buildings on the *Register* is estimated to be £27 million, or eight per cent of the national total. This approximates to £220,000 per building. Just over £5.6 million of this is required for publicly owned buildings at risk. None are deemed economic to repair, but most are now fully funded or are seeking public sector grant-aid. In 2004, 88 per cent of English Heritage's grants budget supported the repair of buildings at risk.



## 1.2.1. WHAT HERITAGE ASSETS ARE AT RISK?

## 1.2.2 WHAT CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN THE LAST YEAR?

**LOCAL BUILDINGS AT RISK  
REGISTERS**

Local authorities remain the primary source of data on Grade II buildings at risk. Currently, nine of Yorkshire's local authorities have an up-to-date register; three of which are published. Seven authorities are compiling a register; three more than last year. Three have no register and four have an out-of-date register. In total, at least 42 per cent of the region's Grade II listed buildings have been assessed as part of a local authority 'at risk' initiative, and with the completion of registers in preparation, the figure will reach at least 63 per cent. Incidence of risk varies from between less than one per cent in some areas to ten per cent in others.

**REGISTERED HISTORIC PARKS AND  
GARDENS AT RISK**

A recent survey of the region's Registered Parks and Gardens showed that 63 per cent fall into medium, high or very high vulnerability bands. The most historically important sites tend to be least vulnerable, and between the sub-regions, North Yorkshire sites are least vulnerable, while South Yorkshire sites have the highest number of most vulnerable sites of all the sub-regions, possibly due to the high proportion of Grade II registered parks and gardens which are more vulnerable than the highly-graded landscapes.

Single local authority-owned sites, of which Yorkshire has a significantly higher proportion (39 per cent as opposed to 22 per cent for England), are also vulnerable, as are those in mixed private ownership.

Encouragingly, 41 per cent of Yorkshire sites have a Landscape Management Plan or are preparing one, while 75 per cent of the sites showed potential for reversing signs of neglect. Some of the repairs of registered parks and gardens within the higher vulnerability bands are already being funded or are seeking funding.

**PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Yorkshire has just under 1,000 listed places of worship. In the last ten years, around 394 (40 per cent) individual places of worship applied for a grant from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, some more than once. Since only those cases with urgent, high-level repairs and significant financial need qualified for support the number awarded grant provides a rough

approximation of the number of vulnerable places of worship in the region. In total, 244 churches fell into this category, representing 24 per cent of the region's listed places of worship.

Since 1994, the two agencies have offered £24 million for the repair of historic churches. In this period, the average rate of grant has risen from 50 per cent to just under 70 per cent, whilst amounts of grant have trebled, from an average offer of £21,000 in 1994 to £64,000 in 2004, reflecting the rise in building costs in the last ten years.

Future demand will continue to be high. In 2003, Church of England Dioceses in Yorkshire estimated a repair bill for listed churches of just under £40 million; 88 per cent of the total cost for all churches in the region. This outstrips the £27 million required for the region's buildings at risk and does not include the cost of modest works to improve access, community use or annual maintenance.

**1.2.2****WHAT CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE  
IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT  
IN THE LAST YEAR?**

In 2004/05, the total number of planning applications increased by 3.8 per cent on the previous year. This was markedly less than the 13 per cent increase between 2002/03 and 2003/04. In the period 1999-2005, planning applications have increased by 30 per cent, but the proportion affecting Grade I and II\* listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled ancient monuments, all of which require referral to English Heritage, has remained constant. Indeed, in the last year, there was a marked decrease in applications referred to English Heritage; as a proportion of all planning applications, they are at their lowest since 1999/00, having fallen by 18 per cent on the 2003/04 total.

However, other consultees report a rise in numbers of schemes with an impact on locally or regionally important historic assets which may be unlisted or unscheduled. Statistics compiled by the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council show that an increasing number of planning applications require a substantive response due to their impact on archaeology. Many schemes involve unscheduled monuments or the setting of scheduled monuments, and in the last year, those directly impacting on scheduled monuments has also increased. The



## 1.2.2 WHAT CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN THE LAST YEAR?

## 1.2.3 HOW IS THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT MANAGED?

Richmond Civic Society also reports an increase in numbers of planning applications affecting listed buildings and conservation areas outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park which are referred to them for comment. Applications reflect residential development pressure, such as extensions into roof spaces and new buildings in former garden plots, which impact on both historic settlement pattern and roofscapes.

In 2004/05, there were 2,477 listed building consent (LBC) applications to local authorities, an increase of over 100 on the previous year and the highest number recorded since 1997. However, LBCs still form a small proportion of the overall number of planning cases: in 1998/99, 5.9 per cent of all planning applications were LBCs, while last year the figure was 4.2 per cent. The total number of LBC applications as a proportion of the total number of listed buildings in the region is rising – it is now at 7.8 per cent compared to 7.4 per cent last year. On average across the region, 86 per cent of LBC applications were granted in 2003/04, a figure that rose to 90 per cent in South Yorkshire.

The number of conservation area consent cases rose slightly last year, but overall they remain only 0.5 per cent of all planning applications. Meanwhile, 2004/05 saw the lowest number of Scheduled Monument Consent applications since 1999.

The Garden History Society collects data on planning applications that affect registered historic parks and gardens. In Yorkshire in 2004/05, 39 such applications were recorded, down from 48 in the previous year. The majority of the applications affected Grade II gardens, of which the region has a higher than national average number of Scheduled Monument Consent. Three related to sport or golf, two to telecommunications and four to educational establishments.

Planning statistics can only partially describe change in the historic environment: not all historic environment assets are subject to planning controls (particularly rural features like dry-stone walls) and those which are, are often not separately identifiable in the statistics (including unlisted but historic buildings). Furthermore, for those elements of the historic environment that are counted in these statistics, it is not always possible to determine which type of change is occurring and whether it is beneficial or detrimental, only that permissions are being sought.

## 1.2.3

## HOW IS THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT MANAGED?

The way in which historic sites and buildings are identified and designated is changing. English Heritage is working closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on developing proposals for a unified register of historic assets and appropriate management agreements linked to the designation process. Pilot projects to test the new system are under way in Yorkshire at Darnall Works, Sheffield and the City Walls in York. Both cases were chosen because of the multiple designations the wide ranging management issues in each location. The findings will be published in next year's report.

has issued a Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) to measure local authorities' performance relating to designating, defining and publishing management proposals to preserve the special architectural or historic character of Conservation Areas. The BVPI will require local authorities to notify the ODPM of the number of Conservation Areas designated and the proportion with an up-to-date character appraisal.

Currently, 235 (30 per cent) of the region's conservation areas have an area character appraisal, but at local authority level coverage varies greatly – seven authorities, accounting for 182 conservation areas, have no adopted appraisals, and only ten per cent of South Yorkshire's conservation areas have adopted appraisals.

Both World Heritage Sites in the region have adopted management plans. Bradford Metropolitan District Council is developing an Environmental Capacity Study for Saltaire World Heritage Site and its setting. The groundbreaking study will provide an effective tool for managing change within the site and its setting, and will develop an up-to-date methodology that could be employed at other World Heritage Sites or areas of historic importance.

In June, English Heritage published regional guidance manuals to support its Save our Streets Campaign. The *Streets for All* manuals aim to improve the appearance of public spaces through practical solutions to common highways issues. It identifies elements that make the region distinctive – landscape, building materials and traditional detailing – and addresses some of the common problems that can diminish the quality of public spaces.

## 1.2.4 WHO MANAGES THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT?

## 1.2.5 TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFT SKILLS



Blacksmith at Chris Topp's foundry, near York

© Tony Bartholomew

## 1.2.4

## WHO MANAGES THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT?

Local authorities are essential to the protection and management of the historic environment. A national survey in 2002 revealed that on average, local authorities employed 2.1 full-time equivalent specialist building conservation staff. The Yorkshire complement is currently just above this level, as it has been for the past two years. There are significant variations at district level. Half the region's authorities have less than 2.0 full time equivalent specialist building conservation staff; only one authority in North Yorkshire maintains over 2.0 posts, and Craven District still has no full time building specialist post. Encouragingly, though, two of the South Yorkshire authorities have increased their complement on the previous year:

There are currently 33.5 staff working within the nine Historic Environment Records services within the region. Currently, only twelve of the region's local authorities have an Historic Environment Champion. English Heritage employs 215 staff in the region, 33 per cent up on 2001.

Within the region, historic properties open as visitor attractions employ over 2,400 people. The Historic Houses Association employs just under 1,200 people including seasonal and casual staff in non-agricultural posts in the region.

"Yorkshire will need 48 additional carpenters, 45 slate and tile roofers, 36 stonemasons and 26 thatchers to maintain and repair its historic buildings."

## 1.2.5

## TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFT SKILLS

The first ever labour and skills needs analysis for the built heritage sector in England was published in June by the National Heritage Training Group. *Traditional Building Craft Skills: Assessing the Need, Meeting the Challenge* outlines the importance of maintaining a skilled workforce to ensure that the historic built environment is adequately protected and enhanced for future years. In Yorkshire, the region's construction industry employs over 180,000 people, or eight per cent of the workforce. Of these, only 2,343 (1.3 per cent) are traditional building craftsmen and women, to maintain and repair the region's 600,000 historic (listed and unlisted pre-1919) buildings.

Yorkshire's spending on all historic buildings in the last 12 months was the fifth highest of all regions but is predicted to rise by a massive 27 per cent in the next year; perhaps reflecting the momentum of a number of urban renaissance initiatives; this is three times the rate of growth predicted for any other region. The key driver is spend on public and commercial sector listed buildings, predicted to account for £200 million spend next year. After London, Yorkshire had the highest average spend per public/commercial sector historic building in the last twelve months, at just under £13,000 per building. In the coming year, expenditure is expected to continue to outstrip all other regions except London and account for one-fifth of the total expenditure on all historic buildings in England. The need for skilled traditional construction employees is therefore immediate and of a significant scale.

The rate of outstanding vacancies among contractors in Yorkshire is 22 per cent, lower than the national average. However, Yorkshire employers lag behind other regions in increasing training programmes to improve skills within the sector. Craftspeople classed as 'difficult to find' in the region include blacksmiths, carpenters, fibrous plasterers, paint gilders, lime plasterers, slate and tile roofers, stonemasons and

## 1.2.5 TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFT SKILLS

## 1.2.6 WHAT RESOURCES EXIST FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT?

## 1.2.7 PUBLIC FUNDING FOR HERITAGE

thatchers. The study estimates that the region needs a six per cent increase in its present complement of construction craftspeople to meet predicted demand for repairs to historic buildings, a higher level than the national requirement.

The report goes a long way to identify the future requirements of the built historic environment in the region. However, anecdotal evidence points to acute skills shortages in other specialist areas, for example, in maintaining and conserving working industrial monuments, and in the management and conservation of historic parks and gardens, which need to be considered in the development of a regional skills Action Plan in the coming year.

"Yorkshire is a prime inheritor of some of the finest survivals of historic houses, castles and gardens in Europe. The challenge to maintain them is ever increasing and involves the whole historic environment sector. Major capital projects can never be met from normal operating incomes."

Richard Compton, Chairman of the Yorkshire Historic Houses Association

## 1.2.6

## WHAT RESOURCES EXIST FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT?

Maintaining and managing the historic environment is a costly business which requires continuous investment. Traditionally, the historic environment sector has relied on a small number of limited sources of funding, predominantly from English Heritage, the HLF and local authorities. However, there are many other agencies and funding bodies within the region which can and do make significant contributions.

In June, the Historic Environment Forum launched *Investing in Yorkshire's Heritage: an investment strategy for the historic environment sector in Yorkshire* to raise awareness of the opportunities available within the region and identify how, through the integration of the historic environment into the regional agenda, more funds can be secured from a range of sources. The strategy reflects the sector's top priorities for investment in the region's historic environment across five key areas and lists their priority projects, ranging from long-term 'at risk' buildings to marketing initiatives to boost heritage tourism. One of the highest priority projects – Darnall Works, Sheffield – is now fully funded, with repair and regeneration work to commence soon. The South Humber Bank project, worth £4 million, is in the final stages of development. So far, 17 organisations have been assisted with funding proposals, with five funding applications made. In excess of £30 million has been secured from a range of sources to support projects in the Strategy.

## 1.2.7

## PUBLIC FUNDING FOR HERITAGE

Since 2000, the combined grant offers to the historic environment of English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and European Regional Development Fund alone total £110 million. This is a conservative figure since it does not include other major funders such as Defra and Yorkshire Forward, which will be reported next year:

- The **Heritage Lottery Fund's** grant giving in the region last year totalled £21.6 million, up over 37 per cent on 2003/04.
- In the last year, **English Heritage** offered £2.94 million in grant to historic places and buildings.
- **Local authority** spending on the historic environment has increased overall but is not spread equally. At least ten authorities reported no budget for historic environment expenditure last year. Seven of these authorities have been unable to offer historic environment grants for two years running. Most of the local authority historic environment budgets were used as partnership funding for other public sector investment, mainly with English Heritage (seven authorities) and the Single Regeneration Budget or Objective 1 in South Yorkshire.
- **EU funding** to the historic environment since 2000 was £25.5 million. Most of the funding has been through Objective 1 in South Yorkshire and has focused on the regeneration of Sheffield City Centre through its key historic buildings such as the Cathedral and City Hall and metal trades



## 1.2.8 HOW ARE MORE PEOPLE ENCOURAGED TO CARE FOR AND ENJOY THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT?

**Cawood Castle,  
North Yorkshire**

In the middle of Cawood, just north of Selby, are the remains of the medieval banqueting hall of Cawood Castle and the green open space of the former castle courtyard, or Garth. The Garth is so significant to the local community that, in the 1980s, they bought it through the parish council to protect it from development pressure. Finding appropriate uses for the site – a scheduled ancient monument – as a public amenity space has been helped by a facilitator, Emma Waterton. In addition to a programme of new, creative community activities, a management agreement is now being drawn up which will reflect the site's historical, environmental and social significance, and allow the community to take a stronger lead in managing the Castle Garth in the future.

"...regional and national heritage flows from the local and small and not the other way round."

Andrew Boyce, Bishop Wilton History Group,  
Castleford Conference

buildings including Darnall and Scotia Works. Objective 2 awards have mainly supported projects in rural North Yorkshire, including Gayle Mill and Richmond Georgian Theatre.

- The **Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF)** has allowed English Heritage to distribute over £4.5 million to over 70 projects designed to ameliorate the effects of aggregates extraction on the historic environment in the past year. A project undertaken by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, for example, has synthesised the various forms of mapped archaeological evidence and its relationship to the past, present and future of aggregates extraction sites.

**1.2.8****HOW ARE MORE PEOPLE  
ENCOURAGED TO CARE FOR  
AND ENJOY THE HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT?**

In March 2005, a regional conference, 'Whose Heritage is it Anyway?', was held to explore how positive engagement in and management of the historic environment can be achieved when communities and heritage professionals work together. The event brought together community heritage groups in Castleford, where local people have put their historic environment, as they define it, at the heart of the town's plans for regeneration.

The theme of the event was understanding local values, in order to include them in the local planning process and to give communities true ownership of their historic environment. Various techniques to capture community value in heritage were discussed in workshops, and they constituted the beginnings of a 'toolkit' to help communities define their heritage values. A web-based version is now in development and could be used to establish the cultural values of many other groups, particularly those not traditionally engaged or under-represented in community planning.

## 1.3.1

### EDUCATION

The Yorkshire and the Humber Region has eleven higher education (HE) institutes and 33 further education (FE) colleges teaching HE courses. The regional full-time student population is 151,000, with the largest concentration in Leeds. Compared to other regions, Yorkshire has a high proportion of students at FE colleges. There is a slightly higher than national proportion of Yorkshire-based students studying architecture, building and planning, and historical and philosophical studies, and a significantly higher than national proportion enrolled in agricultural and related subjects in HE colleges.

## 1.3.2

### VOLUNTEERING

The activities of the 67 members of the Yorkshire and the Humber Association of Civic Societies were surveyed this year. Half responded, revealing that over 200 society members are undertaking voluntary work to the equivalent of 17 full time employees, with some reporting more than three hours voluntary work per week, across a wide range of activities.

Activities include involvement in renaissance initiatives, environmental audits, planning issues and campaigns for individual buildings, sites or memorials. The Societies also produce interpretative material, including guidebooks, websites and town trails, and they participate in Heritage Open Days and Blue Plaques schemes to engage local appreciation of the historic environment. Key areas for future support include grants and funding, liaison with local authorities and increasing active membership.

A recent study into church social action across the region identified 6,500 projects, involving 50,000-70,000 churchgoers and 3,000 staff. It is estimated that this activity, led largely by volunteers, is worth in the region of £55 million to £75 million per year and benefits up to 150,000 people (*'Angels and Advocates'* Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber, 2002)

There were 2,400 National Trust volunteers in Yorkshire and the North East in 2004, contributing just under 200,000 hours of work, or one person working full-time for over 110 years.



### Bradford Civic Trust Initiative

A new civic trust was launched in Bradford this July.

As a voice of the community in the affairs of Bradford's built heritage, the Bradford Civic Trust will not only provide a much-needed forum for the entire community to engage with the official forces of regeneration in the city, but it will also offer individuals the opportunity to devise constructive solutions to community problems from the need for new public spaces to the threat of anti-social behaviour. Given Bradford's unique demographics, the BCT should become a common ground for its incredibly diverse social, ethnic and cultural identities.

**Katie Bishop**  
Development Officer, Yorkshire and Humber  
Association of Civic Societies

© Craig Stennett

## 1.3.3

### WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT?

Tourism is recognised as being a key economy for the region and based upon high quality environments. It is encouraging that the historic environment is now regarded as an important component in economic regeneration rather than an obstacle to it, as shown in early drafts of the Regional Economic Strategy, due to be published in 2006.

## I.3.4 TOURISM

## I.3.5 PARTICIPATION

## I.3.6 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



### Regeneration: Ripon Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS)

One of the most successful HERS in Yorkshire is in Ripon. The partnership of English Heritage, Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council has achieved a considerable improvement to the town's appearance and helped regenerate the commercial core of the conservation area, some of which had fallen into neglect as the town's economy declined as nearby Harrogate thrived as a shopping destination.

To date, some 20 buildings have been repaired and several public realm improvements have been completed. Grade II Listed commercial buildings on High Skellgate, Ripon, prior to repair.

*Taken for the Images of England project. © Mr Chris Broadribb*

## I.3.4

### TOURISM

Historic properties attract approximately one fifth of all tourist visits in the region. Yorkshire, in line with England as a whole, experienced a one per cent increase in visitor numbers in 2004. Visitors to Yorkshire's historic houses increased by four per cent, while visits to gardens decreased in all regions except Yorkshire and London. The less favourable weather during summer 2004 caused visits to coastal sites across England to decline slightly.

However, in Yorkshire this trend was completely reversed, with a six per cent increase. Rural visits remained static in Yorkshire as for the rest of the country, and urban visits increased by two per cent, just behind the England average.

## I.3.5

### PARTICIPATION

The DCMS is currently developing a survey to help identify patterns of cultural participation. 27,000 households will be surveyed (3,000 in each region) and the findings used to monitor participation, particularly among hard-to-reach communities, in the arts, sport and heritage. The first statistics should be available during 2006.

Last year, 300 properties participated in the annual Heritage Open Days event, boosted by the successful North Yorkshire Churches Tourism Initiative. This year, Leeds offered 70 Heritage Open Day events, the most for any city in England outside London.

## I.3.6

### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

One of the key proposals arising from Sir John Egan's report, *Skills for Sustainable Communities*, was the establishment of a National Centre for Sustainable Community Skills. It was announced earlier this year that the centre will be based in Leeds and will be known as the Academy for Sustainable Communities.

The centre will chiefly deliver training for planners, urban designers, highways engineers, civil engineers 'core occupations' (local authorities, private sector consultancies and developers) and elected members. There may be scope to develop links between the work of the Academy and the historic environment sector, particularly on issues such as craft skills shortage, public realm design and community-led planning initiatives, like the Castleford Conference.



## The Rural Environment

### 2.1.1

#### WHAT IS THE RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT?

The definitions of 'rural' and 'urban' used in this report are drawn from the classification developed by the Rural Evidence Research Centre and recommended by Defra as the best method for identifying levels of rurality.

Using these definitions, it can be seen that over half of all designated assets are within rural local authority areas – 60 per cent of all listed buildings, 85 per cent of all scheduled ancient monuments, 56 per cent of conservation areas and 53 per cent of the region's registered parks and gardens. The majority of the region's buildings at risk are in the rural local authorities (68 per cent) and just over half of all decisions on listed building consent (53 per cent) affected buildings in rural local authorities. Planning applications, however, are higher in urban local authorities (56 per cent).

In addition, approximately 27 per cent of the region is designated for its national landscape value, the highest of any region. These assets comprise:

- Two National Parks – the North York Moors National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Park – plus part of the Peak District National Park. 21 per cent of the region's land area is within a National Park, the highest proportion of any region.
- Two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – the Howardian Hills and Nidderdale – plus part of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.
- 92,000 hectares of woodland covering six per cent of the region. 77 woodlands are in the care of the Woodland Trust.
- 21 per cent of England's common land, predominantly in North Yorkshire.
- 376 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (71 in the former Humberside, 239 in North Yorkshire, 34 in South Yorkshire, 32 in West Yorkshire), covering nearly 180,000 hectares.
- 18 Special Areas of Conservation, which are strictly protected sites designated by the EC Habitats Directive.
- Four Ramsar sites, wetlands of international importance.
- 58 Local Nature Reserves, which are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally.
- 10 National Nature Reserves, which were established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations.

## Caring and sharing in the rural historic environment



Thornborough Henges, North Yorkshire  
© English Heritage

### 2.2.1

#### WHAT RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSETS ARE 'AT RISK'?

Distinct from historic designed landscapes (parklands and gardens), some of the region's most important historic landscapes are large, complex land areas which contain high concentrations of historic features associated with specific historic land-use, whether agricultural, settlement, or ritual, or a combination of these. Five are currently subject to a range of processes which threaten their sustainability and are the highest priority for management action.

#### THORNBOROUGH HENGES, NORTH YORKSHIRE

This site is a Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual landscape of a scale and complexity rare outside Wessex or Orkney. Of particular significance is the visible grouping of three large henge monuments. The two principal impacts on this landscape are industrial aggregate extraction close to the monuments and agricultural activity. While the first can be dealt with through the planning process, the second requires the development of advice for farmers about the economic and environmental benefits of managing the landscape in a sensitive manner. The conservation of the archaeological and cultural potential of the landscape depends upon securing beneficial agri-environmental management through the new ES scheme, to build on existing Countryside Stewardship Schemes in the area. In addition, a Conservation Plan has been commissioned to encourage local participation and consultation and to provide a framework for future landscape management initiatives.

## 2.2.1 WHAT RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSETS ARE 'AT RISK'?

**THE VALE OF PICKERING,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

The buried prehistoric landscapes and the unique continuous 'ladder' settlements are an extraordinary survival of human activity on a landscape scale, preserved beneath thick blown-sand deposits across the Vale. These are under threat from deep ploughing and intensive irrigation for the production of cash crops such as potatoes and carrots. The new ES scheme payment rates may not match the value of these crops, making the Scheme uneconomic and unattractive to farmers. A project is being developed with Defra to address these issues in the Vale of Pickering which may also benefit the land around Seamer and Starr Carrs near Scarborough, where intensive irrigation and drainage is degrading peat deposits that contain internationally significant Mesolithic remains.

**THE SOUTHERN MAGNESIAN  
LIMESTONE RIDGE**

A key geological feature running north-south along the eastern side of the Pennine Uplands, the Ridge's rich magnesian limestone has been quarried for centuries to provide the building materials of numerous settlements such as Boston Spa, Wetherby and Conisbrough. In addition, the light soils on top of the limestone proved attractive for early farmers as opposed to the heavier clay soils of the Vale of York. Today, this activity is evidenced by the wealth of crop and soil mark archaeological features apparent from aerial photography and the unique limestone character of buildings within the historic settlements. The Ridge is still under significant arable cultivation which can be detrimental to underlying archaeological features. This issue could be addressed in the context of the new ES scheme.

**The Vale of Pickering**

Annabelle Banham from Defra at a farm in a Countryside Stewardship Scheme near East Heslerton in the Vale of Pickering

© Tony Bartholomew

**The Southern Magnesian  
Limestone Ridge**

An aerial view of the Southern Magnesian Limestone Ridge in South Yorkshire, with Brodsworth Hall in the background surrounded by modern large scale fields and Iron Age and Roman cropmarks in the foreground (bottom left).

© English Heritage



## 2.2.1 WHAT RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSETS ARE 'AT RISK'?



### Great Wolds Valley

The village of Rudston lies in a bend in the Great Wolds Valley, the focus of one of the largest Neolithic monument complexes in the north of England. The villages of Burton Fleming (upper right) and Wold Newton (top left) are on the course of the Gypsy Race, one of few above ground water courses on the Wolds, which follows the floor of the Valley from Wharram-le-Street in the west to the sea at Bridlington.

© English Heritage

### THE GREAT WOLDS VALLEY

The Great Wolds Valley in the East Riding of Yorkshire is another extensive prehistoric ritual and settlement landscape with an exceptional concentration of archaeological features, including the Rudston Cursus, Duggleby Howe and the Gypsy Race. Its primary threat is from intensive arable cultivation. The most sensitive elements of this landscape would benefit from the appropriate application of the new ES scheme.

### YORKSHIRE DALES BARNES AND WALLS

The Yorkshire Dales dry-stone walls and field barns are a defining characteristic in the outstanding landscape quality of the Dales. Taken together they comprise a huge historic environment asset. They are at risk from a combination of factors – changing farming practises, redundancy, uneconomic repair and maintenance costs, a lack of traditional dry-stone wallers, lack of appropriate stone and poor understanding of the age and cultural significance of these structures – which has led to their neglect, demolition or inappropriate repair. While funding over the years has addressed repair needs to some structures, it does not provide a sustainable solution. English Heritage is currently discussing an assessment procedure with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to improve repair schedules and funding applications.



### Yorkshire Dales barns and walls

The Dales Way at Hawswick Head, near Kettlewell.

© Tammy Whitaker

## 2.2.2 PRE-1918 HISTORIC PARKLAND

### 2.2.3 TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS

## 2.2.2

### PRE-1918 HISTORIC PARKLAND

A recent study based on analysis of parkland in each of the JCAs has shown that the Yorkshire and Humber Region has lost the second highest proportion of pre-1918 parkland of all regions.

In 1918, Yorkshire had around 33,000 hectares of historic parkland – distinctive landscapes, some dating from the medieval period, most from the 17th century onwards and designed as part of a landed estate. Parkland accounted for 2.2 per cent of the land area of the present regional boundary, but by 1995, this had been reduced by almost half (47.1 per cent), with 15,600 hectares of historic parkland lost to agricultural change, development pressure and, more recently, the development of golf courses.

Across England, nearly half of pre-1918 parkland has been lost. However, ten JCAs in the region have experienced a greater degree of loss, with the Vale of York at 62 per cent. The Howardian Hills and the Southern Magnesian Limestone Ridge both had a high concentration of parkland, making a strong contribution to their physical character. By 1995, the Howardian Hills had lost around 700 hectares, and the Southern Magnesian Limestone Ridge nearly 5,000 hectares or over half of its pre-1918 parkland.

## 2.2.3

### TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS

In the Yorkshire and Humber Region, there are 7,200 farm businesses, 12.2 per cent of the total number of farm businesses in England. Seventy-six per cent of the region is farmland, representing 12 per cent of the national total of farmland. New research shows that Yorkshire has 5,530 listed farm buildings, eight per cent of the national total (*Historic Farm Buildings: Constructing the Evidence Base*, Gaskell and Owen, 2005). Yorkshire has 11 listed farm buildings in English Heritage's *Register of Buildings at Risk*, up from eight in 1999.

“An analysis of the financial impact of the transition from historic payments (under the old CAP regime) to area payments for a range of National Trust tenant farms in the Yorkshire Dales indicates that there will be a substantial reduction in income from support payments by the year 2012 compared to the levels received now for most farm types. This will have a negative impact on net farm income as well as potentially adverse impacts upon the historic character of these upland areas.”

Alex Hunt, Regional Policy Officer National Trust Yorkshire and North East



### Scheduled Monuments at Risk

Terminal of the Rudston Cursus, East Yorkshire, showing plough damage.

© Mags Waughmann

## 2.2.3 TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS

## 2.2.4 SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AT RISK (SM@R)



### Volunteers surveying monuments at risk

In the early spring of 2005, a group of volunteers began to survey some of the National Parks' principal archaeological sites to find out how well they are coping with both natural and man-made threats to their existence extending English Heritage's broader monuments at risk survey in the region.

The momentum for the project came from English Heritage, who is conducting a broader monuments at risk project in the region. The National Park Authority decided to extend that survey by using volunteers to give a more detailed picture of the state of monuments in the National Park.

The scheduled monuments visited range from prehistoric settlements, barrows and stone circles, to more recent monuments, such as the 19th-century Navy Camp at Ribblesdale and the extensive areas of lead mining in Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and on Grassington Moor. The 'Monuments at Risk Survey' is aiming to visit and assess all publicly accessible scheduled monuments within the National Park. As the project progresses, the volunteers will be looking at a selection of the many unprotected sites that exist within the National Park, many of which are also extremely important.

The survey is providing up-to-date information on the land use affecting the monuments, their overall condition and on specific threats to their continued survival. Results so far have shown that damage from rabbits, vehicles and natural erosion are among the most widespread problems, some monuments have been badly affected by visitor erosion. Evidence of illegal metal detecting has been seen on some protected sites. Preliminary statistics suggest that 49 per cent of the scheduled monuments are in optimal condition given their age and character, and a further 29 per cent are in generally satisfactory condition. More worryingly 15 per cent are generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems, four per cent are generally satisfactory but with major localised problems and three per cent have extensive significant problems.

**Miles Johnson**  
Historic Environment and Countryside Adviser,  
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

© Miles Johnson

The Defra Farm Practices Survey (2004) demonstrates that Yorkshire has the second highest proportion of un-used agricultural buildings in disrepair in England (these are defined as pre-1940 and exclude farmhouses) but one of the lowest proportions awaiting conversion of any region. However, a study of time-series photographs of historic farmsteads suggests that along with the South East, Yorkshire has one of the highest levels of conversion of farm buildings in England, with 35 per cent showing visible change. Almost 11 per cent of buildings have clearly visible structural failures, higher than the 7.5 per cent national average. Changes in farm practise represent a sector challenge in the management of traditional farm buildings. Improving our understanding of the resource is a priority.

## 2.2.4

### SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AT RISK (SM@R)

Findings from the initial stages of Yorkshire's SM@R project suggest that almost 60 per cent of scheduled ancient monuments in the East Riding of Yorkshire are at high risk. This is far higher than anticipated before the study began. Forty per cent of the region's Scheduled Ancient Monuments have now been assessed as part of this initiative, with work complete for the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire (outside the National Parks).

In the East Riding, all 344 monuments have been assessed, plus 740 (40 per cent) of North Yorkshire's SAMs, all outside the National Parks. (The Yorkshire Dales survey featured on page 23 was not complete at the time of writing.)

The assessment of risk into low, medium and high categories is linked to the urgency of the threat; high risk sites are at immediate risk of widespread damage or destruction, whilst low risk sites have little or no threat in the short- to medium-term. The urgency of the threat determines the level of management action required. See **Figures 2.1 and 2.2** (source: English Heritage).

Most (77 per cent in the East Riding, 67 per cent in North Yorkshire) of the high-risk monuments are in arable land use and vulnerable to ploughing and 'clipping' (where regular ploughing erodes the perimeter of the feature). Dewatering and plant growth are also principal threats to the most vulnerable monuments.



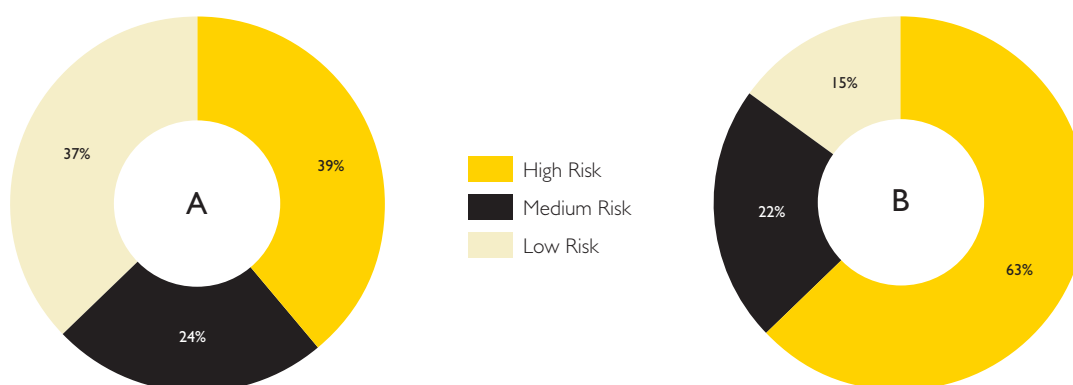
## 2.2.4 SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AT RISK (SM@R)

Monuments at low risk are predominantly within pasture, grassland, and (in North Yorkshire) moorland. Half of the region's scheduled ancient monuments are in these land-use categories, as opposed to 18 per cent in arable, suggesting that the final SM@R survey will reflect a lower incidence of risk for the region than for the significantly arable East Riding.

Overall, in the East Riding, 96 (28 per cent) of Scheduled Ancient Monuments benefit from a form of public funding, mainly Countryside Stewardship (see Figure 2.3). In North Yorkshire, outside the National Parks, these schemes apply to land containing 195 monuments, 11 per cent of the monuments in the sub-region.

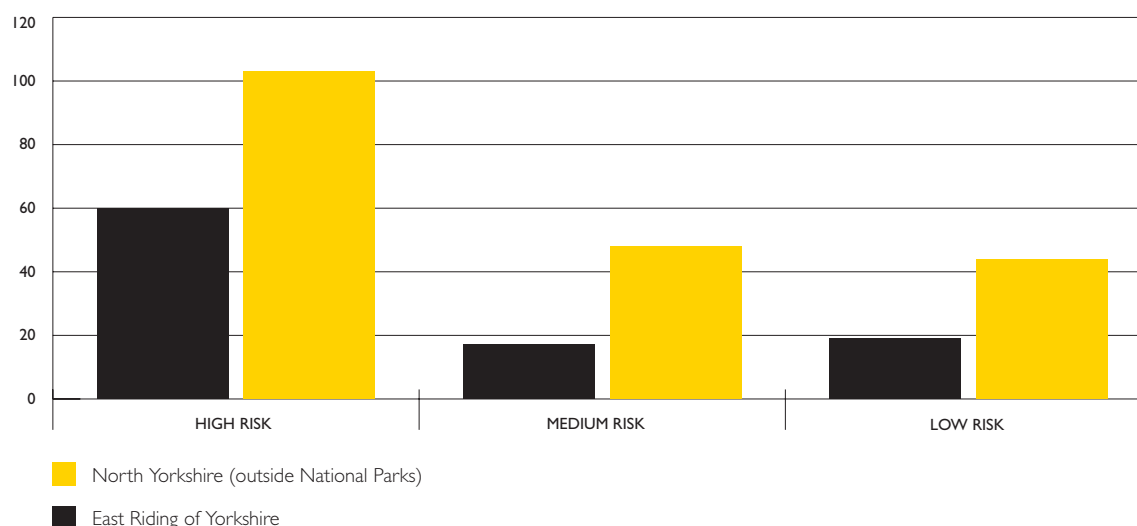
However, in the East Riding, 83 monuments are on land managed under a Countryside Stewardship Scheme but only 22 have agreements that wholly or partly include provision for the beneficial management of the monument. In North Yorkshire, of the 129 monuments in Countryside Stewardship Schemes, only 34 have beneficial management clauses for the monument.

The findings of the regional SM@R survey will be used within English Heritage to prioritise action and grants. They will also be used to develop management plans which should enable and assist land managers to apply for other sources of funding including the new ES scheme.

2.1 Scheduled Monuments at Risk: **A** North Yorkshire (excluding the National Parks) **B** East Riding

## 2.2 Scheduled Monuments at Risk: Condition of monuments with public-sector grants/stewardship agreements

Number of monuments with agreements



## 2.2.5 RURAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

**St Paul's Church, Healey,  
North Yorkshire**

The church, which lies between two villages, has inspired strong support from both communities for its current urgent repair programme.

© Hilary Roome

**North Yorkshire Churches  
Tourism Initiative (NYCTI)**

The NYCTI, developed following the impacts of Foot and Mouth Disease, involved 281 churches across several denominations and nine major ecclesiastical sites. Funded by the Yorkshire Tourist Board, Churches Regional Commission, Yorkshire Forward, the Countryside Agency and the HLF, the initiative developed new interpretative material, workshops, exhibitions and guidebooks to attract visitors to places of worship and to provide better information about them. The initiative was responsible for over 100 new properties participating in Heritage Open Days in North Yorkshire in 2004. In 2004/05, there was a 117 per cent increase in visitor numbers to the participating churches compared to recorded visitor figures for 2000.

**2.2.5****RURAL PLACES OF WORSHIP**

The challenge of maintaining fabric, ministry and social outreach is particularly keen in rural churches and is well documented. At a national level, a report by the Church of England states that rural places of worship often provide 'a physical focus for many villages' and are frequently the only building suitable for community use after schools, pubs and shops have closed down. A regional study has specifically looked at the relationship between the often fragile rural economy and the activity of rural churches (Sowing the Seed: Church and Rural Regeneration in Yorkshire and Humberside, Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber, 2003). Both reports outline the enormous burden of the cost of repairs to rural churches but set out their ability to contribute to rural tourism, cultural activities, reducing rural exclusion and maintaining local identity.

There are clearly three key issues for rural places of worship: cost of necessary repairs, cost of works of sympathetic change to ensure continued use, and building capacity of the volunteers who care for rural places of worship. This underlines the need for the sector not only to offer grant but also to enable parishes and congregations to share successful fund-raising strategies, to pool knowledge and contacts, and to continue to build their capacity to run successful projects.

Just over half the English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund grants awarded in the period 1994-2004 were to places of worship in the rural local authority areas. The East Riding has benefited most, reflecting its significant number of outstanding churches supported by relatively small populations largely dependent on agriculture for income. Generally, parishes in the most remote rural areas have needed grants at a higher rate than the regional average.

## 2.2.6 THE COAST

## 2.2.7 THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND WOODLANDS

The region has the highest level of conversion of ancient woodland to plantation, often of non-native species, at 57 per cent.

## 2.2.6

### THE COAST

The Yorkshire coast combines a fascinating geology, rich and varied natural habitats, rich land and marine archaeology, diverse settlements and delicate ecosystems. Its management depends on an integrated approach which recognises detrimental change threatens not only culturally significant assets but livelihoods and infrastructure.

National Trust research has begun to forecast the possible extent of coastal change in our region over the coming century. A study <sup>1</sup> has shown how stretches of the Trust's estate in Yorkshire – a portfolio of land along the North Yorkshire and Cleveland coast, and an area rich in evidence of past human activity ranging from prehistory to the modern day – may change over the next 100 years. The research suggests that 8.5 km of coastal frontage owned by the National Trust in this area might retreat by as much as ten metres inland over the next hundred years, with another 3.5 km of the Trust's coastal holding in Yorkshire potentially retreating by between 10 to 50 metres inland in the same time frame. The Trust's research provides a useful pointer to change, although elsewhere in the region, especially along the coastline of East Yorkshire, even greater rates of erosion are being predicted. English Heritage has recently appointed a Coastal Strategy Officer and is developing Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys which respond to the need for the heritage sector to participate fully in Shoreline Management Planning.

Erosion is not the only challenge facing coastal communities. Their changing economic base, pockets of deprivation, peripherality and areas of poor infrastructure are acknowledged in the new Regional Spatial Strategy, which is likely to include policies to enhance underappreciated places, such as Bridlington and Grimsby, to attract tourism, and to protect coastal historic environments from economic forces for change, such as port development.



Coppiced woodland above Mount Grace Priory, North Yorkshire

© Tammy Whitaker

<sup>1</sup> *Shifting Shores: Living with a changing coastline*, the National Trust, 2005

## 2.2.7

### THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND WOODLANDS

Woodlands have enormous cultural significance. Over five per cent of Yorkshire is wooded, and 26 per cent of the region's woodlands are ancient. There are concentrations between the Howardian Hills AONB and the North York Moors National Park, South and West Yorkshire, but here, over 100 hectares are 'at risk' principally from road building schemes ([www.woodsunderthreat.info](http://www.woodsunderthreat.info)). A condition assessment of ancient woodlands and the development of a programme of management and restoration is due to begin this year, with assessment work being piloted in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

The 15-year Regional Forestry Strategy, *The Value of Trees in our Changing Region*, was published in July this year. It offers a regional Action Plan to complement the England Forestry Strategy and to ensure that local circumstances and needs can be addressed. The Strategy recognises that woodlands contain high densities of archaeological and culturally important sites. Over 200 of the region's scheduled monuments are within Forest Enterprise estates in North Yorkshire – a concentration of eight per cent of the region's nationally important sites in 1.4 per cent of its land area.

## 2.2.7 THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND WOODLANDS

## 2.2.8 MARKET TOWNS

## 2.2.9 MANAGING THE RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The White Rose Forest Partnership has five Woodland Ways projects involving local people in a management planning process that in turn will be used to inform funding bids and to support physical works. Each plan identifies features of interest, including flora and fauna, archaeology, recreational spaces and records of social history, and, in each case, how the communities' own understanding and meaning of its woodland heritage shape how these features are managed. The project will transform our understanding of woodland heritage and its management.

## 2.2.8

### MARKET TOWNS

The region now has four of the Countryside Agency's Beacon Towns in its national Market Towns Initiative. Each Beacon Town is selected for its potential to show other market towns how to tackle specific challenges. Whitby was selected in July 2003 to lead on sustainable tourism, and Richmond to lead on heritage-led regeneration. Richmond has a portfolio of 47 historic and environmental projects, some of which are already complete, and has adopted strategic approaches to public realm management, influencing the choice of materials and design in the County Council's traffic management proposals. Yorkshire Forward's flagship Renaissance Market Towns Programme is a ten-year strategy-led initiative for sustainable change in the region's small towns. Led by Town Teams, those included in the pilot phase are now moving into the delivery phase; encouragingly, Masterplans for Kirkbymoorside and Pickering highlight the importance of the town's history and environment to its identity and future plans. Eight new towns have been added in 2004/05, including Crowle, Marsden and Slaithwaite, and Knaresborough. Many of these have already received public sector funding to improve historic buildings or public realm and can therefore already demonstrate the benefits of such investment.

## 2.2.9

### MANAGING THE RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Natural England is the new integrated agency which will merge English Nature, the access, recreation and landscapes elements of the Countryside Agency, and the agri-environment parts of the Rural Development Service into an independent agency by 2007. It will focus on enhancing biodiversity, landscapes and nature conservation in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas; promoting access, recreation and public well-being; and contributing to the way natural resources are managed so they can be enjoyed now and in the future. The new working arrangements began in April.

Framework 4 Change (F4C) is the region's Sustainable Farming and Food Action Plan, directly linked to the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Food and Farming. F4C is a partnership between the public and private sector to promote six strategic priorities, one of which is 'developing environmental management and recognising and valuing different landscapes.' In year one, work in this priority area has focused on four 'Areas 4 Change': integrated land management projects which all include positive management approaches for the historic environment. All the projects are described on [www.f4c.org.uk/index](http://www.f4c.org.uk/index)

The Howardian Hills Cultural and Natural Development Opportunity project (CANDO) is one of the F4C projects. It is a partnership of organisations and agencies working within a defined geographical area around Helmsley, Rievaulx and the wider landscape to foster 'landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity excellence in ways which benefit the economic and social well-being of the communities who live within it.' It is identified by English Nature as a nationally significant area-based Initiative and is included in Yorkshire Forward's Sub-Regional Investment Plan for North Yorkshire. English Heritage is part-funding the Initiative in recognition of the concentration of significant historic assets in the area.



## 2.2.9 MANAGING THE RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

## 2.2.10 HOW HAS THE SECTOR SUPPORTED THE MANAGEMENT OF RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENTS?

A key strategic aim is the development of an integrated environmental land management toolkit. This will help land managers and communities identify cultural and natural features, explain their significance and explore appropriate management options. The project also aims to balance this with practical projects, such as habitat restoration, interpretation, sustainable access initiatives (including footpath links between Helmsley and Rievaulx) and the promotion of local produce. Other capital works include the conservation of lime kilns, heathland and management of roadside verges.

As with all four Areas 4 Change, sustainability underpins all the work of the project, with a key objective to encourage high standards of environmental good practice in terms of resource protection, renewable energy, waste management and minimising resource inputs.

In July, the Yorkshire and Humber Rural Evidence Base was launched. Produced in response to demand for better quality rural evidence to assist policy development and evaluation, it will be used to help identify priorities in the regional Rural Framework, one of which is 'enhancing the value of our countryside' and includes both the natural and built environments. Disappointingly, however, the Evidence Base does not take account of the historic or cultural environment in rural Yorkshire, which will clearly be an issue in identifying historic environment priorities for the Rural Framework. This will be addressed as a priority in the coming year.

## 2.2.10

**HOW HAS THE SECTOR  
SUPPORTED THE MANAGEMENT OF  
RURAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENTS?**

Advice on the management of the historic environment is not available to land managers on the same scale as that for the natural environment. To address this, Historic Environment Countryside Adviser posts have been created across England, and in Yorkshire, English Heritage is funding one in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, while a best value review of heritage services at North Yorkshire County Council led to the appointment of a dedicated archaeologist to deal with rural and agri-environment issues, something yet to be done in other County Councils.

English Heritage has created a 0.5 FTE post dedicated to specialist land management advice, and has set up the Rural Historic Environment Group, through which local authority archaeologists, Defra advisers, AONB and countryside officers and the Forestry Commission work to improve understanding and delivery of advice in the rural historic environment, and to embed it in key strategies including ES Targeting and the Regional Forestry Strategy (see above).

## 2.2.11

### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Defra's Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Area Schemes ended in 2004 and have been replaced by the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme, which in line with other CAP reforms shifts subsidy payments away from production and towards environmental protection. For the first time, all farmers in England will be eligible to earn payments for undertaking environmental management on their land; within a few years, the scheme aims to make farmland conservation the rule rather than the exception. Protecting the historic environment is one of the scheme's primary aims, and it is a major advance in protecting and managing all assets that comprise the rural historic environment, designated or not.

Between 1994 and 2003, 1.17 million hectares of land in England were covered either by a Countryside Stewardship Scheme or an Environmentally Sensitive Area agreement. In Yorkshire, 81,800 hectares benefited from these schemes, less than seven per cent of the national total and equivalent to 7.4 per cent of the farmland in the region.

The new ES entry-level scheme is open to all farmers and landowners to implement a basic level of environmental management in a 'whole farm' context. By its tenth year, the entry-level scheme aims to have benefited 70 per cent of farmers and landowners. Given that there are over one million hectares of farmland in Yorkshire, this could mean that 700,000 hectares benefit from the new scheme – nine times as many as in the CSS.

The higher-level stewardship scheme targets high priority areas and features which require more complex management, with agreements running for ten years. Because the application process will be competitive, the regional statutory stakeholders have developed targeting statements with the Rural Delivery Service based on the 15 JCAs wholly or more than 50 per cent within Yorkshire. The historic environment targets were developed by the regional Rural Historic Environment Group, who defined the characteristics in each JCA and drafted a short suite of 'prescriptions' for types of assets or types of environmental pressure. For example, for the Holderness JCA, where coastal erosion and climate change pose a specific threat to the archaeology, the targeting statements include options to survey, record, conserve and enhance sites threatened by coastal erosion, and for the Nottinghamshire Coalfields JCA, there are options to protect and enhance industrial buildings, structures and features.

**Cover image:** Local artist Bren Head on Fylingdales Moor, North Yorkshire. In September 2003, two and a half square kilometres of heather moorland at 'Fylingdales, near Whitby, in the North York Moors National Park, was destroyed by fire. The blaze resulted in the exposure of archaeological evidence from almost every era of human occupation of the moors from the Late Neolithic, which yielded a carved stone with a unique design, to World War II. The prehistoric stone was analysed, recorded and laser scanned and eventually reburied. Its significance is still being assessed, and data from the field archaeology undertaken following the blaze is also helping determine the future management requirements of the area.

*'Fylingdales Moor demonstrates successful partnership working between public bodies and the local community, an approach we intend to incorporate into the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme' (Lesley Blainey, Defra Rural Development Service).*

