



Historic England

Highlights

Our work in the South East in 2015–16





Historic England

Introducing Historic England

This is a new era for England's heritage, and I'm delighted to have joined Historic England as its first Chief Executive. I'm looking forward to meeting our partners, friends and champions across England. Public support and enthusiasm for the historic environment has never been greater. Its economic benefits and role in defining our national identity are more clearly acknowledged than ever before. But there are significant challenges.

Historic England is the public body for England's historic environment, and we have a unique role and opportunity as its champion and protector. We provide expert advice, help people protect and care for it and help the public to understand and enjoy it. These different aspects to our role are interdependent: the more people know about it and appreciate it the better it will be protected.

We're committed to working with you and our many other partners across the region to raise the profile of the historic environment; ensuring it makes the fullest possible contribution to communities, and enriches all our daily lives. Our local offices are usually the principal point of contact for people. Our local teams specialise in

assessment, processing grants, giving advice to owners, developers and local authorities, as well as designation, heritage data, government policy and communications.

Following are highlights of the work we will be doing in the South East in the year ahead. We work in partnership wherever that helps us to achieve our aims, recognising that working together with sympathetic organisations and individuals we can always achieve more. Do stay in contact with my colleagues both locally and nationally. There are so many opportunities to get involved in our work, and you can find out about these by joining our mailing list, following or liking us on social media, and contacting our local teams.

With best wishes,

Duncan Wilson
Chief Executive



We understand historic places

We share our understanding of the significance of England's places. Using cutting-edge science, research, partnerships and information, we help people manage historic places both physically and economically.

Secrets of the High Woods

We are working with the South Downs National Park on their Secrets of the High Woods Project, helping local communities explore the remarkable archaeological landscapes in the woods of West Sussex and Eastern Hampshire. We are mapping from aerial photographs and laser scanning images to deepen our understanding of several millennia of human activity in the area. This assessment of the extensive and well preserved archaeological remains will inform further research and long-term management. Our work will help to focus a programme of archive and oral history activities by project volunteers.



Archaeological earthworks in open ground at Sherwood Rough provide a hint of far more extensive boundaries and settlements hidden beneath the trees in the High Woods project area.

Training

We will continue to deliver our successful and innovative training programme bringing together local authority and community representatives to share skills and expertise; exploring practical ways to enhance the historic environment. We will be delivering training on character assessment of conservation areas around South Oxfordshire, understanding the significance of views within Guildford's historic environment and ensuring excellent design in modern developments within the historic city of Chichester.

Pubs

Pubs are one of England's most-loved building types but are increasingly under threat of closure or conversion to other uses. A number of research projects will help increase understanding and protection for pubs by identifying especially threatened or significant ones. We are looking in particular at mid – and later 20th century – examples as these are vulnerable and rarely protected by listing.

We champion historic places

We champion historic places so that everyone, from individuals and communities to government and major landowners, can look after and care for heritage.

Margate

Summer 2015 sees the long awaited opening of Dreamland Amusement Park in Margate. We have worked with local stakeholders throughout the redevelopment process but in particular during the rebuilding of the Grade II* scenic railway severely damaged by fire in 2008.

Places of Worship

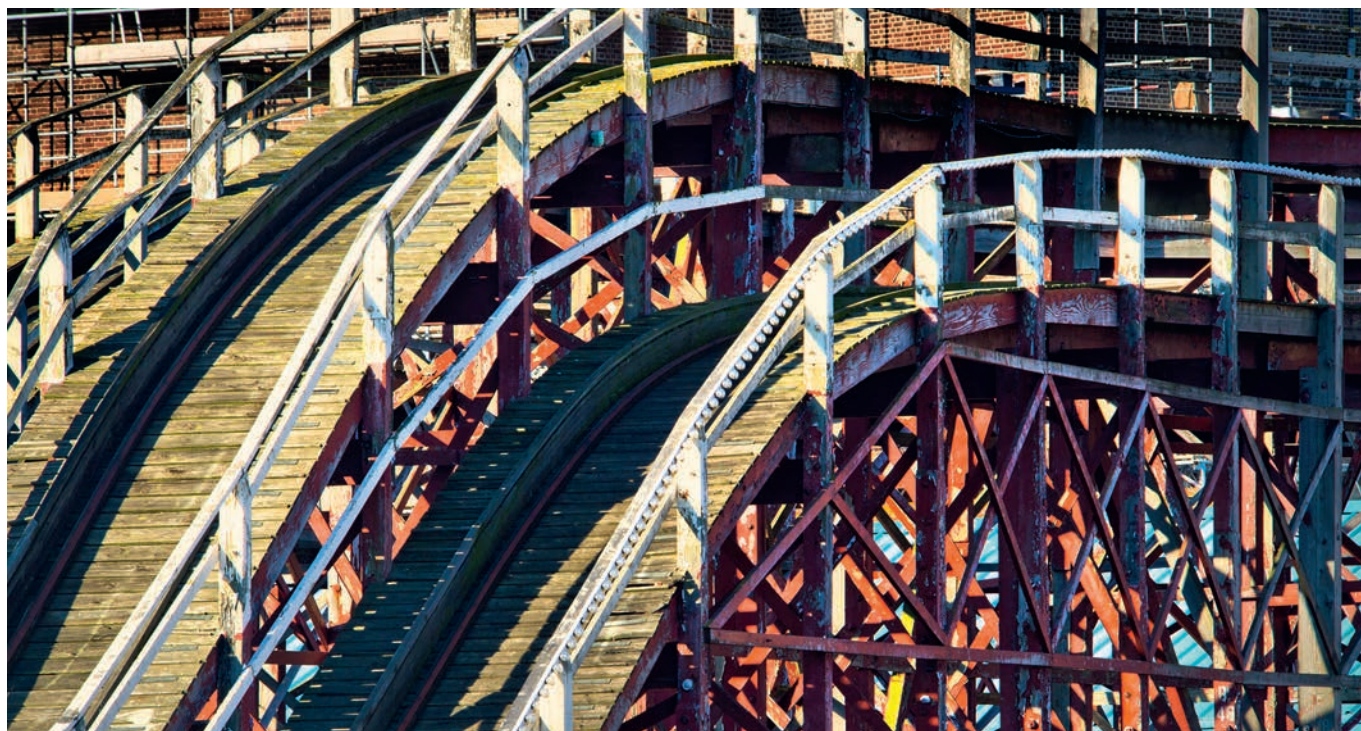
We will continue to work with partners to support congregations caring for historic places of worship. We will build on the success of support officers working locally to provide focussed help in sourcing funding and planning maintenance.

Engaging New Audiences

We will be helping a Scout Group in Aldershot discover their local history using aerial photographs and historic maps from the Historic England archives to see the changes that have taken place. All their hard work and detective skills will culminate in a display in the local museum and in the Scouts receiving their Local Knowledge Badge.

Heritage Action Zones

Heritage Action Zones are areas where Historic England will bring all our different expertise together to work with local people in unlocking the potential of the historic environment. We will work with partners to establish the zones in areas of economic need.



The Scenic Railway at Dreamlands, Margate, Kent.

We identify and protect

Advising on which historic assets need to be designated is at the very heart of what we do as expert advisor to the Government. Using our knowledge and understanding we celebrate what's special and make sure that England's history is recognised, respected and enjoyed.

The National Heritage List for England is a remarkable resource, available to everyone through our website. It covers all designated places from listed buildings to protected wrecks, scheduled monuments to registered battlefields, the Register of Parks and Gardens and World Heritage Sites.

We are working on a number of research and designation activities to identify and protect England's most important heritage including the following:



Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar Deadhouse, recently listed at Grade II.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

With our help, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton has compiled a heritage assessment of all of its churches. Following on from this we, with the help of the Architectural History Practice, are carrying out individual listing assessments of seven of these. This will help the Diocese manage their stock of historic buildings by giving them certainty about the listing status of each one.

Gosport Defined Area Survey

We are undertaking a project in Gosport in collaboration with the Borough Council to better understand the nature and significance of its historic environment. Gosport's heritage has long been recognised to be under-designated and now, following on from a characterisation and research programme, we are assessing a number of sites for listing, including military fortifications and support buildings, former hospital buildings and memorials. This also includes sites which may be redeveloped in the near future.

Enriching the List

This year, for the first time, we will enable members of the public to upload their own information to a new section of the List on our website. People will be able to share their knowledge of historic places they care about for everyone to use. The List has a million visitors a year, showing the immense appetite people have for finding out about historic places.

Public Libraries

For over a century and a half public libraries have been at the heart of English life; they were and are places of learning, leisure, enlightenment and betterment, open to all. In recent years public library service provision in the United Kingdom has been undergoing radical change, particularly since severe cuts to local authority budgets in 2010. We will be assessing English public libraries for listing in two thematic projects: pre-1939 and post-War.

Post-War Public Sculpture

We will carry out an assessment of fixed sculptural artworks in public, civic, communal and commercial places across England with the aim of understanding the significance of public art in the period 1945-1985. A selection of the best examples will be identified and assessed for listing in order to deliver protection for this important – and sometimes threatened – aspect of modern culture.

First World War

We are working in a new way with volunteers, led by partners Civic Voice and War Memorials Trust, to ensure that we deliver an ambitious programme of listing 2,500 war memorials during the centenary period. Beaconsfield War Memorial in Buckinghamshire and Kingsclere Memorial in Hampshire have recently been listed.



Longwick War Memorial, Buckinghamshire.

We support change

We want people to use and enjoy historic places in ways that reveal and reinforce their significance and safeguard their setting in a wider landscape. We find approaches to prevent heritage at risk and tackle it as a priority.

Chatham Historic Dockyard

Continuing our longstanding and fruitful relationship with the Trust responsible for Chatham Dockyard, we have been working in partnership to enable a new visitor reception building to be constructed between two historic buildings, while respecting buried archaeology. This project is on-going with the first phase of major hard landscaping now complete.

Farm Buildings

We will be running a series of events with the CLA and the National Farmers' Union about the conversion of redundant traditional farm buildings. The aim is to highlight appropriate and sensitive ways of converting unused but historic buildings in the countryside for a wide range of uses. We have Defra and DCLG endorsement for this approach of bringing Constructive Conservation to the rural environment.



Chatham Historic Dockyard © Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust.

Bramshill, Hampshire

The Grade I listed Bramshill House and Grade II* Park in Hampshire is one of the largest and most important Jacobean mansions in England. The site acted as a police college until April this year but with a change in ownership comes the opportunity for increased public access to this spectacular site. We will be heavily involved in the discussion for reuse and look to balance the benefits of restoration against changes required to fund and use the site in a new form.

Listed Building Owners

We are doing a survey of owners of listed buildings to find out what they think about owning a nationally important building. In this first comprehensive survey of its kind, we will find out more about owners and their needs, ensuring we will be better placed to respond to them in future.

RAF Bicester

RAF Bicester is the most complete airbase from the main period of aeronautics expansion in England. Now split into three sites, all were made a conservation area in 2002, and were later given 'at risk' status due to the threat of housing development on the air field itself. Fortunately one site is now being brought back into use as a hub for businesses dedicated to the restoration of classic cars. We are helping the new owners reduce the risk to the site including grant aiding the repair of some of the at risk, scheduled air raid shelters on site and co-ordinating volunteers to clear overgrown scrub.



The state apartments and troco terrace on the south front of Bramshill House, Hampshire.

Reading Abbey

Reading Abbey – the last resting place of Henry I
– is an important scheduled monument at risk.

We have given grant aid to establish causes of decay and strategies for repair to both the main Abbey Ruins and the Abbey Gatehouse. These have helped secure a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and we are now working with the local authority and various other owners in Reading town centre to ensure that risk is reduced and this site is conserved for the future.



The Grade I listed ruins of Reading Abbey.



Historic environment snapshot



In the South East, there are:



76,369 Listed buildings



2,641 Scheduled Monuments



1,979 Conservation Areas



370 Registered Parks and Gardens



6 Registered Battlefields



2 World Heritage Sites











22 Protected Wrecks



Pelham Arcade with Pelham Crescent behind, Hastings.

Heritage at Risk in the South East

	National average of assets on the Register	Sites on the 2014 South East Register
	4% (of grade I and II*)	2.2% (91 Buildings and structures)
	6%	5.1% (116 Places of Worship)
	15.2%	9.9% (263 Scheduled Monuments)
	5.7%	6.5% (24 Registered Parks and Gardens)
	13%	1 Registered Battlefield
	8.2%	4 Protected Wrecks
	6.1%	4% (63 Conservation Areas)
	Funding	£317,000 in grant was spent on 16 entries on the South East Heritage at Risk Register during 2013/14.

Threats to agricultural sites:



Damage from arable cultivation is the greatest risk, affecting 43% of archaeological entries on the national Register and **68%** of those in the South East.

Risk assessments of heritage assets are based on the nature of the site. Buildings and structures include listed buildings (excluding listed places of worship) and structural scheduled monuments; archaeology assessments cover earthworks and buried archaeology.

Data collected as part of Heritage Counts 2014
– asset data correct as of April 2014, Heritage at Risk data August 2014.
Map shows revised Historic England Localities.



Historic England

National expertise, locally delivered

Our local office is the principal point of contact for many customers. Our staff specialise in assessment, processing grants, giving advice to owners, developers and local authorities, as well as designation, heritage data, government policy and communications.

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Historic England

Follow our blog: heritagecalling.com

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Stay in touch with our newsletter:
HistoricEngland.org.uk/newsletter

Visit the Historic England Archive:
HistoricEngland.org.uk/archive

We make available information about every listed building, scheduled monument, protected wreck, registered park, garden and battlefield in England through the National Heritage List for England:
HistoricEngland.org.uk/list



Above: All Saints Street, Hastings. Front cover: Brighton Pier. All images © Historic England unless otherwise stated.