

The National Heritage Collection

English Heritage is proud to be the custodian of the National Heritage Collection of buildings, monuments, artefacts and archives. In 2011 the 410 sites and the collections in our care were visited by 11.5 million people and our archives in Swindon used by 4.3 million.

Conserving our outstanding collections for future generations and improving people's understanding and enjoyment of them is a core responsibility. As important is providing educational services to ensure that future generations understand and appreciate the rich history of England. This is why we are working harder than ever to generate funds. Critical to our success was the creation this year of the English Heritage Foundation, an independent charitable foundation dedicated to raising money for our sites that will build upon the work of our already successful fundraising activity.

English Heritage remains at the forefront of innovation in the interpretation of historic sites and their collections. At Wrest Park in Bedfordshire a £1.14 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant enabled us to complete the first phase of the restoration of the nationally significant gardens, and the project to create world-class visitor facilities and rejuvenate the landscape at Stonehenge has progressed this year entirely with funds from private sources. We will continue to explore new ways to make the National Heritage Collection more self-funding.

Photograph: In 2011 the first phase of a 20-year restoration project to revive one of Britain's most important gardens was completed by English Heritage at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire following the award of a £1.14 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

