

NATIONAL HERITAGE PROTECTION PLAN 2011-14

OVERVIEW REPORT
MAY 2011-MAY 2014



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was compiled by English Heritage (as it was before the recent separation into two organisations: English Heritage and Historic England – see Foreword) on behalf of the historic environment sector and those with particular interests in it. The NHPP was co-ordinated by English Heritage on behalf of the wider sector, and benefitted greatly from advice and comment provided by an independent NHPP Advisory Board representing a wide range of organisations with particular interests in the protection of our historic environment. The Board's role was to monitor and advise on the implementation of the plan, to review and advise on the priorities of the plan and to receive and comment on progress reports. It was chaired by Dr Mike Heyworth MBE and comprised representatives of the following organisations/groupings



Troutbeck, Cumbria (4F1). © Historic England, Damian Grady

Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers

British Property Federation

*Church of England
(Cathedral and Church Buildings Division)*

Civic Voice

CLG

Council for British Archaeology

Country Land and Business Association

DCMS

Defra

English Heritage

Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers

Heritage Lottery Fund

Higher Educational Institutions

Historic Houses Association

Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation

Joint Committee of National Amenity Societies

Local Authorities

National Association of Local Councils

National Trust

Natural England

Private Conservation Businesses

The Archaeology Forum

The Crown Estate

The Heritage Alliance

The Historic Environment Forum now takes forward the role of the NHPP Advisory Board under Heritage 2020 (see Executive Summary).

FOREWORD

The National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) was launched by the Right Hon. John Penrose MP in May 2011. Both he and his successor, Ed Vaizey MP have described it as effectively ‘the business plan for the historic environment’.

The purpose of the Plan was to identify those parts of England’s heritage that matter most to people and are at greatest risk, and then to concentrate efforts on saving them. In doing so, it represented a first ever attempt to create a national strategic framework for concerted action across the heritage sector. This was, and continues to be, a fundamentally important ambition at a time when the resources of all heritage organisations are under real pressure.

The Plan is now completed and, as we promised at its outset, English Heritage has undertaken a major review of its operation and impact (based on its first three years). The first part of the review comprised a very wide-ranging public consultation that received over 200 organisational and 700 individual submissions – a phenomenal rate of response that confirmed the widespread interest in the plan. The second part of the review was an internal assessment of the Plan’s strengths, weaknesses and achievements, presented in this document.

Since the Plan was launched the landscape for heritage protection has changed significantly, not least with the Government’s agreement to a new model for English Heritage. This has seen English Heritage separated into two organisations on the 1st April 2015: Historic England, the public body that continues to protect and champion England’s historic environment, ensuring it is understood and valued; and the English Heritage Trust, a new independent charity that will look after the National Heritage Collection.

The experience we have gained from the external and internal assessments of the National Heritage Protection Plan has helped to shape the new Corporate and Action plans for Historic England and will continue to inspire the way the new organisation works.

We are delighted that the launch of Historic England also coincided with the agreement of the Historic Environment Forum to take full ownership of the successor to the National Heritage Protection Plan on behalf of the wider heritage sector. [Heritage 2020: Strategic priorities for England’s historic environment 2015-2020](#) will build on the successes of the NHPP and focus on those priorities for the sector where collaborative action will make a real difference. The Historic England Action Plan represents our particular contribution to what we trust will be achieved under the banner of Heritage 2020.

Stephen Trow
 Director of Heritage Protection
 Historic England
 April 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first three years of the programme - review of progress and impact of the NHPP

This report covers the first three years of the National Heritage Protection Plan since its launch in May 2011, a review period that allowed the lessons we learned to be fed into our planning for 2015 to 2018. As promised, on behalf of the NHPP Advisory Board, English Heritage undertook a major review of the NHPP's operation, progress and impact over this period. Over 200 organisational and 700 individual responses were received, over 300 attendees were welcomed at regional events, and 36 detailed telephone interviews were held with stakeholder organisations. In addition to the externally-commissioned review, the full results of which can be viewed [here](#), the Activity Teams responsible for developing and delivering the English Heritage programmes of work against each of the activities have provided a frank assessment of what we think we achieved against what we set out to do.

What worked well?

The consultation demonstrated that there is broad support for a mechanism which brings the sector together to work towards addressing agreed and shared priorities. It identified general agreement about the opportunities, threats and priorities for heritage.

Within English Heritage, it has provided a structured framework with clear objectives and priorities which has enabled focussed and transparent programming of work, and a clearer focus of resources. This has resulted in increased and improved cross-departmental and cross-disciplinary working and improved programme delivery (albeit with some significant qualifications – see below).

What didn't work so well?

Responses highlighted that the presentation, language and tone of the NHPP needed to change to be more accessible and appealing to a wider range of audiences – community engagement and empowerment were seen as a key driver within the next Plan. Although a national plan, the NHPP

needed to reflect or allow space for local priorities and issues and to be flexible enough to enable engagement in the widest sense.

Within English Heritage it was felt that the scope of the Plan was too broad with too many Activities and projects. The overlap of themes between and within certain Activities served as a barrier to developing cross-cutting strategic approaches, and resulted in duplication, lack of focus, and resources being spread too thinly in some areas.

Not incorporating the Supporting Actions into the main Plan structure was considered a significant shortcoming.

Assessment of delivery against targets

The NHPP is delivered through various programmes of work, some of which are project-based but many of which are ongoing, non-project based initiatives such as Designation, Heritage at Risk, capacity building, repair grant schemes, help and advice for owners.

At the start of the Plan, the project programme consisted of 466 projects (excluding emergency archaeology grants under Activity 8A5). At the point that we were three quarters of the way through the Plan period, over half the projects we anticipated delivering – 259 – had been completed (see Table 5, page 44). These mainly cover programmes of work relating to Measure 2: Strategic Threat Assessment and Response; Measure 3: Recognition and Identification of the Potential Resource; and Measure 4: Assessment of Character and Significance.

Notable successes include: the development of a national partnership strategy for dealing with heritage crime - the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH) has a growing number of local and national authorities (up from ten in April 2012 to 20 in April 2014); and two projects which attracted considerable national and local media coverage: completion of the Motor Car and the Historic Environment project which resulted in the publication of two major books, *Carscapes: the Motor Car, Architecture and Landscape in England* which won four awards, and *England's Motoring*



The courtyard of former HM Prison Shepton Mallet, Grade II*, one of several prisons decommissioned by the Ministry of Justice in 2013-14 (5A1)
©Historic England

Heritage from the Air; and a national overview of the significance of surviving examples of railway signal boxes which resulted in the listing of an additional 51 signal boxes.

As the Plan period progressed, an additional 74 projects (excluding emergency archaeology grants under Activity 8A5) were added to the programme, either as follow-on projects instigated at the recommendation of successfully completed projects, such as the Gloucester City Historic Environment Record Enhancement project set up as a result of the HER Audit Programme; or to address arising historic environment issues, such as the National Importance Programme, a series of pilot projects to identify non-scheduled but nationally important archaeological sites.

Ongoing programmes include Designation: since November 2012 English Heritage has implemented a three-criteria strategic sift process that has seen the proportion of cases rise from 36% strategic / 64% reactive in 2012-13 to 70% strategic / 30% reactive in 2013-14. A target of 75% strategic / 25% reactive is aimed for in 2014-15 for the end of the plan period. This shift towards strategic work has included a major focus on prioritised area-based assessments working across the Designation asset range.

There has also been a pronounced effort to contribute through strategic designation to government agendas (e.g. growth; better regulation; First World War), with a focus on strategic infrastructure projects (e.g. Ministry of Justice prison disposals; Defence Infrastructure Organisation defence disposals), and partnership working with national promoters (in particular with Network Rail on the Great Western Mainline, Midland Mainline and Trans-Pennine Line rail electrification projects).

During the Plan period, EH's National Planning and Conservation Department restructured, seeing the creation of a dedicated Heritage at Risk (HAR) team in every local office, supported by a national team. This change has meant a focus on delivering the national HAR strategy, the aim of which is to reduce the overall number of designated sites at risk or vulnerable to becoming so.

The Heritage at Risk Register published in October 2013 demonstrated a decline in the number of sites on the Register since 2012 (5,700 compared to 5,831 in 2012), and that English Heritage remains on track to meet the target of saving 25% of the sites that were on the Register in 2010 by 2015. English Heritage has provided 621 grants to the value of just over £30M in grant aid over the three years to help protect sites at risk. Providing advice

and technical support to owners, local authorities and other grant giving bodies has included providing technical advice to the HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) in their new Grants for Places of Worship Scheme.

Our Charter sets out the service provided by English Heritage for those involved in changing or influencing change to the historic environment, and has been recently revised to coincide with the implementation of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act. During the plan period our performance against the deadlines for responses for casework has increased from just over 93% to 98.4%.

To speed up the planning system and ensure that our advice can help owners at the earliest possible stage, English Heritage encourages early pre-application consultation by owners, developers, local authorities and others prior to the submission of applications for change. Support for this approach has been demonstrated by the growth in the number of pre-application consultations received by English Heritage throughout the plan period, from under 900 in 2011/12 to over 1,100 in 2013/14.

H2020 and doing things better through action

Undertaking this review at the three-year stage rather than at the end of the first Plan period in March 2015 has enabled us to feed the results into the development of [Heritage 2020: strategic priorities for England's historic environment 2015-2020](#), a fully sector-owned framework, wider in scope and simpler in articulation than the NHPP,

hosted by the [Historic Environment Forum](#).

One clear message from the review was that the Activities and Supporting Actions which generated the greatest support going forward were those concerned with resources, capacity building, training and wider support. They included:

- addressing capacity loss in local authorities
- building specialist capacity and skills to manage heritage assets
- addressing heritage management, conservation and craft skill shortages
- decision-making in the planning process
- underpinning local planning processes
- reducing risk to heritage assets through expert advice
- supporting local communities in protecting significant heritage assets
- addressing the threat from development pressure

The NHPP completes its programme of work in March 2015 and will be replaced by Historic England's Action Plan, one of many historic environment organisation plans feeding into the Heritage 2020 framework. We believe that it has been very successful in laying the groundwork for real, effective collaborative action and the sharing of priorities for action – something that will only become more important in the future.

ORGANISATION OF THIS REPORT

This Overview report summarises the achievements of the first three years of the NHPP since its launch in May 2011. It has been compiled as part of the [Review of Progress and Impact](#) which is undertaken towards the end of each NHPP Plan period, to evaluate the progress of the Plan and its programmes and projects, and the extent to which it has met the intended outcome of improved protection for our heritage. This report covers only work undertaken by English Heritage, or in partnership with other organisations; it does not cover all the work done by other organisations within the heritage sector.

The Overview gives a summary of each of the 63 Activities and 18 Supporting Actions that make up the Plan, providing not only highlights of successfully completed and ongoing programmes and projects, but also those areas where progress has not been as good as originally anticipated and the reasons why.

Further information on the organisation and structure of the NHPP can be found [here](#).

If you would like more information about any of the initiatives or projects mentioned below, please contact us at nhpp@english-heritage.org.uk



Taw Estuary, North Devon AONB: looking across the rivers Torridge and Taw towards Braunton Burrows and Northam Burrows (3A4) © Historic England, Damian Grady

OVERVIEW MAY 2011 - MAY 2014

Measure 1: Foresight

The Historic Environment Intelligence Team was set up to develop the foresight capabilities within English Heritage, gathering and assessing intelligence on the historic environment and developing horizon scanning approaches to support our strategic planning process. The team collaborates with other foresight teams in central government, sister agencies, research councils and third sector organisations to share and co-ordinate intelligence on potential threats and opportunities for the historic environment in the medium to long term.

In 2012, a [foresight workshop](#) was organised by the NHPP Advisory Board in conjunction with the Historic Environment Forum. Emerging key issues identified by the workshop included climate change and associated food and energy security, demographic change, political attitudes to heritage and the development of technology. The assessment of these very large issues and the impact, threats and opportunities they might pose on our heritage has been tackled in two ways.

The first is through horizon scanning, the purpose of which is to better enable organisations prepare for future events which may have direct or indirect impacts upon them or their business. The scans present structured information about an issue which may impact upon the historic environment (or upon a heritage organisation such as English Heritage) at some time in the future. As well as raising an issue the scans are intended to stimulate further discussion which may modify the nature of the impacts and help develop appropriate responses. EH has prepared 15 horizon scans over the past three years on:

- Disposal of Public Property: Defence Estates
- Minerals Supply
- Rural Development and the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework)
- Permitted development rights for the conversion of agricultural buildings to commercial use
- Community-Led Planning and Rural Development

- Permitted Development Rights for the conversion of offices to residential use
- Disposal of Public Property: land, structures and other assets (Central Government and Arms Length Bodies)
- Development pressures on local authorities
- Heritage Skills in English Local Planning Authorities
- Whole place community based budgets and the historic environment
- Impact on local authority generated designation applications of the fall in local authority historic environment advice
- Water Management and Heritage
- Ecosystems Approach to Environmental Management
- Local authority budgetary cuts – changing the shape of local government
- Co-ordination of EH response to Defra's National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

The second is through focussed research on specific issues which provides more detailed assessments. EH has produced 11 Assessments over the past three years covering:

- Employer Ownership of Skills (Update)
- Bracken and the historic environment
- Hydro-fracturing
- Village Infill
- Climate Change and Defra's Adaptation Reporting Power
- Local authority budgetary cuts – changing the shape of local government
- Digest of Labour Market Intelligence for the Historic Environment Sector
- Sector Skills Councils
- Improvements to Rail Infrastructure
- Employer Ownership of Skills

Measure 2: Strategic Threat Assessment and Response

When the activity for assessing **development pressures** (2A1) was being developed, no one could be aware how profoundly the planning system (including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Local Development Frameworks) would be reformed and streamlined over the next three years. This has meant that every local planning authority (LPA) has in effect been starting again with its local plan and critical to this has been the need to demonstrate a five-year housing site delivery.

The initial intention was to provide a quick tool for identifying which LPAs were most under development pressure, by assessing approved housing units against the number of designated heritage assets, and comparing that with the number of historic environment staff in the authority. The trial, which was completed in March 2013, however, did not show great scope so we are now looking at a proposal to capture all LPA GIS data for all allocated development and to create an England-wide data layer, which will need constant updating.

We now have an effective tool for quick assessment of the heritage value of proposed Government site disposals. It would be useful to evaluate this tool against the rapid assessment tools developed for Housing Market Renewal. The evaluation of [completed housing development](#) impact on the historic environment shows how characterisation approaches can influence development and we need to draw out further conclusions.

The evaluation of EH involvement in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), published in August 2012, showed effective use of the EIA process to improve development proposals ahead of planning decisions, but there is still a need to develop external guidance.

There has been some delay in the development of a tool for the assessment of sensitivity of the historic environment to development pressure and subsequent case studies to test its methodology, because of the need to first review all existing sensitivity tools developed or funded by EH over the last twenty years to see if they can be adapted for use by EH and local authorities. This review resulted in the report *Historic Landscape Characterisation and assessing sensitivity to change: a toolkit*.

A [review of retail and town centre issues in historic areas](#), published in July 2013, considers emerging trends in policy and retail context and their potential effect on historic high streets and town centres.

Responding to the **carbon challenge** (2A2), action has focussed on developing the evidence base required to understand the technical risks associated with insulating older buildings. Initially research has concentrated on the [hygrothermal behaviour of solid brick walls](#), before and after the installation of internal wall insulation, particularly where liquid water from sources such as wind-driven rain or rising damp is present in the walling material. This is being investigated through a programme of complementary fieldwork, laboratory testing and mathematical simulation looking at moisture accumulation in walls, roofs and underfloor voids.

Support has been given to a research study by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) to assess the performance of [seven traditional buildings](#) before and after refurbishment designed to improve energy efficiency. The research looks at a range of factors that may affect the energy performance and environmental behaviour of traditionally built dwellings from fabric heat loss, air infiltration, and hygrothermal behaviour to indoor air quality. Reports published to date include: [The SPAB Research Report 1: U-Value report](#); [The SPAB Research Report 2: The SPAB Building Performance Survey](#); [The SPAB Research Report 3: the SPAB Hygrothermal Modelling](#).

We have been working with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) to develop nationally relevant guidance and resources on how energy efficiency improvements can be made to traditional buildings without harming their character and significance. We have also continued to enhance and expand our suite of energy efficiency publications including: [Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings](#) with 13 supplementary 'element' guides; [Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings: Energy Performance Certificates Advice](#); [Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings: Domestic Energy Assessors and Green Deal Advisors](#).

Neglect (2B1) has been a challenging area for fully effective progress to be made against all parts of the EH Action Plan owing to delays and the need to take into account the results of new initiatives. Evidence on neglect has been collected from a range of disparate sources, which were wider than originally intended. Hot spots for neglect are being identified using the [Heritage at Risk](#) (HAR) registers and the [Grade II pilot surveys](#) (see 6B1 below), but further analysis is needed to complete a fuller understanding of the subject, how it affects specific asset types such as Places of Worship, and to help target current and future resources.

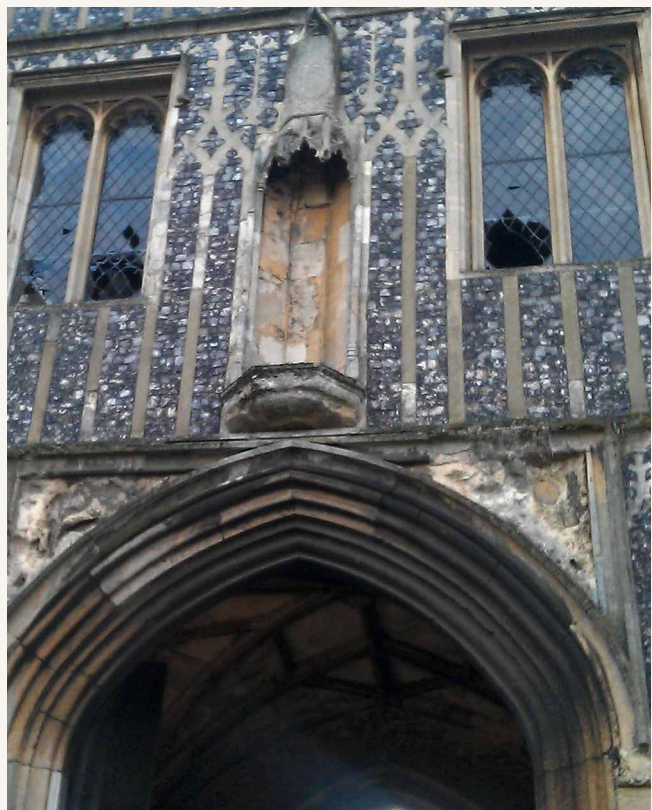
The scoping of future impacts using heritage crime data was delayed initially due to the need to widen the survey base in the light of ongoing heritage crime initiative projects (see 2B2) and to analyse the heritage crime elements of the HAR Grade II pilot survey as part of a national intelligence model. Work is therefore ongoing after a much delayed start and includes an appraisal of the EH and Local Authority HAR registers to pinpoint the future impact of neglect, which will help target HAR resources. A project to look at the economic and social impacts of neglect on places of worship is due to start shortly.

Strategies to address the impact of neglect via enforcement action using the [Stopping the Rot](#) guidance are progressing well. The 1999 guidance has been revised and seminars and training rolled out in each local area.

Heritage crime (2B2), the loss of architectural features and interior fittings, and damage to our historic buildings and archaeological sites, is a major issue: for example church roof lead loss in 2010 was running at £1M per month. Volume crime and anti-social behaviour degrades significance of assets and leads to devalued communities. This activity aimed to develop a national partnership strategy for dealing with heritage crime; to create an accessible evidence base for heritage crime; to develop community networks for heritage crime detection and reduction; and to deliver training and guidance for agency and community groups.



Nighthawking at Gestingthorpe, Essex. Each white cane represents an illegally excavated potential find spot (2B2). © Historic England, David Kenny (both images)



Vandalism at St John's Abbey Gatehouse, Colchester; Essex (2B2)
© Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, Philip Wise

Launched in 2011, and working with the [Association of Chief Police Officers \(ACPO\)](#) and the [Crown Prosecution Service \(CPS\)](#), the [Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage \(ARCH\)](#) is running well: a growing number of local and national park authorities (up from ten in April 2012 to 20 in April 2014) have signed a [Heritage Crime Memorandum of Understanding](#) to tackle heritage crime in England.

English Heritage is working closely with Police and Crime Commissioners and Heritage Crime has been highlighted as a distinct thematic within the Police and Crime Plans in Cheshire and Lincolnshire.

We have been working with the National Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Group (HCCPWG) to develop and enhance the intelligence-gathering and analytical function that will lead to more effective preventive and enforcement activity. The first [National Strategic Assessment of Heritage and Cultural Property Crime](#) was published in November 2013. At the recent National Metal Theft Task Force Awards, partnership working to tackle heritage crime was recognised for the Cheshire Heritage Crime Partnership and [Heritage Watch](#); and [Operation Tapul](#), undertaken by Lincolnshire Police supported by English Heritage and the Diocese of Lincolnshire, where six people were sentenced for the theft of lead from 20 churches in the East Midlands.

English Heritage is pleased to be working with Police and Crime Commissioners in the development of the National Rural Crime Network. The objective of the Network is to encourage and support the activities of those involved in making rural communities across England and Wales become and feel safer, as well as assisting them in the protection and preservation of heritage assets and their settings.

A complete [suite of guidance](#) for concerned owners, local groups and professionals involved in local heritage crime partnerships is being produced. It should enable users to identify their heritage assets, single out those most at risk, implement appropriate preventative measures, enforce the law in a proportionate manner that takes account of the true nature of the harm done and impose well-measured responses. They are hosted on the EH website:

1. Heritage Crime Risk and Preventative Measures: Quick Assessment Tool
2. Heritage Crime Risk and Preventative Measures: Detailed Assessment Guidance
3. Guidance on Interventions: Prosecutions and Alternative Disposals
4. Heritage Crime Impact Statements
5. Guidance for Sentencers (forthcoming)
6. Guidance on theft of metal from church buildings
7. How to Develop a Heritage Crime Partnership (forthcoming)

Since 2010, almost 7000 people have attended conferences, seminars and workshops on heritage crime and how to tackle it.

An assessment of the range of land-based, inter-tidal and marine **recreational activities** (2B3) and their impacts on the historic environment was completed in 2013. This will feed into the production of a Code of Good Practice for Recreational Activities in the Historic Environment which is due to be disseminated by March 2015.

Six **major environmental threats** (2C1) most likely to impact on the historic environment now and in the future have been identified by heritage practitioners in a [report published in 2013](#): coastal processes (such as cliff erosion); inland water inundation; extremes in wetting and drying affecting soil make-up; fire (such as heathland or moorland fire); pests and diseases; and urban heat islands (higher temperatures in specific urban areas caused by historic emissions). These can be significantly exacerbated by two risk multipliers: Climate Change and Human Actions in response to the perceived threats. A number of projects in partnership with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Local Authorities are now examining the issues identified.

English Heritage also carried out an assessment of the exposure of its inland estate to fluvial, pluvial and ground water flooding and associated erosion. The study identified 41 sites at high risk of flooding and 20 at medium risk from a total of 362 estates.



These walls were built for comparing soft and hard caps for protecting walls. They are now to be used for further testing under the Damp Towers research project where the performance of different mortar mixes will be subjected to controlled driving rain and natural drying. This phase of the research is to be undertaken by a PhD student as one of the SEAHA (Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology) studentships, partly funded by English Heritage with most of the work being carried out at the University of Oxford and University College London. © Historic England, Chris Wood

The report provides recommendations intended to inform future discussions on flood management plans between English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Local Authorities.

Work on the development of resilience and disaster planning in partnership with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Local Authorities has included the following projects: an assessment of the potential threats from climate change to the World Heritage Site of the Derwent Valley Mills, Derbyshire, to inform future management; preparing Emergency Services for disaster planning with respect to heritage assets by developing emergency plans, contingency plans and business continuity plans to help reduce, control or ease the effects of an emergency in Worcestershire; Resource identification, Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning for Essex, a county which faces considerable environmental risks, particularly inland flooding and coastal erosion and flooding; and the development of national guidance on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the Historic Environment.

Steady progress has been made on our work to understand and mitigate **attritional environmental threats** (2C2) on historic buildings and landscapes, buried archaeological assets, and historic interiors and collections.

Most of the research undertaken on historic buildings and landscapes was generated through active casework which is the main mechanism for identifying the most critical and highest priority attritional threats facing these assets. Many of the projects in this area are long-running and ongoing but research outputs are being prepared to bring this work to a wider audience so that this improved knowledge and understanding can be used by building and landscape owners and managers. For example, our continuing research on [‘soft capping’](#) (placing turf on wall tops) as protection for walls on ruined monuments is now mainly focussed on monitoring and observation of installed soft cappings, such as that at Hailes Abbey. Research into [protective glazing for stained glass windows](#) at Long Melford Church, Suffolk has shown how effective this is; a second phase has begun to look at alternative designs and configuration of the extra pane of glass. Research into Damp Towers (which looked at problems caused by driving rain to solid masonry buildings – predominantly on church towers in the south-west) was discussed at a conference in 2013; a further phase to look at effective mortar mixes for repointing and deep tamping will be studied in a [SEAHA](#) (Science and Engineering in Arts Heritage and Archaeology) doctoral award. Work has also been underway to find sympathetic ways to manage [bat populations in historic churches](#), and initial exploratory work at St Nicholas, Stanford-on-Avon, Leicestershire has spawned a new multi-

agency funded project which will look at more churches and a wider range of bat species.

Work on buried archaeological assets to understand how changes to the burial environment impact on their long-term preservation has not made as much progress as originally anticipated. A number of small-scale projects were initiated to feed into the guidance on Condition assessment and monitoring of archaeological sites. Once completed, the guidance will go a long way to filling the existing gap in knowledge and provide EH and the sector with up-to-date advice on this topic. Further small-scale projects looking at decay processes affecting in situ preservation of archaeological materials have begun to provide some answers, such as the CASE (Collaborative Award in Science and Engineering) studentship, in partnership with Reading University, on [hydrological monitoring in the Somerset Levels](#), and work on the reburial of archaeological timbers on the Isle of Wight, but a more strategic approach and further funding is required to prioritise this issue in the next Plan period.

Our understanding of the threat from climate change towards historic interiors and collections has increased significantly with the outcomes of

three projects: a study into insect attack risks demonstrated that a warmer climate has the potential to increase the number of insect pests in historic properties; the collections demography project carried out a statistical study on the library collection at Brodsworth Hall, Yorkshire to predict its deterioration rate; and a PhD studentship in partnership with the University of East Anglia provided predictions for the increasing [impact of climate change on future deterioration rates of historic interiors](#). A more affordable early warning sensor for oxidising and acidic pollution has been successfully developed through the [MEMORI](#) project: the reduced costs will allow this type of measurement and mitigation in approximately 75% of museums/historic houses and libraries that currently cannot afford or do not have the expertise to undertake it, and will be of particular use in mitigating damage to organic materials in displays and storage. A number of projects such as [Heritage Smells](#) have improved the determination of deterioration rates for enamels, amber, paper, iron, wooden furniture and plastics.



Near infra-red spectroscopy being used to identify the plastic in a modern doll during the Heritage Smells Project. Similar analysis has been undertaken on modern collections at Brodsworth Hall, Dover Secret Wartime Tunnels and York ROC bunker (2C2). © University College London

Progress on the reduction or mitigation of **agriculture and forestry impacts** (2D1) has been mixed.

Thanks to the [COSMIC \(Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation\)](#) project we now have better data about the risk and have some mitigation strategies for rural archaeological heritage, although this is better for arable areas than for the overall agricultural and forestry regime. However we still need to raise awareness of, and protection for, non-scheduled remains. The [SHINE \(Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England\)](#) project, in partnership with Natural England and ALGAO (the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers) will assist with this but more needs to be done, particularly in raising awareness of the mitigation measures that are now available. An update for [Turning the Plough](#) used aerial photographs and satellite images to assess the survival of the ridge and furrow in a sample of medieval fields in the Midlands, comparing the 2012 situation against that recorded in the late 1990s. This will also help judge the effectiveness of conservation initiatives such as Environmental Stewardship schemes.

A major step forward has been the addition of rural buildings to the revised [NCA \(National Character Area\) statements](#), an ongoing partnership project with Natural England which provides a broad range of landscape, environmental, cultural and economic information for 159 distinct natural areas in England, which can be used by individuals and communities to help achieve a more sustainable future for their area, but more work needs to be done on the integration of a broader time depth of buried archaeological heritage. Further work to integrate non-designated sites, buildings, monuments and landscapes into Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Natural England policies is also required.

The development of a strategy for action on Government rural estate affected by disposal or major planting/harvesting regimes has not been taken forward yet. The Government sell-off of vulnerable woodland areas which was seen as a perceived threat at the time of the development of the NHPP did not materialise. The major potential threat remains increased harvesting and replanting which is now being exacerbated by the imminent clean fuel targets requiring wood for power stations.



Copies of the bi-annual Dredged Up newsletter, reporting on the discoveries made under the Marine Aggregate Industry Protocol for the Reporting of Finds of Archaeological Interest (2D2).

Projects commissioned to mitigate the **impacts of marine exploitation** (2D2) have enabled us to maintain the effective [aggregates reporting protocol](#) over the entire four-year period of the NHPP. We also piloted a voluntary reporting [protocol by the fishing sector](#) which was widely welcomed for its approach and regarded as a positive initiative although take-up proved to be disappointing: only seven artefacts and two sites were independently reported; a further 33 artefacts reported by heritage centres and museums were mainly retrospective. We are exploring alternative options for working with the fishing sector. The report on [fishing impacts on marine cultural heritage](#), published in February 2014, identified a number of management options and further research is needed to take this initiative forward.

[Historic Environment Guidance for Wave and Tidal Energy](#), published in December 2013 under **energy generation impacts** (2D3), provides guidance to enable all parties (such as wave and tidal energy developers; regulators; curators; environmental and engineering consultants; and archaeological contractors/consultants) to engage with the historic environment constructively, to help provide clarity in relation to planning, and to avoid circumstances in which heritage assets become an unreasonable or unexpected constraint.

A review, assessment and update of the English Heritage guidance on wind energy development has been delayed but its completion is anticipated shortly.

Two projects to review the impacts of microgeneration (the small-scale generation of heat and electric power by individuals, small businesses and communities to meet their own needs) on conservation areas and places of worship have been discontinued as they are no longer considered a high priority.

The understanding of **mineral extraction impacts** (2D4) on land has been greatly enhanced by Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (2002-2010) and much of this understanding transfers to non-aggregate materials. Nevertheless, dimensional stone and other non-aggregate minerals (e.g. coal, china clay) also require impact assessment. Subsequent action has been focussed on regional and county-based impact assessments to inform the Local Plan process together with tailored strategies for mitigation.

Progress with the terrestrial Mineral Archaeological Resource Assessments (MARAs) has been good, although adversely affected by local government cuts. Four assessments have been completed for: [North Yorkshire](#) (April 2012); [Nottinghamshire](#) (May 2013); Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes; and [Northamptonshire](#) (2014). They have provided a much improved platform for strategic decision-making on mineral extraction and archaeology which has been welcomed by the minerals industry, planners and the historic environment sector. Two assessments in Staffordshire and Herefordshire, however, have been delayed by local government cuts and major staff restructuring.

Progress has been slower than hoped on the development of a suite of guidance documents, primarily due to major changes in Government mineral planning policy and uncertainties as to how minerals-focussed historic environment advice should nest within the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) hierarchy.

Marine minerals-related work has been transferred to Activity 2D2 (impacts of marine exploitation).

Research on the **loss of local materials** (2D5) seeks to address the lack of availability of some of England's most important building materials for conserving and enhancing historic assets. Good progress has been made with the most ambitious project, the [Strategic Stone Study](#) where information on 34 of the 44 English counties' historic stone resources has been uploaded onto the British Geological Survey (BGS) website. Completion will go into the next Plan period but progress will be slow because of funding constraints.

The [Collyweston slate research](#) is now showing successful results: the freezing trials have produced good material which is being put on the roof of a range of outbuildings at [Apthorpe Hall](#), Northamptonshire, where its performance will be observed over the next year.

The [thatch trials](#) have already shown that growing good supplies of straw using older varieties has been successful despite appalling weather conditions. The next phase of testing them on a roof will be a much longer test.

Responding to the threat of **heritage skills loss** (2E1), regular craft skills labour market intelligence surveys are undertaken to monitor trends and changes. Areas covered during the Plan period included Building Crafts skills (Skills Needs Analysis 2013), Conservation ([Conservation Labour Market Intelligence 2012-2013](#)) and historic gardens and parks ([Cultivating Skills in Historic and Botanic Gardens, May 2012](#)).

Support for training initiatives has continued. The Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme (HGBGS) has offered over 30 placements and training opportunities during the Plan period, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and supported by 22 partner organisations.

The National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) leads a partnership including English Heritage, National Trust, ConstructionSkills and the Regional Heritage Skills Groups in the nine English regions on the [Traditional Building Skills](#) scheme. This scheme, which started in January 2012, offers up to 60 placements together with taster courses, a Heritage Specialist Apprenticeship programme,

mentoring, master crafts and better links with the sustainability agenda. National Trust also runs a separate [Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme](#), started in September 2012, offering 45 placements to help displaced apprentices complete their apprenticeships and gain a vocational qualification. The partners are English Heritage, Cadw, CITB-ConstructionSkills and the NHTG. The HLF is providing funding to support both these schemes.

A number of placement schemes at English Heritage, run in conjunction with the ClfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists), provided six 6-month placements in buildings history, two multi-disciplinary placements of 15 months in non-intrusive investigation, and two 18-month placements training in the photography of historic buildings and sites.

We have supported the Institute for Historic Building Conservation's ([IHBC](#)) [Summer Schools](#) 2012 and 2013, which address skills shortages in the management of the built environment; and we provided a number of bursaries to support students on the Masters Degree (MSt) in Building History at the University of Cambridge.

EH, ALGAO and the ClfA have produced [guidelines and standards](#) for those in local government giving advice on archaeological/investigative matters in the context of the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF). The ClfA is currently trialling this standard.

Commissioned research has enabled us to understand the scale and nature of **local authority capacity loss** (2E2). We publish annual reports that articulate and contextualise the fall in local authority historic environment specialist capacity. The [sixth report](#), produced by English Heritage, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) in July 2014, which compares the current levels of historic environment staff resources in local authorities with those available in 2003, shows a drop of 32% in overall historic environment advice.

Biennial surveys of skills capacity within local authorities and other agencies and major owners

are also carried out to ensure appropriate targeting of training across the sector. During the Plan period, these were transferred from 2EI (heritage skills loss) and covered Archaeology ([Profiling the Archaeological profession 2012-2013](#)).

The response has been to focus on the different types of service model emerging so as to influence local service decisions by providing evidence. The Historic Environment Local Authority Capacity (HELAC) initiative worked in partnership with five pilot areas (Cheltenham, West Sussex, Cotswolds, Essex and Northumberland) looking at different ways of delivering local historic environment services, their strengths and weaknesses and what they might mean for the protection of local heritage.

Another strand of work has been [Evaluating the Archaeological Resource in Store](#), undertaken in partnership with the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) and the Federation of Archaeological Managers (FAME). Results highlight gaps in collecting areas, with no museums collecting archaeological archive from 47 local authorities, and an estimated 9000 archaeological archives in England for which no formal public repository can be found.

We have provided support to individual local authorities through start up funding for additional historic environment posts in Dartmoor National Park, Wiltshire, Durham and Shropshire.

There remain, however, significant challenges. We need to better understand emerging models; better assess local capacity; and improve our ability to influence local decision making. The rise in the number of local authorities without adequate advice highlights both the direction of travel and the scale of the issue.

Measure 3: Recognition and identification of the Potential Resource

Advances have been made in our knowledge of the **marine historic environment** (3A1) including previously unknown marine historic assets and former terrestrial landscapes now submerged beneath the sea.

The South West Peninsula HSC Project

Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council have been commissioned by English Heritage to apply HSC across the South West Peninsula and adjacent inshore and offshore waters. The study area extends from Hartland Point on the north coast of Devon to the Isle of Furber in Dorset. The project will run for 18 months and is due to be completed in August 2013.

English Heritage's National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) notes the relatively poor understanding of marine heritage assets and landscapes as a serious obstacle to assessing the risks they face. Recognising the priority need to address this, the South West Peninsula HSC project will fill the largest current gap in the national HSC coverage.

The project will analyse modern and historic charts, maps and documents to interpret marine and maritime historic character, identifying recurrent 'Character Types' within a Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS database will support a breadth of queries on the cultural character of the seas off the South West peninsula and will be linked to Character Type descriptions written from both national and regional perspectives in a readily accessible style and structure.

This project will contribute to the national HSC database for England and will be integrated with the completed HSC for adjacent areas. The project will also review actual and potential applications for HSC in the project area, with special reference to its roles for heritage protection and a breadth of planning and other contexts.



For further information on the project please contact

Charlie Johns - Cornwall Council Email: cjohns@cornwall.gov.uk
Or visit our website: <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=7762>

To access the English Heritage website for further information on the HSC programme go to:
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/characterisations/historic-seascape-character/>

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

CORNWALL COUNCIL



BETTER DATA, BETTER SCIENCE,
BETTER DECISIONS

SeaZone



CHARACTERISING OUR HISTORIC SEASCAPE

of our coastal and marine landscape, the 'seascape', is shaped by natural processes which shape all, intertidal and marine zones, and by the activities of past and present human activities which combine to create its historic character.

34 HSC Demonstrating the Method Results



Historic Seascape Characterisation (HSC) presents an archaeological approach to the historic cultural dimension of our coasts, identifying and mapping areas whose present character is shaped by similar dominant cultural processes. In doing so, it offers a clearly similar approach to Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), already widely implemented by English Heritage.

HSC offers a nationally-applicable approach for identifying our historic seascape using Geographic Information System (GIS) data and is now being applied to coastal and seas through a series of projects. The concept of historic seascape character can be interrogated in a range of ways to meet the needs of a range of applications. It is used by text and imagery which can deliver its cultural value to wider audiences as a multimedia resource.

HSC outputs are designed to inform the management of our coasts and seas with an understanding of the recent cultural processes that have shaped the present, they are regarded as not. Alongside that, HSC offers a powerful means of raising public awareness of man's long relationship with the sea, and improving engagement with action to achieve a more culturally distinctive future.

HSC offers a stronger basis for shaping sustainable seascapes for the future. In a broader sense too, HSC's wide coverage of cultural processes and human activities reveals our perspective on whichever parts of the coast and sea to us.

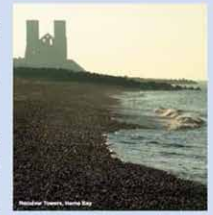


Kent and Thames Estuary Historic Seascape Characterisation

commissioned by English Heritage
Seascape Characterisation for Kent coast and adjacent inshore

Historic Seascape Characterisation of England's national seascapes commissioned by English Heritage will run for 12 months from September 2013.

The project will use the national method for HSC to create a project area extending from the coast of Kent to Jaywick on the Port of London. The project will also include the area of the Thames Estuary.



Historic Seascape Characterisation of Kent and the Thames Estuary has affected not only the inhabitants of the area but also the wider world, through trade and maritime empire, the entire globe.



of Kent

in the Thames Estuary are amongst the most historic.

Here submerged landscapes survive solidly, man-made structures that have gone as well as early evidence for the River.

In the area saw the development of coastal industry, land reclamation, fisheries, sea in the medieval period the Cinque Ports were established only to be eclipsed in the 17th century, which became the beating heart of Britain's maritime empire during the 18th century.

ENGLISH HERITAGE

Coastal Archaeology

A selection of publicity leaflets from the HSC (Historic Seascape Characterisation) projects providing national HSC coverage (3A1). © Historic England

[Historic Seascape Characterisation \(HSC\)](#) which provides strategic-level understanding of the inshore and offshore regions of England's coasts has completed full coverage (from 60% in 2011) and the [Marine Management Organisation \(MMO\)](#) has begun to feed the information into the preparation of its [Marine Plans](#) with the recently published [Seascape Assessment for Marine Plan South](#) which is the first to fully incorporate HSC data for an entire Marine Plan area. Other initiatives based around the HSC data included the development of approaches to seascape assessment jointly with Defra and Natural England; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Environmental Statements for offshore wind farm proposals; developing guidance on marine operations in ports and harbours; and contributing strongly to English Heritage's commissioned work raising knowledge of our national port heritage.

Progress has been made on assessing the state of knowledge of submerged prehistoric landscapes and sites: the [audit report](#) is available. This report, together with a project examining the cost effective use of existing and new geophysical

survey data to map and characterise unknown marine assets and landscapes focussing on the unknown assets of [Liverpool Bay](#), led to a [specialist meeting to explore the social context](#) of the early use of such areas. This gathering informed two further projects which are currently underway – an assessment of the geophysical, geo-archaeological and archaeological resource of the Southern North Sea focussing on two key phases of colonisation during the Late Middle/Upper Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic, and a multi-disciplinary project assessing the potential for submerged archaeological resources in the Severn Estuary on- and off-shore.

One way of improving understanding and exploring the expansion of the designation base is to undertake a thematic approach. Early ships and boats (i.e. those dating from the earliest times to about 1840) have been targeted using this methodology because of their special technological, historical and human interest, and a similar approach has been used for a strategic assessment of submarines in English waters.

Marine data and information sources remain less developed than terrestrial equivalents with many projects having to devote time and resources to review and audit stages. Access to data is often compromised by commercial confidentiality issues which can also create issues for final dissemination of project results, often presenting technological and data management problems too. Some advances have been made in developing marine historic environment survey techniques but more work is required.

The [Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey](#) (RCZAS) programme, part of our work on **unknown coastal assets** (3A2) was developed to provide enhanced information for strategy and planning, and an evidence base for responses to [FCERM \(Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management\)](#) consultations from Defra and the Environment Agency. Three of six projects have already been completed (covering the Severn Estuary, the North West, and the South East). A spin-off community involvement project from the North East RCZAS, funded by the HLF, '[Rescued from the Sea](#)', aims to excavate what is left of a Bronze Age cemetery and underlying Neolithic and Mesolithic deposits at Low Hauxley in Northumberland, before they erode into the sea.

Other completed projects in the Activity were aimed at giving greater understanding and protection to specific asset types, and included: a survey of [historic hulk assemblages](#) (i.e. grounded/abandoned maritime or riverine vessels) in England to provide a context for applications for designation and for local management; and the [Essex Historic Grazing Marsh Project](#) – which produced character assessments for each of the 62 individual areas of marshland and examined the threats facing this vulnerable physical heritage.

The South West (North Coast) RCZAS was discontinued, as the area was largely covered by the NMP work on the North Devon AONB, so funding was transferred to the south coast.

Continuing the kind of work that was previously undertaken through the [ALSF](#) (Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund), the projects addressing our

most ancient **prehistoric heritage** (3A3) aim to synthesise current knowledge and develop techniques to understand where the most significant remains are likely to occur (related projects to characterise and assess the significance of such remains reside in Activity 4G1). A synthesis of previous work on the Palaeolithic, which will publicise and celebrate the achievements of the ALSF, is in press. A new research and conservation framework for the Mesolithic has been published in hard copy, with a digital version on ADS (Archaeology Data Service) due shortly. This complements the existing [Palaeolithic](#) framework.

Several projects relating to specific sites and landscapes have been commissioned and are in progress: one to improve understanding and management of the internationally important coastal deposits around [Happisburgh](#), location of the earliest evidence for a human presence in Britain; an exemplar [Palaeolithic survey](#) in an area of high development pressure around the Stour Basin in Kent; and a project on the lost River Bytham (Brooksby Quarry, Leicestershire) to assess the potential of ERT (Electrical Resistivity Tomography) for mapping deeply buried Pleistocene deposits.

Changing priorities and funding opportunities, as well as delays to other projects during the plan period meant that work on caves and rock shelters in limestone landscapes has been held back, as has the development of guidance. These will be reassessed for the next plan period now that the Palaeolithic synthesis and Mesolithic Research Frameworks have been completed.

Identification of unknown terrestrial assets

(3A4) and the threats to them arising from a lack of knowledge of these assets formed the focus of a series of projects using techniques such as landscape survey, aerial reconnaissance, air photo and lidar interpretation, geophysical survey, and excavation.

Unusual weather patterns, availability of aircraft and staff issues in Local Authorities affected aerial reconnaissance. Nevertheless, the reconnaissance recording programme identified over 1200 previously unknown archaeological sites which



EH Reconnaissance photo of cropmarks of the 'lost' Hawks Farm with its fields and lanes linking to Melon Green, Wepstead, Suffolk (3A4).
© Historic England, Damian Grady

were recorded and made available via the [Pastscape](#) website. A wide variety of types of site were discovered including Neolithic long barrows in Lincolnshire, Roman camps in Dorset and Lincolnshire, and numerous settlement sites (ranging in date from prehistory to post medieval) on soils that do not normally produce cropmarks, especially the clays in Holderness and East Anglia.

Identification and mapping projects, using [National Mapping Programme](#) methods, continue to target areas under threat from agriculture or strategic development and to inform the management plans of protected landscapes. The results of projects are incorporated into Historic Environment Records where they directly inform heritage protection through planning, research and local studies.

During the Plan period to date, 14 projects have been completed. These, together with other completed identification projects under 2D4 (Mineral Extraction Impacts) and 3A2 (Unknown Coastal Assets) have mapped an area equivalent to 4705 kilometre squares resulting in the creation

of 16,720 new monument records and significant updates to 4,853 records. Landscape overviews are published as reports available to download from the English Heritage/Historic England website.

Highlights include surveys of parts of the [North York Moors National Park](#), Hull Valley, [South East Warwickshire and Cotswolds Higher Level Stewardship Target Areas](#), [Thetford-Norwich-A11 Growth Areas](#), [Hampshire Downland](#), [North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#), and the [Beachy Head/Ouse Valley](#) area of the South Downs National Park in East Sussex.

A key achievement of the activity was to explore the use of air photo interpretation and mapping to target effective ground-based work and further enhance understanding of archaeological sites and landscapes in terms of local, regional and national significance. The 2011-14 plan period saw the completion of a number of integrated landscape projects (some of long standing), each one raising awareness of significant archaeological sites and landscapes for the benefit of all those

concerned with conservation management and heritage protection. It has resulted in a number of key publications which have not only placed heritage information firmly in the academic/public domain (e.g. [Cairns, Fields and Cultivation](#); [Finding the History Hidden in the Forest](#)) but have also marked the development of archaeological techniques and processes (e.g. articles on methods in [Interpreting Archaeological Topography](#), and on Silbury research in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*).

An exciting new initiative - the National Archaeological Identification Surveys (NAIS) – made significant progress on two pilot projects in lowland West Wiltshire and an upland area on the edge of the Lakes, Dales and Arnside. The projects aim to examine and characterise 200sq km areas using a range of techniques such as aerial investigation and mapping, geophysical survey, earthwork survey, and targeted excavation. This will lead to enhanced protection for selected sites through designation and improved conservation management for hundreds more. Timetables, logistics and resources have been challenging in this Plan period but the NAIS pilots have shown the value of the multi-disciplinary approach for heritage protection in landscape contexts. The approach to integrated research, and the advice we provide to the wider heritage sector, will be refined through a forthcoming project review.



David Roberts and team discuss excavations of a prehistoric enclosure at Paxcroft as part of the West Wiltshire NAIS project (3A4).
© Historic England, Jonathan Last

Improved understanding of the importance of **wetland/waterlogged sites** (3A5) in the historic environment has been delivered through a series of projects and initiatives including the development of a national dataset which will identify places with [exceptional waterlogged heritage](#) in England, define their significance, improve understanding of their location and value, and define actions to promote their future protection or mitigate their loss - the initial inventory is now complete and work continues on producing statements of significance for each site.

Five projects examined how deposit models can be built and used to improve understanding of the distribution of waterlogged deposits in urban centres in support of planning and management decision-making – the towns covered were: [Boston](#), Lincolnshire; [Berwick-upon-Tweed](#), Northumberland; [Carlisle](#), Cumbria; [Droitwich](#), Worcestershire; and [Bristol](#).

The assessment of significance and heritage value of small wetlands (e.g. ponds and kettle holes) have been addressed through two projects: the first, Small Wetlands; their potentials and threats will summarise the characteristics and research potential for different types of small wetlands and present an assessment of threats; the second, The Small Wetland Toolkit has piloted a methodology in Worcestershire for the rapid mapping and assessment of wetland assets for enhancing Historic Environment Records data.

Three survey and analysis projects have been published or are nearing completion: one on the Somerset Levels; another on the archaeological excavation and palaeoenvironmental analysis of the Beccles Triple Post Alignment in Suffolk; and The Wetlands of South West Lancashire which identified considerable evidence of prehistoric use of the landscape and provides information on the changing coastline in prehistory resulting from variations in sea level, which is of immense interest today in the light of current trends in global warming.

Owing to lack of staff resource, it has not been possible to initiate the planned programme of work to review the efficacy, understanding of, and research into remote sensing techniques in wetland areas.



Informing Growth, Boston, Lincolnshire: view across the Haven with the buildings of the High Street and Doughty Quay (4A1) © Historic England, John Minnis

Measure 4: Assessment of Character and Significance

As part of the effort to protect the significance of **historic cities, towns and suburbs** (4A1) a major national project on suburbs was initiated in 2012. It is planned for completion in 2016 and will deliver the contextual understanding necessary to feed into designations and planning advice. In addition to a major monograph, Introductions to Heritage Assets (IHA) on the detached house, the semi-detached house and the suburban shopping parade are planned. A report on London shopping parades has provided information that will be incorporated into the monograph and the IHA.

Several thematic studies of vulnerable urban commercial buildings are underway: we have identified and scoped the current threat to public houses, initiating projects to fill gaps in our understanding of the inter-war and post-war period and to inform potential designations, with case studies of nineteenth and twentieth century public houses in Bristol and Leeds. We have entered into a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership with the University of Cambridge to supervise a doctoral thesis on the subject of inter-war speculative office developments.

A [national review of research priorities for urban parks and designed landscapes](#) provided recommendations for improving the protection and management of these assets including: more collaboration and the pooling of intellectual

knowledge; a review of funding and management; addressing the skills gap through encouraging volunteering and other professional schemes such as the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships; and further development of the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.

EH supports a series of national programmes of urban survey projects which provide a greatly improved basis of information and understanding and inform local authority decision-making in relation to Local Plans and individual planning applications. Projects completed or in progress during the Plan period for the various programmes include:

- [Extensive Urban Surveys \(EUS\)](#) provide characterisation and assessment of England's smaller historic towns on a county-by-county basis: [South Gloucestershire](#), [Cheshire](#), Merseyside, [Buckinghamshire](#) and [Staffordshire](#) completed; Cambridgeshire, [Devon](#), and [Warwickshire](#) in progress.
- Urban Archaeological Databases (UAD) for key historic towns and cities: [Oxford](#), [Chester](#) (where the UAD resulted in a huge increase in HER records for the city), and London completed.
- [Historic Landscape Characterisation \(HLC\)](#) of major industrial conurbations: [Coventry](#) completed; Birmingham in progress.

Many towns in England are changing through urban regeneration or other factors. Studies of historic areas subject to change, undertaken to heighten awareness of their importance and promote their rich historic character as an asset, have been completed or are underway for Hull, Coventry, Boston and Bristol.

We are also undertaking studies to support change and enhance understanding in military towns, notably [Gosport](#), Catterick and Sheerness. These will result in characterisation assessments, reports and designations which will help manage appropriate change within these towns.

Projects investigating early (pre-1700) fabric in the historic towns of Ely in Cambridgeshire, Beverley in Yorkshire, Southwell in Nottinghamshire and Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire are underway. These will maintain and develop investigation and analysis skills in the local community and the historic environment volunteer sector, and will result in publications which will raise the profile of the early fabric in the respective towns. They will also produce enhanced HER records, and may result in some designations.

Research on **20th-century architecture** (4A2) has concentrated on building types identified as being under greatest threat and/or where further listing is warranted, with an aim to expanding our knowledge of 1970s-90s buildings. A survey of purpose-built post-war schools (1962-1988) has been completed with the aim of informing the current debate on investment across England's school estate.

Public engagement has been an important area of work including the organisation of the [Brutal and Beautiful](#) exhibition at the Wellington Arch which illustrated what makes the post-war era special and why the very best of its buildings are worthy of protection. Visitor figures for this were an impressive 8853. EH also jointly organised a sold-out debate with a panel of experts at the RIBA (Royal British Institute of Architecture) in October 2013 on post-war listing. Widespread national media coverage of both events generated positive public debate on social media.

We have also concentrated efforts on listing post-war buildings, successfully completing projects on private houses outside London and commercial offices in the North, West, East and South regions. However, there remain issues with our ability to see projects through to completion and deliver the designation follow-through because of pressure on staffing. Projects impacted include post-war schools and universities; libraries; and post-war churches identified under the Taking Stock (4D1) projects.

[Blackpool's Seaside Heritage](#), published in March 2014 as part of our work on **historic ports, dockyards, harbours and coastal resorts** (4A3), describes how the rich heritage left behind by two centuries of tourism and the construction of new sea defences have led to the transformation of its seafront and to regeneration programmes to try to improve the town for its visitors and residents. A rapid assessment of the history and heritage of rollercoasters and amusement parks, completed in November 2013, will lead to an Introduction to Heritage Assets and the development of improved designation for key rides in English amusement parks.

A rapid review of the threats facing our ports and harbours was completed in March 2013. This has led to the development of a North Sea Ports project which replaces several originally proposed smaller thematic projects (including fishing ports and mineral ports), with an approach designed to give a broader more contextualised and consistent understanding of all current major ports along the North Sea coastline. This will assess the values and significance of its port heritage, the extent of its current heritage protection and the implications of pressures for change for the sustainable future management of its heritage assets. It will also provide a template for extending this approach to other coastlines and inland ports.

The recording of Devonport and Portsmouth naval dockyards was delayed for many months owing to access issues but is now progressing well and will lead to improved designation and protection of this important twentieth-century heritage at a time of change. An analysis of the impact of the previous government's [Sea Change programme](#) was begun later than originally anticipated owing to insufficient staff resource but a report is now in preparation which will highlight how investment



Central Library, Manchester, listed Grade II* as part of a national assessment of public libraries (5A1 and 4A4). © Historic England

in arts and culture at seaside resorts can have a positive impact on the historic environment.

Two pieces of guidance have also been commissioned. A report is being prepared to assist port owners and operators to deal with the marine historic environment in and around ports. A second document describes how English Heritage can better work with ports to improve heritage protection.

A national review of ports and harbours was terminated after lengthy delays as the contractor proved unable to complete the work. A project on south-east resorts was not taken forward because of insufficient funds. An Informed Conservation publication on Scarborough and an impact review of coastal regeneration/marine planning on the coastal historic environment were both discontinued as it was felt the resources allocated to them would be better utilised on a new publication looking at the English Seafront: seafronts are now particularly vulnerable as many seaside resorts are coming to terms with providing new sea defences, often at the expense of historic features such as sea walls and bathing pools.

Almost all the projects identified as a priority for England's **public, civic and communal buildings** (4A4) have been completed or are progressing on target. Legacy work on schools has been completed with the publication of a report on [rural Norfolk schools](#) which will help make informed decisions about the potential designation and future management of these threatened buildings.

A report commissioned by English Heritage with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to review the issues facing local authorities as they manage their heritage assets at a time of acute financial stress, was published in March 2012. At the same time, EH undertook a literature review for key public and civic building types to ascertain what is known about them and to identify major gaps in our knowledge. These two projects informed the development of a series of national assessment projects for particular threatened building types (outside London): public libraries, drill halls, police stations, fire stations, and twentieth-century town halls. The first phase of the public libraries has been completed with the production of a gazetteer and two Introductions to Heritage Assets: [The English Public Library 1850-1939](#) and [The English Public Library 1945-1985](#). In 2012, the government announced a reduction in the number of magistrates'

and county courts across England. This led to a project to create individual database records about the courts threatened with closure. The results are available via the [Pastscape](#) website.

The only project not taken forward during this Plan period is a national assessment of Museums as this was deemed to be a lower priority than the other building types at risk. The need for this assessment will be reviewed during the development of the next Plan.

The outcomes anticipated from the work on **historic water management assets** (4B1) have only been partially realised although progress has been made against most of the projects in this Activity. This was due to a combination of cuts within local authorities, staff shortages and pressures of other work. Projects impacted include a national assessment of watermills and their landscapes, and assessments of watermills and historic weirs in Herefordshire.

However, the rising interest in historic water management assets has been clearly demonstrated by the increasing number of external queries from curators, academic, commercial and special interest groups wanting to discuss potential research projects.

Successfully completed projects include an Introduction to Heritage Assets on [Water Meadows](#), which provides an introduction to the history and typology of these threatened assets. This work will feed into advice for heritage-sensitive management adaptation and restoration, particularly for those working on wildlife conservation schemes, to help them carry out their work sympathetically to heritage features. Also completed is a review of the Monuments Protection Programme (MPP) Step 4 report on the water and sewage industries. This includes an assessment of the designation recommendations made at the time (2001) in terms of their currency today. Technical advice for micro hydroelectric power and traditional buildings has been drafted and is awaiting publication.

Some good progress has been made towards the protection of our **industrial heritage** (4B2): a major monograph, [Delving Ever Deeper, The Ecton Mines Through Time](#), published by the Peak District National

Park Authority and funded by English Heritage, presents the research into copper and lead mine sites at Ecton Hill, Staffordshire, internationally significant for evidence of mining history spanning 3,500 years, from the Bronze Age until its closure in 1891.

Research to quantify the survival of steam and roller corn mills in England was completed and is due to be web published: it assessed the significance of this heritage asset type and will inform future management and possible designations. A project to incorporate data from the National Record of Industrial Monuments (NRIM) into English Heritage's National Record of the Historic Environment database (NRHE) has ensured that complementary record sets relating to our industrial heritage are now available in one place through the [Pastscape](#) website.

Three completed projects addressed the need for improved protection for specific industrial assets. A volume in the [Informed Conservation](#) series: [The Hat Industry in Luton](#) provided context to the protection of buildings relating to that industry in and around Luton, showing both how much has been lost and providing a basis for informed management of what remains. A survey of the industrial heritage of Greenlaws Mine, Durham was aimed at facilitating an HPA (Heritage Partnership Agreement) management plan in association with Natural England. The survey of the industrial heritage of one of the most important lead mines in England, Grassington in Yorkshire, produced an assessment of its significance and a Conservation Statement for its above and below ground remains.

The following initiatives, however, have suffered delays because of resource shortages and other issues: a rapid assessment of Lancashire textile mills in an area where a mills survey had not previously been undertaken so as to add to the national picture, and with designation a notable aim - access to sites proved to be a considerable difficulty, however, which has both delayed the project and reduced opportunities for designation assessment. An extensive archaeological survey to locate and characterise the distribution of medieval and early modern Wealden Glass industry sites is once again moving forward and is nearing completion. An archaeological survey of Roman, medieval and early modern iron mining and processing in Exmoor National Park is also progressing slowly. Preparation of a major publication on the buildings

and landscapes associated with the textile industry in south-west England is nearing completion and the book will be published in the last year of the Plan.

A project to synthesize twenty years of research into the industrial heritage of the Lake District was discontinued because of staff shortages, and a national overview of wind and water mills by SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) has been deferred until the next Plan period.

The **transport and communications** (4B3) activity has, with a limited budget, fully achieved its main aims, both in terms of statutory protection and in increasing the awareness of the significance of transport buildings. Two projects achieved a high profile in the national media: the first, The Motor Car and the Historic Environment resulted in over twenty new listings, the publication of two major books: [Carscapes: the Motor Car, Architecture and Landscape in England](#) (winning four awards) and [England's Motoring Heritage from the Air](#), an Introduction to Heritage Assets: [Buildings and Infrastructure for the Motor Car](#), very extensive national and local media coverage, together with an [exhibition](#). The second, a national overview of

the significance of surviving examples of railway signal boxes resulted in the listing of an additional 51 signal boxes (adding to the existing total of 73), [an Introduction to Heritage Assets](#), and considerable media coverage of the demise of this building type.

The railway buildings national review provided a detailed analysis of significance of railway buildings and structures that can form the basis of revised designation guidance and IHAs (Introductions to Heritage Assets), together with a possible strategic designation programme. The canals and river navigations national review, which is still in progress, has the potential to do the same for this asset type. Also underway is a project to identify surviving railway goods sheds and warehouses and assess their significance.

Two additional projects have also just been completed: the first an appraisal of significance and levels of protection of [heritage assets in inland waters](#). The report looks at the national picture but also offers a more detailed case study of the Kennet and Bristol Avon river system. The second project highlighted the significance of surviving examples of emergency wartime railway control centres.



In 2013 Network Rail announced the closure of mechanical signal boxes across the entire rail network. Given the acknowledged importance of signal boxes in railway history, English Heritage undertook a countrywide overview of the remaining boxes in Network Rail ownership, which resulted in the listing of 50 additional examples (4B3) © Historic England

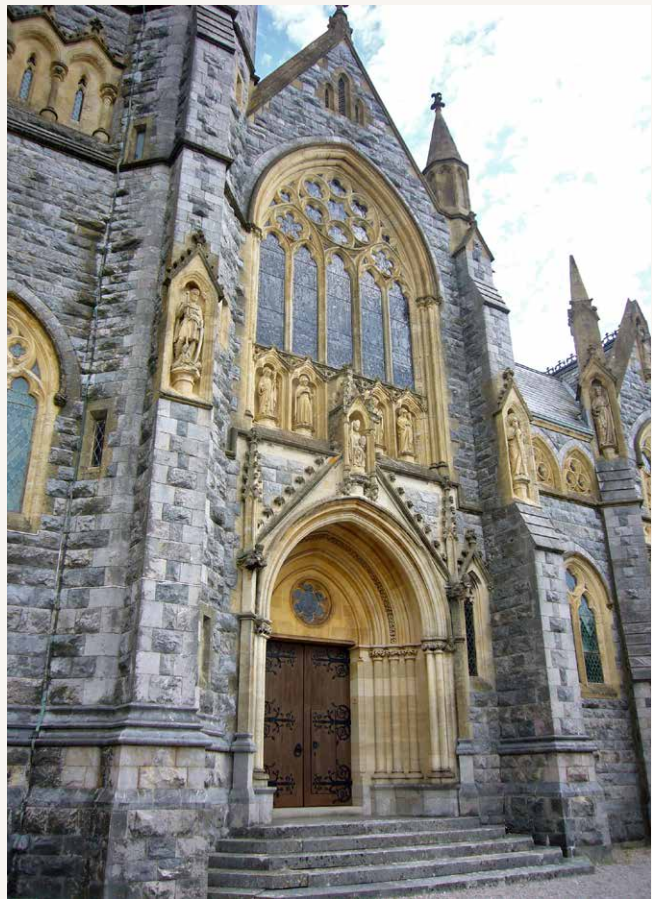
Much of the work on our **sport and entertainment heritage** (4CI) has concentrated on the [Played in Britain](#) series. Two books have been completed: [Played in London](#) reveals the history and heritage of sport in London and informed designation consideration of about 15 historic sports-related buildings and structures. *Bowled Over* (to be published in 2015) looks at British bowls culture with a particular emphasis on the places where the game is played and will provide information to support the management of these historic assets.

The national assessment of historic seaside and fairground rides and public play and recreation structures to inform management strategies for these endangered structures has partly been taken forward under 4A3 (see above).

A proposed national assessment of post-war recreation developments, and in particular the influences of the Countryside Act 1968 was discontinued.

Understanding twentieth-century Christian faith heritage, part of historic **places of worship** (4DI), is being delivered through two projects which will provide a list of all Christian new build places of worship and a synthesis of Roman Catholic churches (using the results of the Taking Stock projects – see below). A timeline showing the twentieth-century faith heritage has been produced as a consultation tool for new stakeholders and as the first stage of a project to deliver a web-based output considering the contribution of the faith landscape to the built environment. Developing guidance for assessing the significance of twentieth-century Places of Worship has been delayed, probably until the next Plan period.

Considerable ground work building relationships with a new sector and stakeholders (especially British Islamic studies and mosque-based stakeholders) has raised the profile of the unknown heritage of non-Christian Places of Worship. The work underway has excited much interest in new stakeholder groups including British Buddhist and British Muslim circles. We are as a result in a much better position to take this complex and new area of work forward. Achievements to date include the completion of a national thematic survey of



Taking Stock is a project being undertaken by English Heritage and individual Roman Catholic dioceses to identify and understand the quality and significance of Roman Catholic churches which are under-represented in the National Heritage List for England. The church of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Denis, Torquay, Devon, has been upgraded to Grade I as a result of this project (4DI and 5A1) © Historic England

[mosques in Britain](#) and a related Introduction to Heritage Assets, to be published in 2015; scoping work on minority non-Christian faith groups to assess the current state of knowledge about the buildings and practices associated with them; and the successful establishment of a [Collaborative Doctoral Partnership](#) at Leicester University, funded by the AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council), on Sikh heritage.

The [Taking Stock](#) programme of work centres on significance and condition appraisals of denominational buildings. These are used as management tools for decision-making in protecting the buildings. The Roman Catholic series has continued successfully with seven of the nineteen dioceses completed (Salford, Heytesbury and Sherborne, Westminster, Southwark, Shrewsbury, Hexham and Newcastle, and Brentwood), and eight others underway. A new model of Taking Stock has been developed with the Religious

Society of Friends. Currently in its pilot stage, this project will have wide implications for increasing skills in the historic environment sector as well as capacity building within the Society of Friends through extensive volunteer commitments.

Work on providing protection to historic church interiors through assessment and guidance has been delayed and will now be considered for inclusion in the next Plan period.

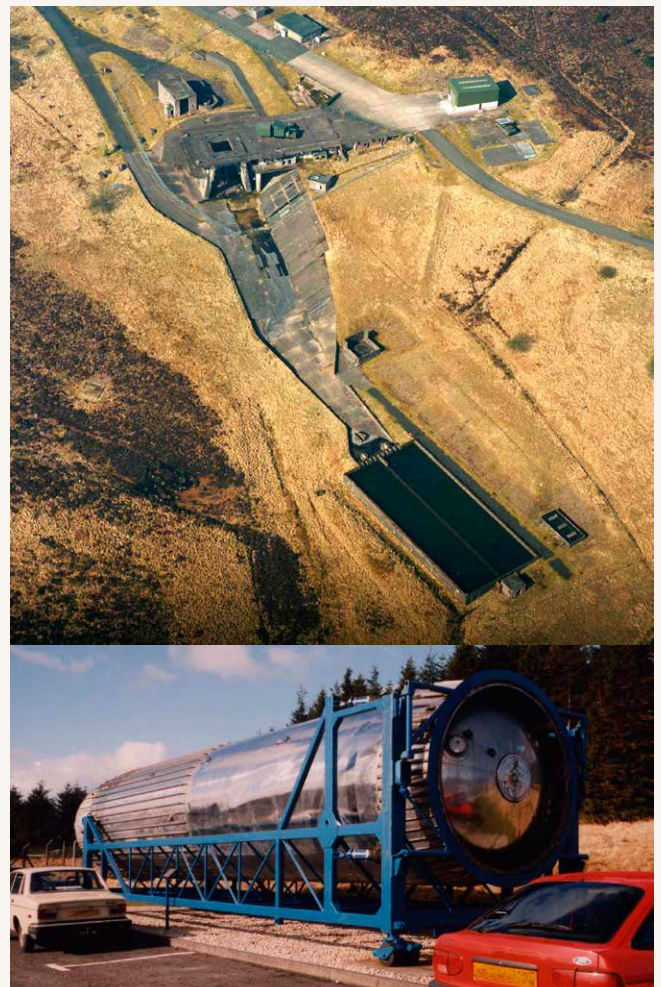
There have been severe delays to several of the **cemeteries and burial grounds** (4D2) projects mainly owing to staff shortages and the complexity of some of the projects meaning they have taken longer to complete than originally anticipated. The assessment case studies for protection of cemeteries and churchyards is nearing completion, but the creation of guidance to help those caring for cemeteries and burial grounds will probably be delayed until the next Plan period. The development of toolkits to enable local groups to record, assess and monitor the condition of their historic cemeteries is nearing completion.

Two projects, the first looking at the assessment and protection of non-Christian (principally Jewish) historic cemeteries, the second one offering enhanced protection through designation to nationally significant monuments in registered cemeteries, are now getting underway.

The publication of [The Archaeology of English Battlefields: Conflict in the Pre-Industrial Landscape](#), the first national assessment of its kind, has been a major milestone in the understanding of **battlefields** (4E1) as an archaeological resource and has already proven its value in high-profile cases such as Hastings and Fulford. Audits of the resources available to support our understanding of naval battlefields within English territorial waters and coastal/intertidal areas, and pre-sixteenth-century terrestrial battlefields have been completed, including an enhancement of the NRHE (National Record for the Historic Environment) database, the results of which can be viewed via the [Pastscape](#) website. Work with the Battlefields Trust to revise entries on the NHLE (National Heritage List for England) is ongoing.

A proposed project on the archaeological investigation and analysis of pre-sixteenth-century battlefields was not taken forward as no suitable brief was forthcoming. The project will be re-assessed for possible inclusion in the next Plan.

Much good work has been done on **20th-century military sites** (4E2). A rapid assessment methodology was developed, using [Wiltshire](#) as a pilot, to support the informed disposal of elements of the Ministry of Defence estate as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. Visits were made to 24 disposal and major redevelopment sites. Protection outcomes have included listing, scheduling, advice on initial master planning and recording, and improved NRHE and HER records. Desk based assessments were also completed for 40 Reserve Forces sites.



Greymare Hill, Spadeadam, Cumbria, the spectacular remains of the late 1950s intermediate range ballistic missile, Blue Streak, were scheduled as part of the Cold War designation project (4E2). The missile body is listed, Grade II. © Historic England

A [pilot project](#) established a methodology for members of the public to become involved and to record the impact of the First World War on England and was successfully developed with Bristol and York Universities and the CBA as the [Home Front Legacy Project](#). The website allows people to download recording information and to provide data directly to HERs through on-line apps. A dedicated [EH First World War](#) webpage has also been developed.

A trial project with Kent County Council explored how HER volunteers might contribute to the enhancement of aircraft crash site records. In Kent 635 records were added to the HER, more than doubling the total.

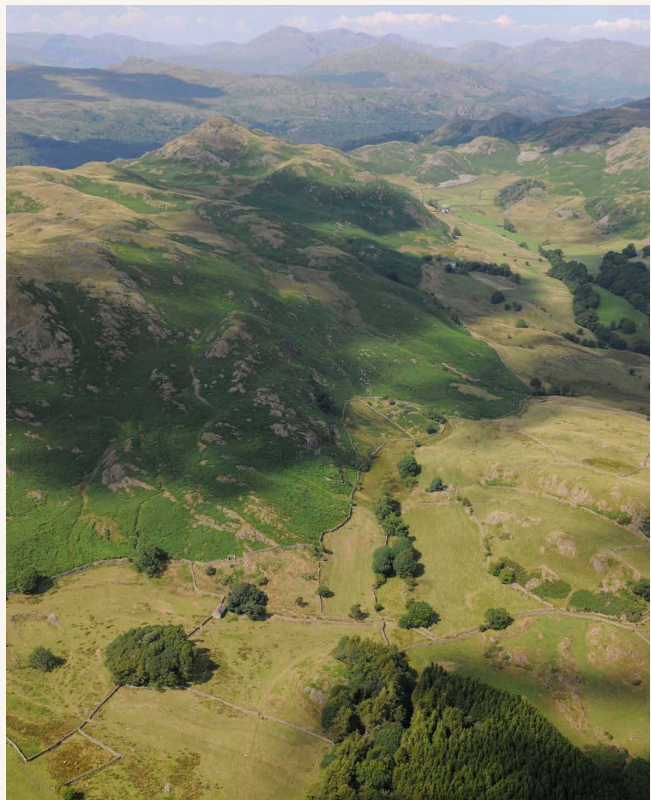
A report on the [East Coast War Channels](#) has been completed, highlighting the significance of this offshore battleground and its submerged heritage assets and their relationship to terrestrial features.

The Cold War project is nearing completion. Key structures have been protected through listings and schedulings on seventeen sites, including the atomic research sites at [Foulness](#), Essex and [Orford Ness](#), Suffolk and the [Spadeadam Rocket Establishment](#), Cumbria.

A study listing all pre-1919 wireless stations in England has been completed, enabling this class of monuments to be better understood.

Regular photography to monitor the condition of the [Corsham Tunnels](#), Bath (a former stone quarry, used as an underground arsenal in the Second World War, and adapted during the Cold War to serve as the Central Government War headquarters in the event of a nuclear war), is being undertaken in support of a management plan, which includes recording areas that will be lost due to adverse environmental conditions.

Work on our **rural heritage** (4FI) has made steady progress. Refinement of the Farmsteads Assessment Framework (for pre-application appraisal for the options for change) has enabled constructive engagement with NFU (National Farmers Union), CLA (Country Landowners' Association), National Parks and a broad range of other stakeholders in the context of the



Top: Stickle House Farm, Cumbria. The High Fells of Cumbria retain an exceptionally high survival of traditional farmsteads as in many of the other northern uplands. This significance is heightened by the fact that the farmsteads and working buildings, including their field barns, sit within a landscape which retains visible evidence for land use and settlement from the prehistoric period, including medieval and later enclosures (4FI).

Bottom: Lamonby House Farm, Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria. Large-scale courtyard plan farmsteads continued to develop within villages in some parts of England, as here at Burgh-by-Sands in Cumbria's Solway Basin. The white range is an exceptionally rare surviving example of a medieval house and barn range built of clay walling with cruck roof trusses (4FI) © Historic England, Damian Grady (both images)

recent government consultation on relaxation of Permitted Development Rights for redundant farm buildings. Recognition of the risk to unlisted but locally significant buildings through the deregulation has been central to the development of assessment guidance in all the areas selected for NHPP projects. The guidance for considering the options for change and identifying the historic character and significance of farmsteads and their buildings will be published in summer 2014 after extensive consultation and pilot work.

The Farmstead and Landscape Statements being prepared can now integrate understanding of settlement change (from the Future of Rural Settlement project) and national analysis of fieldscapes (see 4F2), and are regarded by Natural England as providing significant mutual support to their updating of the [NCA \(National Character Areas\)](#) profiles to which EH has contributed.

Farmsteads mapping (in areas such as the Derbyshire Peak, completed in April 2014) has added over 30,000 sites to HERs and provided a methodology for flagging heritage potential for planning and pre-application advice that can be applied to other rural building/site types.

Our work on rural settlement is demonstrating that small-scale accretive development (especially in landscapes of dispersed settlement) is a more significant driver for change than 'urban expansion'.

The [Kent Farmsteads Guidance](#), which aims to inform and achieve the sustainable development of farmsteads, including their conservation and enhancement, was launched in May 2014.

An Informed Conservation publication: [Alston Moor: Buildings in a North Pennines Landscape](#) was published in July 2013, characterising its significance in terms of its role in the lead and mineral mining industry and its place in the history of cross-border conflict between England and Scotland.

The analysis, synthesis and publication of a large sample of pre-1750 houses within the Rape of Hastings have been delayed because of funding issues. It is likely that the proposed Mendip Community Planning Guidance and a project on Lake District Villas may have to be abandoned as a result of staffing issues.

Three projects have been discontinued: two looking at the attrition and survival of vernacular houses in Whittlewood, Northamptonshire, as a result of illness; and Parks, Garden and Estates Assessment Guidance: Natural England has now completed guidance to inform agri-environment schemes, using the farmsteads assessment guidance developed for Higher Level Stewardship, which delivers much of the same objectives and effectively removed the need for this project.

The main focus of work on our **historic field systems** (4F2) has been a national assessment of the extent and condition of fieldscapes using existing datasets. This is nearing completion. The result will be a national database of fieldscapes and 159 individual statements of fields within each of England's National Character Areas, which can be used by individuals and communities to help achieve a more sustainable future for their area. This work is being done in close collaboration with Activity 4F1 and Natural England.

Three pieces of work are all providing local detail that helps underpin our national assessments. The [Hoo Peninsula](#) assessment has been completed and provides a very useful overview, using historic sources, of the development of fieldscapes in a marshland context. Two projects to gain a better understanding of the character of the prehistoric and Romano-British landscapes in Lowland Cornwall and in Heselton, North Yorkshire were severely delayed but are now progressing.

Linked to the work of Activity 3A3, a number of projects have been undertaken to better characterise the **Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeology** (4G1) of key areas. The wetland/dryland edge is a particularly significant landscape zone for understanding the paleoenvironmental context for Mesolithic occupation (lithic scatters) which has been addressed through two projects in the key areas of the Somerset Levels and the Middle Kennet Valley, due to be completed by the end of 2014, as well as a PhD investigating small wetlands in Surrey which is co-funded by the University of Reading. Work has also been commissioned to assess the condition of vulnerable deposits at the significant Palaeolithic site of Baker's

Hole, Kent, which as a Scheduled Monument and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) has provided an opportunity for joint working with Natural England's geoconservation team.

The response to a call for proposals to improve the quality of information about Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites and deposits in HERs was overwhelming; we have funded six projects (in South Yorkshire, Norfolk, Worcestershire, Essex; and HER elements of the Stour Basin and Middle Kennet projects above). These will enhance individual HERs and inform planning decisions, help us assess the scale of work required elsewhere and assist in the development of best practice.

The development of guidance on the use of appropriate dating techniques for assessing the chronology and significance of Pleistocene sites was delayed owing to shortage of staff resource but is now being taken forward. Proposed guidance on fissures has been delayed till the next plan period.

Ploughzone archaeology (4G2) has been restructured and refocused over the three years to provide a more logical sequence for its projects. The national review of ploughzone archaeology aims to provide the evidence base of the threats, issues and opportunities facing it; from this the guidance on evaluating and analysing ploughzone potential will be developed. Two projects were commissioned to feed into the review, the first looking at the representation of [ploughzone archaeology](#) data in HERs, the second to investigate and fieldwalk a complex of Neolithic and Bronze Age features in Hampshire (the [Damerham Archaeology Project](#)), to assess the distribution of artefacts and model a range of collection strategies. Both are almost complete and the National Review report should be circulated in summer 2014.

A [Collaborative Doctoral Partnership](#) at the University of Manchester, funded by the AHRC, is assessing the potential of ploughzone lithics scatters for the interpretation of the Mesolithic landscape.

Our [Portable Past](#) has been revised and re-issued, improving guidance for the surface recovery of artefacts.



The commissions team visiting Damerham Archaeology Project during fieldwork in the Summer of 2013 (4G2) © Historic England, Magnus Alexander

There has been good progress in identifying methodologies and specific site identification for our **marine heritage assets** (4H1) and this work is helping to inform marine planning and Marine Protection Zones under the Marine and Coastal Access Act. The survey of the drowned medieval town of [Dunwich](#) has led to a proposal for scheduling (subsequently declined). The [Lyonesse Project](#), a study of the evolution of the marine and coastal environment of the Scilly Isles, Cornwall, from the Holocene to the present, aimed to improve management and promote better understanding of the islands' historic environment and encourage local community engagement with the historic environment.

There has also been good progress in identifying and understanding significant wrecks leading to increased protection for a wide variety of sites from pre-1840 shipwrecks and First World War submarines through designation, partnership with others to increase licensee activity and access with Dive Trails, Management Plans for key sites, and identifying and managing the investigation of Heritage Crime.

The assessment of specific sites is being led by our Introduction to Heritage Assets: [Ships and](#)



Martin Davis of Ilfracombe and North Devon Sub-Aqua Club receives dive guides for the Iona II from Peta Knott of Wessex Archaeology © Wessex Archaeology

[Boats: Prehistory to 1840](#) , and includes three fascinating shipwrecks off the west coast of the Lizard peninsula, Cornwall: the [Rill Cove](#) – its exact identity unknown but possibly a light armed merchant ship of the early 17th century; the [Schiedam Prize](#) – a Dutch flyboat captured first by pirates and subsequently by a British ship, wrecked in 1684 on the return voyage from the evacuation of Tangiers; and the [St. Anthony](#) – owned by the King of Portugal and wrecked in 1527 whilst on a voyage from Flanders to Portugal with a cargo of high-status goods.

Organised visitor diver trails are a constructive way of managing public access to some sites designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. They can explain the history of the wreck and why it is protected. The following dive trails have been developed and opened: [HMS/ mAI](#) – the first British-designed and built submarine used by the Royal Navy and which sank in 1911 in only 39 feet (12 metres) of water in the Solent, Hampshire; [HMS Colossus](#) – a 74-gun warship built in 1787 and wrecked off the Isles of Scilly in 1798; and the [Iona II](#) – a paddle steamer which foundered off the east coast of Lundy in 1864 after setting sail to assist in the American Civil War.

Measure 5: Protection of Significance

Delivering protection for deserving buildings, sites and landscapes lies at the heart of the NHPP. Designation outcomes and activity for the last two years is covered in the [Designation Yearbooks](#).

The NHPP has fundamentally changed the way we go about our work. There has been a significant shift toward strategic designation (5A1) from responsive implemented during the Plan period: as of November 2012, the Designation Department implemented a three-criteria strategic sift process that has seen the proportion of cases rise from 36% strategic / 64% reactive in 2012-13 to 70% strategic / 30% reactive in 2013-14. A target of 75% strategic / 25% reactive is aimed for in 2014-15 for the end of the plan period. This shift towards strategic work has included a major focus on prioritised area-based assessments relating to NHPP Measure 3 and 4 projects working across the Designation asset range.

Designation outcomes may be summarised by yearly tallies:

- 2011-12: 507 additions to the [NHLE](#) (National Heritage List for England) (comprising 491 listing; 10 scheduling; 6 PAG (Parks and Gardens); 0 battlefields and 0 wrecks);
- 2012-13: 455 additions (comprising 403 listing; 44 scheduling; 7 PAG; 0 battlefields and 1 wreck);
- 2013-14: 424 additions (comprising 362 listing; 53 scheduling; 4 PAG; 3 battlefields and 2 wrecks).

The declining number is explained as a reflection of the increasing complexity of cases, the additional time required after the introduction of a 21 day consultation for each case, and the compilation of more substantial list entries.

There has also been a pronounced effort to contribute through strategic designation to government agendas (e.g. growth; better regulation; First World War), with a focus on strategic infrastructure projects (e.g. Ministry of Justice prison disposals; Defence Infrastructure Organisation defence disposals), and partnership working with national promoters (in particular with Network Rail



Coventry War Memorial, West Midland, Grade II* (5A1)
© Historic England

on the Great Western Mainline, Midland Mainline and Trans-Pennine Line rail electrification projects).

Strategic projects have covered the asset range, and have been selected where timely designation can help to make a positive impact on management. The following strategic projects were completed in 2013/14: railway signal boxes, prison disposals, further Cold War designations, Midland Mainline, Registered public parks upgrade, and post-war private houses. In addition, the following Defined Area Surveys (DAS) were completed in 2013/14: Taking Stock Shrewsbury; Taking Stock Plymouth and Salisbury; Taking Stock Gloucester; Louth, Lincolnshire; Rochdale, Greater Manchester; Horsham, West Sussex; Staddon Heights Defences, Plymouth, Devon; Compton Castle, Devon; Thornbury Castle, Gloucestershire; Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, Staffordshire; Birmingham Interwar Pubs; and north-east Rock Art. A

more strategic approach to the use of Minor Amendments to existing entries on the NHLE is being taken, targeting identified areas, e.g. telephone boxes, before users report errors. Excellent progress continues to be made in this area.

Discussions with the property sector on the [Penfold Agenda](#) (the Government's desire to improve the efficiency of the planning system) are ongoing. Changes to listing legislation introduced by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act ([ERRA](#)) have in particular been used to great effect, where more detailed list descriptions that clarify what is – and crucially, what is not – of special interest in a listed building are increasingly produced. This detail ensures that owners and developers have the greatest possible clarity as regards the significance of listed buildings, aiding their long-term management. Approximately 27% of positive decisions include ERRA-style revised List descriptions, of particular value to strategic projects, e.g. Ministry of Justice prison disposals. The effect of the removal of the planning application bar for Certificates of Immunity applications has led to a marked increase in such cases, particularly in the South. There remains a strong desire among developers for clarity as to the likely designation status of buildings and sites. Discussions exploring means of recovering costs for such works are advanced.

Excellent progress has been made on the **Upgrade and Modernisation of the Designation Base** (5A2) in this Plan period. The NHLE contains over 397,000 entries, and over 90% of these are more than 25 years old. This remains an important issue for the organisation overall, and one the NHPP is supremely well-placed to help us tackle.

Of particular note is that so far over 15,000 [Minor Amendments](#) have been processed, a simplified and speedier process having been agreed with DCMS to deal with them, and the new Unified Designation System (UDS – the database used to process designation cases and pass them securely to and from the DCMS) enabling these to be put through much more quickly than was previously possible. A similar approach has been agreed with DCMS as regards the reconciling of Old County Numbers (OCN – older List entries for scheduled monuments that do not have a full description),

where there is an ongoing review of OCN records by desk-top analysis with the aim of enhancing descriptions and adding a summary of importance. The project is not a comprehensive re-survey of these monuments from scratch and so we will not be carrying out consultation, but we will notify the relevant HERs in batches. There has also been good progress on the Demolished Buildings Project (DPB – partnership working with LPAs, (Local Planning Authorities) to identify buildings on the NHLE that have been demolished and so need to be removed from the List) with 132 demolished buildings delisted so far, and with more awaiting confirmation from the relevant LPA.

The publication of a comprehensive series of designation Selection Guides is complete as of May 2013, and available on the [EH website](#). In all there are 44 guides: 20 on building types; 18 on archaeological sites; 4 on designed landscapes; and 1 each on battlefields and ships and boats. There is also an ongoing programme to publish [Introductions to Heritage Assets](#) (IHAs) that provide accessible, authoritative, well-illustrated summaries of our current understanding of particular site types across the Designation range, especially those which until now have been little studied, for example the [Coastguard Stations](#), a short guide to the history

and development of this type of building in England. Many of these IHAs are an additional outcome of NHPP Measure 3 and 4 projects; others have been specially commissioned by independent experts.

Work to establish approaches to sites of human activity without structures in formal protection regimes remains on hold pending wider discussion. Central to this discussion is the National Importance Project that began in 2013. This project, undertaken in partnership with the ALGAO and DCMS, explores how EH might help historic environment services identify non-scheduled but nationally important archaeological sites.

Given the age of the lists, and the constant desire to seek the protection afforded by designation, we have to work reactively as well as strategically to external requests for **responsive designation** (5A3). This is a prominent area of corporate activity. Our success as expert advisers to DCMS is demonstrated by the fact that they accept 99.8% of our recommendations to designate. The average case turnaround time has also improved by an average of three weeks per case over the plan period.



St Mary's Lighthouse and cottages, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, Grade II (5A3) © Historic England



Folkestone harbour viaduct and swing bridge, Kent, Grade II (5A3) © Historic England

Supporting local communities in protecting heritage (5A4) has been achieved through the production and revision of guidance applicable both to local planning authorities and local communities (i.e. the [Good Practice Guide to Local Heritage Listing](#) and the [Pillars of the Community](#) guide), and is currently supporting the development of further case studies and guidance of community generated local lists through a project with Civic Voice.

Better use of resources such as Historic Environment Records (HERs) and the development of methodologies for integrating records generated locally by communities into county-based HERs have been encouraged. Working closely with Activity 5CI (Enhancing the Capabilities of Historic Environment Records) we have also explored how local groups can become more involved in the management and recording of significant heritage assets, developing methodologies for local groups to adapt to their own needs (examples include [Essex](#) and [Cheshire](#)), whilst also exploring ways of making certain types of heritage e.g. wreck sites more accessible to those who would normally have no, or limited, access, for example working with local museums, HERs and other interest groups on the London Recording project.

The development of HEAP (Historic Environment Action Plans) is being piloted in [East Devon](#). Its aim is to help communities understand the significance of heritage assets in their local areas in urban and rural environments and will lead to the development of HEAP guidance for other communities to use.

When the NHPP was launched in May 2011, a need for further guidance on the designation of local green spaces (as per NPPF) was considered a possibility. However, it appears there is no

requirement, at the moment, for any additional guidance on this issue, and most local authorities are taking forward this designation when required. The situation will be monitored and if it becomes apparent that supplementary guidance is required, we will look at this need again.

Work continues to develop **Heritage Partnership Agreements** (5B1) with owners and local planning authorities, although at a slower rate than initially hoped. There was some hiatus awaiting the law to change to allow statutory listed building HPAs. Now that the legislation is in place, EH has produced practical advice to support the setting up of [LBHPAs](#), and a training programme of over ten courses, covering all parts of the country, is in train.

As a consequence of the delays to the development of statutory HPAs, work on non-statutory HPAs and HPAs for non-designated assets has been put on hold, with the exception of the successful completion of a pilot study for the development of [HPAs for undesignated marine sites](#).

Our contribution to **underpinning local planning** processes (5B2) has had mixed results during the past three years. The Localism Act 2011 came into force in April 2012, and as a result all community based projects had to wait until then to get underway. Additionally other major changes to the planning system such as the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) also came in.

Effective support of neighbourhood planning has been a difficult task to address given so many unknowns and this was exacerbated by EH

restructuring. Rapid identification of what was needed led to two quick wins, the [Placecheck](#) revision (enabling local people to take the first steps in deciding how to improve an area) and our [Improve your Neighbourhood](#) webpages, giving advice on setting up Neighbourhood Development Plans. The [Lincoln Townscape Assessment Implementation Project](#) was completed in 2012: the project produced an Historic Townscape Characterisation which outlines the methodological approach used to document the inherited character of places that make up Lincoln and demonstrated how detailed knowledge of this character can enhance the ways in which the city is valued in the future.

[Bristol City Our Place](#) project has shown how to go out to harder to reach communities and work with them to understand their local heritage, and how local knowledge can feed back into the HER and local list.

A report on [Expanding the Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base](#) to Museums, Record Offices, Archives and HERs has raised many issues on how to get the public to use information sources on the historic environment beyond Internet searches, and how we ensure that they have someone to interpret the information they find.

Remarkably good progress has been made on **marine heritage management** (5B3) given the limited funding for this Activity. [Marine Spatial Planning and the Historic Environment](#), published in February 2013, informs EH about the international, European and UK interpretation of marine planning methodology and provides practical guidance on how the historic environment is best addressed within marine spatial planning. As well as the report, the project included a seminar on the topic, held in London in May 2012.

The Marine Licensing and the Marine Historic Environment communication strategy, which is close to completion, has been generally well received, but it potentially requires still further; more comprehensive information on the range of activities that are/are not licensable under the MCAA 2009 and the subsequent Exemption Orders (2011 and 2013).

A project on partnership development in assessing the marine historic environment was not taken forward owing to a lack of resources.

Building on the results of the (then) HPR Consistent HER (HCH) Strategy 2009-2015 and the subsequent implementation stage I [Developing Historic Environment Records for the 21st Century \(HER21\)](#) programme, support for **Historic Environment Records** (5C1) has focussed on promoting better standards of access, integration and content for historic environment data in Local Authorities. We have encouraged the development of new approaches to interoperability of information systems, data sharing, online access, coverage and greater engagement. This has been, and continues to be, successfully delivered through collaborative working with partners and stakeholders within EH and the sector. The development of the Heritage Information Access Strategy, which has HERs at its core, is an outcome which recognises the success of the Activity.

Successfully completed projects include: the development of GIS data standards for use in HERs in England; updating the [FISH \(Forum on Information Standards in Heritage\) Interoperability Toolkit](#) to help the sharing and validation of historic environment records; a series of HERs Local Engagement training workshops; a project to make the [Informing the Future of the Past guidelines for the historic environment available as a wiki](#), which allows multiple people to edit the contents, and for individual sections to be updated more easily. There are now 51 HERs searchable on the [Heritage Gateway](#) website.

Improving the data download functionality for HERs by enabling them to download up-to-date spatial and textual data on designated assets from the EH website has been seriously compromised as a result of lack of development resource due to New Model priorities.

Four projects were discontinued, mainly because the aims and objectives were transferred to, and delivered by other projects: developing skills and expertise in HERs; an HER21 project to prioritise HER data to create evidence bases of extant historic environment remains; enhancing modelling capability – characterisation element; and a HERs Local Heritage Conference.

Measure 6: Management of Planned Change in the Historic Environment

The positive management of change to protect and enhance the historic environment and support sustainable growth is mainly delivered in English Heritage through the National Planning and Conservation Department via the nine local offices around the country. Local authorities and other partners consult English Heritage on preparing policies for the local management of their historic environment and for individual applications that affect nationally designated heritage assets or their settings. This includes buildings, monuments, marine sites and landscapes. Our [Charter](#) has again been recently updated and is now in its 6th Edition. It sets out the service provided by English Heritage for those involved in changing or influencing change to the historic environment, and has been revised most recently to coincide with the implementation of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act. The Charter is recognised by Government as a model for other agencies. Our aim is to add value to the decision-making process through our specialist national expertise, delivered through local teams.

Our performance against targets in our Charter for the period from April 2013 to end of March 2014 is given in table 1.

During the plan period our performance against the deadlines for responses has increased. This increase in performance sits alongside an increase in the number of consultations received by English Heritage, and is demonstrated in table 2.

English Heritage is consulted by local authorities on **local development frameworks, area action plans, strategies, management plans and other strategic frameworks** (6A1). Our local teams are engaged on a day-to-day basis in providing advice including supporting the development of [Neighbourhood Plans](#). During 2012, English Heritage in London contributed to the Review of Community Involvement in Planning in London carried out by the London Assembly.

To speed up the planning system and ensure that our advice can help owners at the earliest possible stage, English Heritage encourages early pre-application consultation by owners, developers, local authorities and others prior to the submission of applications for change. We provide this **pre-application advice** (6A2) in two ways, as initial pre-application advice, or as formal pre-application advice through the planning system. Early engagement to identify historic environment issues enables more efficient and informed decisions and can identify opportunities for enhancement that can inform the eventual design approach. The number

Casework Type	Numbers	Responses within deadline	Percentage within deadline
Listed Building Consent	6,503	6,438	99.0%
Planning	7,993	7,910	99.0%
SMC	1,241	1,226	98.8%
Ecclesiastical Exemption	561	555	98.9%
Section 42 Licences	150	147	98.0%
Conservation Area Consent	369	359	97.3%
LB Consent Referrals	14	14	100.0%
Pre-Application work	1,110	1,066	95.9%
Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 SI Licences	101	101	100.0%
Land Use Planning cases	1,984	1,918	96.7%
Marine Licences	591	558	94.4%
Total	20,617	20,292	98.4%

Table 1: 6A1-6A5: Summary of national EH casework activity and response time against agreed targets (1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014).

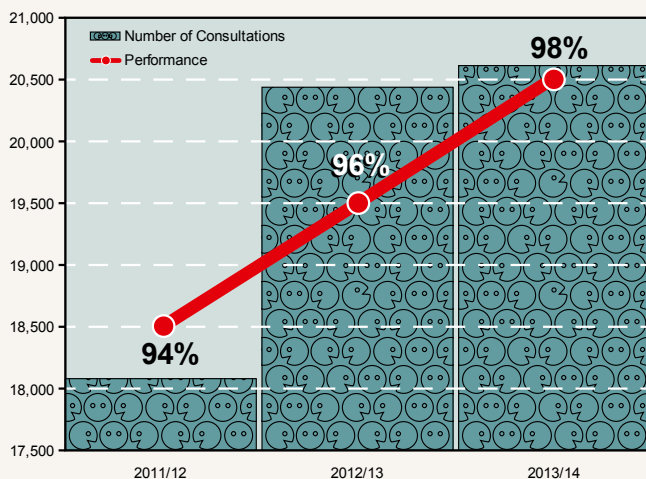
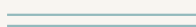


Table 2: 6A1-6A5: Casework performance and number of consultations 2011-2014

of pre-application consultations received by English Heritage has grown throughout the plan period supporting this approach, as shown in the table 3.

An example of this constructive conservation approach from the plan period is the Grade I listed Central Station in Newcastle, where our local team worked alongside the design team to ensure that conservation issues of glazing in the portico and remodelling internal space were resolved before a formal application was submitted. Working with Newcastle City Council we were able to respond flexibly to fixed funding timetables to enable a scheme which provides a better welcome to the city and a major increase in retail space.



EH provides advice and guidance on works planned on, and damage to, **scheduled monuments** (6A3) and administers the scheduled monument consent process on behalf of DCMS. In August 2012 we dealt with an application from the Church of England for scheduled monument consent relating to the Old Palace in the Worcester Cathedral precinct, enabling the Cathedral to provide improved facilities for staff and visitors while remaining sympathetic to the fabric of the building.



EH continues to offer timely and expert advice to local planning authorities as part of the **formal planning process** (6A4). Over the plan period this work has spanned great variety. An example is Freeman’s Reach in Durham where English Heritage provided advice on a planning application for major

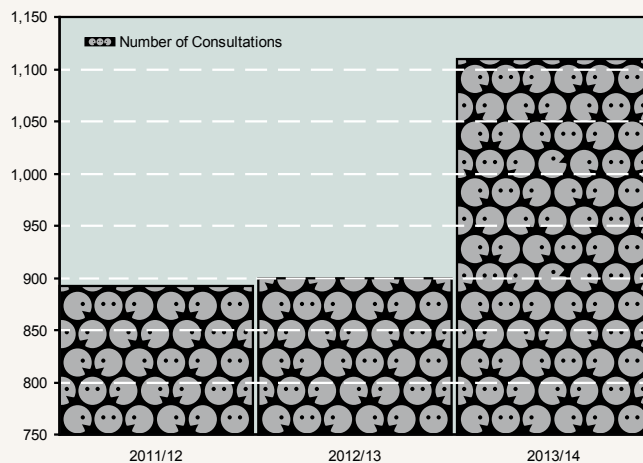


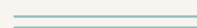
Table 3: 6A2: Number of pre-application consultations 2011-2014

new mixed use development on a highly sensitive site within the city centre conservation area and affecting the setting of the Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site. Similarly, in Halifax English Heritage agreed key improvements to a scheme to construct a library on a sensitive town centre site. On the site of a partly demolished chapel and connecting the Grade II* Square Church Spire to the Grade I Piece Hall, the revised scheme announces the presence of the Piece Hall from the railway station and provides high quality improvements to the public realm. With these improvements, English Heritage supported the revised proposals.

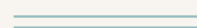
Curatorial advice on archaeological interest in London is uniquely hosted by English Heritage. GLAAS manages and develops the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the capital and the archaeological advisers provide expert advice to 31 of the 33 London Boroughs.



English Heritage supports the care and management of **historic places of worship** (6A5), through advice to exempt denominations.



English Heritage also supports management of change in the marine environment through its Marine Planning Unit which is consulted on **marine development control** (6A6). Advice is handled by the Marine Planning Unit and local Development Management Teams.



During the Plan period, EH's National Planning and Conservation Department restructured, seeing the creation of a dedicated [Heritage at Risk \(HAR\)](#) team in every local office, supported by a national team, as part of the **strategic condition monitoring** programme (6B1). This change has meant a focus on delivering the national HAR strategy, the aim of which is to reduce the overall number of designated sites at risk or vulnerable to becoming so. Nineteen pilot projects exploring the way to gather data on Grade II listed buildings were a success and have informed the development of a national framework. Part of the methodology included testing the use of volunteers to carry out condition surveys, and the [High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands](#) areas provides an example of the very encouraging results. Through the HAR programme, EH continues to monitor the condition of England's heritage assets and publish an annual account through the Official Statistics and the [HAR Register](#).

Data gathering on the strategic condition of heritage assets in English waters in support of designation casework and the reduction of risk to marine sites has continued.

EH's advisory service to HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) on their [tax incentive scheme for heritage property](#) has continued, with steady progress being achieved against the agreed targets for assessment and monitoring. This provides the basis for effective partnerships with (mostly private) owners through which EH can gauge the threats and risks to historic estates and pass on national expertise to promote the exemplary management of an important category of complex and significant historic environment assets.

A proposed programme to survey and assess the gradual loss of significance in conservation areas has been discontinued. It has been decided that it would be better to focus on the impact to cathedral cities; funding has therefore been transferred to Activity 2A1 (development pressure).



Diver entering the water to survey the designated wreck HMS Invincible which ran aground in the Solent in 1758 (6B1) © Mark Beattie Edwards

Measure 7: Managing Major Holdings of Historic Assets

English Heritage operates an **Asset Management Plan** (7AI) to manage and prioritise the repair and maintenance of our historic properties. We base this plan on a detailed understanding of their condition and significance. This understanding allows us to address and predict current and future conservation needs within the resources we have available. The first AMP identified that there were £52 million priority repairs associated with the historic fabric of the buildings.

The Asset Management Plan sets out how the budget for the Conservation Maintenance Programme is prioritised across the Estate. It recognises that the funding available of circa £16 million per annum falls significantly short of enabling the identified priority of backlog repairs to be addressed. The approach adopted is to ensure the first call of funding is allocated to allow all cyclical maintenance to be carried out for buildings and grounds, to ensure the sites are protected and secured and an annual budget for emergency response is available. This approach to funding allocation is now well embedded and is working well. This leaves a budget of less than £4 million per annum to address urgent and backlog repair work. The AMP IT system enables this remaining budget to be prioritised across the Estate, ensuring a consistent approach for producing annual work programmes to address the most pressing backlog repairs aimed at protecting historic fabric and highly significant interiors and collections.

A key approach has been to identify a single large conservation project at one of our “Top Ten” properties (those with the highest maintenance spend historically, largely roofed sites with collections, and which are situated predominantly in London and the South East, along with Wrest Park and Audley End in the East) alongside a programme of small (less than 50k) and medium-sized (c.200k) projects, all addressing urgent or priority defects. This allows us to tackle the majority of defects at a single property at the same time ensuring we get good value for money, whilst also tackling defects across a broad range of sites. Where possible, repair work at sites is

programmed to fit in with and support major Capital Investment projects. The three major sites where we have adopted this approach very successfully are:

- [Kenwood House](#), Hampstead, London, which re-opened in 2013 after an 18-month programme of conservation and re-presentation works of the roofs and external masonry. With the help of an HLF grant we have conserved and re-presented important internal rooms, including the highly significant Adam Library, to great acclaim.
- [Osborne House](#), Isle of Wight: the focus here was on the conservation and repair work at Swiss Cottage. The requirement to remove the collection in the building to allow the external and internal repair work to be carried out enabled the conservation and repair of the collection and artifacts. With the help of an HLF grant we were able to reopen the Swiss Cottage with new interpretation and presentation as part of the wider Childhood at Osborne project.
- The 2009 condition survey at [Audley End House](#), Essex, identified that the roof was on the point of failure and the windows and masonry were in urgent need of conservation. Three phases of repair work have been planned and implemented over 2012-15 at a cost of circa £1.5 million. The first two phases of repair work were planned and carried out alongside the major capital project to open up the nursery wing and the coal store to the public for the first time.

The information we have about the condition of the buildings set out in the Asset Management Plan has been important in facilitating discussions with government that resulted in the New Model Proposals (see [New Model Proposal, Summary Business Case](#)). The current English Heritage organisation will be split into two and a new Charity, the English Heritage Trust, will take on full responsibility for running the National Heritage Collection (NHC) of historic sites and monuments under the terms of a licence agreement. At the outset the government will invest £80 million in the new charity. The charity will use this

investment, plus monies raised from third parties, to remedy conservation defects and to continue to improve the visitor experience through investment in presentation of the properties and visitor facilities.

The second programme of condition surveys will be completed early in 2015. The second Asset Management Plan (2015-18) will set out the current condition of the buildings and sites in the care of the charity and confirm the first three year programme of conservation and repairs using the additional monies made available from the government investment.

In summary the Asset Management Plan has provided us with excellent data about the condition of our estate, and improved our decision-making and prioritisation over the last three years and facilitated additional funding allowing us to address the priority defect backlog.

Good progress has been made on projects on **English Heritage properties** (7A2) over the last three years. Two major monographs have been produced and are awaiting publication: one on the 2007 investigations at Silbury Hill, Wiltshire, the largest human-made mound in Europe (complemented by the popular book [The Story of Silbury Hill](#)); the other documenting the research and repair programme at Apethorpe Hall, a Grade I listed country house in Northamptonshire.

Two projects informed the development of the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre and its displays: a synthesis of the archaeological evidence for the environment and economy of the prehistoric period in the [Stonehenge landscape](#); and conservation work on the artefacts and materials to be loaned for display from various museums.

Other completed projects include: investigations to support the restoration of the [Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth Castle](#), Warwickshire; the investigation of the fortifications known as [Garrison Walls](#), on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, which are threatened by coastal erosion; and the survey in support of the restoration of the East Parterre at [Witley Court](#), Worcestershire.

A proposed project for works to inform the re-presentation of the Elizabethan house at Kirby Hall, Northamptonshire was abandoned as it failed to obtain HLF funding. Nonetheless, the work put towards the proposal (including documentary analysis, tree-ring dating of the surviving timbers, building and archaeological evaluations, and a study of the masons' marks) provided important new information about the development of the site and fed into its new conservation management plan.

Preserving English Heritage archive holdings

(7A3) was added to the NHPP partway through the Plan period. This has concentrated on two projects: the replacement of outdated plant for EH's Swindon archive store, ensuring it is compliant with current legislation about permitted coolants. The new plant operates significantly more efficiently, maintaining the vaults within the required temperature and humidity levels, and means that the archive material is stored in stable and appropriate conditions.

A condition audit of the EH archive holdings in Swindon has improved understanding of conservation issues in our collections, and has resulted in an action plan which is being taken forward.

Preservation of English Heritage historic artefacts and interiors

(7A4) was another Activity added in the latter part of the review period. During the Plan period, we further developed the Heritage Objects Management System (HOMS) to capture information about the artefacts in our care, including location data and conservation history, and gathered data to feed into our 10-year cyclical National Collections Risk Assessment and Condition Audit. Our [State of Collection](#) report was used to prioritise annual preventive conservation programmes; deliver prioritised conservation treatment programmes for key aspects of our collections and develop specific conservation research priorities to feed into Activity 2C2 (see above).

Measure 8: Help and Advice for Owners

During the plan period English Heritage has established dedicated Heritage at Risk teams (November 2012) as part of a review of the National Planning and Conservation Department. These teams work with owners and partner organisations to find solutions for Heritage at Risk. The latest Heritage at Risk Register was published in October 2013 and demonstrated a decline in the number of sites on the Register since 2012 (5,700 compared to 5,831 in 2012), and that English Heritage remains on track to meet the target of saving 25% of the sites that were on the Register in 2010 by 2015. English Heritage works to remove these sites for positive reasons by using a combination of advice, support, partnership working and grant aid with owners and other stakeholders.

Grant aid is therefore just one of the tools that the Heritage at Risk teams call upon in order to achieve their objectives. The national priorities for English Heritage grant aid in this context are:

- Significant elements of the historic environment at risk; and/or
- Activities that strengthen the ability of the sector to reduce or avoid risk to the historic environment by understanding, managing and conserving.

The table below shows the value of grant aid that English Heritage has offered during the plan period.

Scheme/Type	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14	
	No	Value (£M)	No	Value (£M)	No	Value (£M)
<i>Secular</i>	117	£8.20	116	£8.95	35	£2.27
<i>Areas</i>	25	£1.59	14	£0.87	10	£0.51
<i>Places of Worship</i>	1	£0.05	1	£0.04	1	£0.75
<i>S17 Management Agreements</i>	88	£0.50	74	£0.41	23	£0.15
<i>Capacity Building</i>	66	£4.81	28	£0.75	7	£0.36
<i>War Memorials</i>	6	£0.03	4	£0.04	5	£0.08
	303	£15.18	237	£11.06	81	£4.12*

*Due to the high level of offer in previous years, 2013/14 showed a lower amount offered however a comparable amount was spent on grant projects in 2013/14 (£11.8M) as in the previous year (£14.0M)

Table 4: 8A1 to 8A4: Summary of grant aid offered 2011/2 to 2013/14



Insertion of sluice to control water levels in Cossington duck decoy, Sedgemoor. Somerset County Council Historic Environment Services provided archaeological supervision whilst the restoration works were undertaken by RSPB volunteers and the landowner (8A1). © Somerset County Council

It is worth noting that variance in the amount of offer made does not necessarily reflect variance in the amount spent. During 2013/14 a smaller sum was offered, however, total spend was similar to 2012/13 with significant forward commitment meaning less offer could be made.

A critical role for the local Heritage at Risk Teams is **providing advice and technical support** (8A1) to owners, local authorities and other grant giving bodies. Our specialist expertise is used to help put together projects and design approaches which can tackle Heritage at Risk. An example of new work in this area is that in the last year English Heritage has been providing technical advice to the HLF on

their new [Grants for Places of Worship Scheme](#). A more specific example is that, in the South West, where the lion's share of scheduled monuments at risk are situated, the local team provides advice to Natural England on including such sites in Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) schemes to secure their future. One HLS proposal that has involved English Heritage staff will conserve a post-medieval [duck decoy](#) (an artificial pond for managing waterfowl) in the Somerset levels and give it an exciting new use as part of a landmark project to reintroduce the Great Crane to this wetland habitat. During the plan period English Heritage has also revised and updated its highly regarded series of conservation handbooks, [Practical Building Conservation](#) (first published in 1988).

Building capacity (8A2) is an important strand of English Heritage's grant giving role. This includes support for the National Amenity Societies in providing statutory conservation advice to local authorities. Other organisations supported include the Heritage Alliance, the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Prince's Regeneration Trust, the Historic Chapels Trust and the Battlefields Trust. In addition, the National Capacity Building programme supports projects such as the Heritage Open Days Partnership, grants for the repair and conservation of war memorials, SPAB's free technical conservation advice line and a joint project between the Garden History Society and the Association of Garden Trusts to develop skills within county gardens trusts. Locally, in the South East, English Heritage has held a number of workshops to help communities understand and characterise their local historic environment, to inform a range of activities from local listing projects to heritage crime initiatives.

English Heritage helps to reduce the risk to nationally important heritage assets by giving a range of **repair grants** (8A3). These grants range from repair grants to sites, buildings and landscapes, grants for war memorials, and conservation area schemes. During the 2013/4 financial year English Heritage spent £11.8million on these grants. One of the greatest success stories of how the Constructive Conservation approach can help with



Astley Hall, Warwickshire, before restoration and after restoration (8A3) © Historic England

Heritage at Risk is the RIBA Stirling Prize winner [Astley Castle](#) in Warwickshire. This Grade II* medieval manor had been lying in ruins since a fire gutted it in 1978, and was on the 'Heritage at Risk' Register for years before being transformed into holiday accommodation for the Landmark Trust. English Heritage gave grant aid, and supported the innovative approach to insert new work into the old.

English Heritage exceptionally undertakes the **acquisition of heritage assets at risk** (8A4) aiming to complete repairs and transfer ownership into long-term beneficial use. During the plan period this has included work at a variety of sites including [Ditherington Flax Mill](#) in Shrewsbury and [Harmondsworth Barn](#), Middlesex. At Harmondsworth the contract works started on site as planned in April 2014 and are making good progress. The project is being used to pilot how skills and training can be incorporated as part of a works contract.

The main aim of the **funding of last resort for investigations** (8A5) has been to ensure that nationally significant sites, structures or finds under imminent threat of loss within (where unpredicted) or beyond the planning process may be recorded and their significance retained in the form of knowledge. A secondary aim has been to ensure that investigation archives at risk of fragmentation or loss are rescued and placed in an ordered and accessible fashion in public repositories. A total of 290 projects were active during the plan period. Overall, the Activity programme is running very well and legacy closure is well advanced as planned.

The impact of emergency investigation assistance in support of the planning process has seen the completion of some very significant rescue-based projects, such as: [Number 1 Poultry](#), the final digital archiving stage of a huge (£3M) project to support the excavation of 7 metres of urban stratigraphy in the heart of the City of London; the analysis and publication of a detailed architectural history of Birmingham's magnificent City Hall based on investigation during a huge conservation programme; and the conservation of eight Bronze-Age log-boats revealed at [Must Farm](#), Cambridgeshire during excavations in advance of aggregate extraction. This is

a funding source welcomed by developers who have acted responsibly within the planning process, and it is one only EH/Historic England can currently provide.

Similarly, emergency investigation assistance for threatened heritage outside the planning process remains very significant. Key exemplar projects include the [Staffordshire Hoard](#) (started July 2009, analysis now nearing final stages), the rescue funding of which permitted a major public acquisition programme (£3.285m raised); and the funding (jointly with European funding) of the rescue excavations of [Star Carr](#), possibly the country's most famous Mesolithic site, deteriorating due to changing soil conditions.

Funding of last resort remains essential. The collapse of a commercial archaeological unit, Marches Archaeology, in 2006, combined with the sudden tragic death of its proprietor put dozens of archives from several years of commercially funded excavations at high risk of dispersal, loss or destruction, so EH funded an emergency review and transfer project between 2010 and 2012 to ensure that the archives were deposited in the correct public museums so that knowledge and records were not lost.



Project Manager Dave Parham with the carving on the rudder of the Swash Channel Wreck, the remains of a large north-west European armed merchant ship wrecked in Poole Harbour c.1635 (8A5) © Bournemouth University

Table 5 - Activities at a Glance

The table below provides details of the number of projects per Activity and their status as of May 2014. Note that the figures below include new projects incorporated into the Activities during the past three years, and individual projects generated from larger programmes of work. (Please also note that some Activities are not represented here since they did not have any projects associated with them.)

Status	Description
GREEN	Project proceeding as planned and within anticipated deadlines and resource allocations. This category covers the majority of the projects included in the NHPP on its launch in May 2011 and which are due to be completed by the end of the Plan period, March 2015, together with a number of projects which have been incorporated into the Plan since. It also includes some projects which may have been rescheduled with agreement from all parties to extend into the next Plan period.
AMBER	Project has some issues which are affecting, or will potentially affect, delivery within anticipated deadlines and resource allocations.
RED	Project has significant issues which will seriously jeopardise delivery.
COMPLETED (COMP.)	Number of projects completed.
DISCONTINUED (DISC.)	Projects discontinued or closed without being completed (or started). This may be because of a lack of resource, or the project has been replaced by a more appropriate project.

Act. No	Measure 2: Strategic Threat Assessment Activity Title	Original No. of projects May 2011	Green	Amber	Red	Comp.	Disc.
2A1	Development Pressure	7	5	3		5	
2A2	Resolving impact of carbon challenge on built heritage	7	26	1	1	4	
2B1	Tackling neglect	4	4	2			
2B2	Heritage crime	4	2			6	
2B3	Recreational activities	2		1			
2C1	Major environmental threats	16	6	1		4	3
2C2	Attritional environmental threats	22	13	6	2	12	2
2D1	Agricultural and forestry impacts	10	1	1		6	1
2D2	Marine exploitation impacts	4	3			2	
2D3	Energy generation impacts	5	1	1		1	2
2D4	Minerals extraction impacts	14	5	2		8	2
2D5	Materials supply loss	2	1	1	1	1	
2E1	Heritage management, conservation and craft skills shortages	6	8			11	
2E2	Capacity loss in local authorities	14	5			9	1
Total		117	80	19	4	69	11

Act. No	Measure 3: Recognition and Identification of the Potential Resource Activity Title	Original No. of projects May 2011	Green	Amber	Red	Comp.	Disc.
3A1	Unknown marine assets and landscapes	9	5	1	1	7	
3A2	Unknown coastal assets	14	4			12	1
3A3	Deeply buried/subterranean Pleistocene and Early Holocene archaeology	13	6	5	2	2	
3A4	Identification of terrestrial assets via non-intrusive survey	41	9	12	1	31	1
3A5	Identification of wetland/waterlogged sites	19	1	1		13	
Total		96	25	19	4	65	2

Act. No	Measure 4: Assessment of Character and Significance Activity Title	Original No. of projects May 2011	Green	Amber	Red	Comp.	Disc.
4A1	Historic Towns and Suburbs	36	21	8	1	14	2
4A2	Later twentieth-century heritage	12	6	1		3	1
4A3	Historic ports, dockyards, harbours and coastal resorts	15	7	1		3	6
4A4	Public, civic and communal buildings	10	4			4	
4B1	Historic water management assets	7		3		2	
4B2	Traditional industry, modern industry, mining and associated housing	15	6			6	2
4B3	Transport and communications	5	2			5	
4C1	Sport and entertainment buildings and landscapes	4	1			2	2
4D1	Places of worship	19	8	6		9	
4D2	Churchyards, cemeteries and burial grounds	6	3	3			
4E1	Battlefields	6	1	1		3	
4E2	Twentieth-century military heritage	11	10	1		2	1
4F1	Rural historic buildings and their settings	12	3	10		4	5
4F2	Field systems	6	1	2		1	
4G1	Pleistocene and Early Holocene archaeology	5	6			3	1
4G2	Ploughzone Archaeology	4	6			1	
4H1	Submerged heritage assets and landscapes	11	6	1		6	
Total		184	91	37	1	68	20

Act. No	Measure 5: Protection of Significance Activity Title	Original No. of projects May 2011	Green	Amber	Red	Comp.	Disc.
5A4	Supporting local communities in protecting significant heritage assets	10	4	1		5	
5B1	Heritage partnership agreements and model management plans	8	7			2	
5B2	Underpinning local planning processes	8	1	1		7	
5B3	Developing marine heritage management structures	3	1			1	1
5C1	Enhancing the capabilities of historic environment records	12	14	1	1	6	2
Total		41	27	3	1	21	3

Act. No	Measure 6: Management of Planned Change in the Historic Environment Activity Title	Original No. of projects May 2011	Green	Amber	Red	Comp.	Disc.
6B1	Strategic condition monitoring	5	6			26	1
Total		5	6			26	1

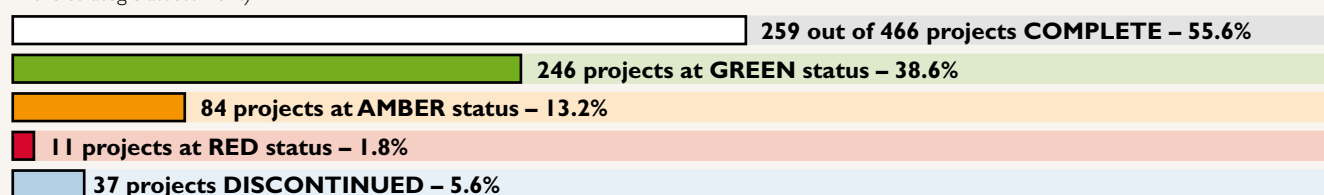
Act. No	Measure 7: Managing Major Holdings of Heritage Assets Activity Title	Original No. of projects May 2011	Green	Amber	Red	Comp.	Disc.
7A2	Managing change at English Heritage historic properties	21	17	6	1	8	
7A3	Preservation of English Heritage archive holdings	2				2	
Total		23	17	6	1	10	0

Act. No	Measure 8: Help and Advice for Owners Activity Title	Original No. of projects May 2011	Green	Amber	Red	Comp.	Disc.
8A5	Offsetting loss through knowledge dividend	193	43	32	14	96	8
Total		193	43	32	14	96	8

GRAND TOTAL		Original No. of projects May 2011	Green	Amber	Red	Comp.	Disc.
Total		659	289	116	25	355	45

659 projects at start of Plan (including those of 8A5 which were treated as one programme within the reporting process) – May 2011.

Progress as at May 2014 (percentages calculated exclude the projects from Activity 8A5 as this a responsive programme which should not be included in the strategic assessment):



830: cumulative number of projects (including Completed projects and projects added - including 8A5 projects - since May 2011)

Supporting Actions: Making the NHPP work

There are also a number of fundamental cross-cutting activities without which any joint efforts at protection are destined to fail. These vital activities do not of themselves protect our heritage but they are of such particular importance to the Plan that they need clear recognition. They are called Supporting Actions.

A) Socio-economic research

Sector intelligence research (A1) – the functioning and health of the heritage sector. Work includes an examination of the structures and outlook of organisations involved in the cultural and sporting sectors (including heritage). This work is ongoing and is in collaboration with DCMS and its non-departmental public bodies.

[Heritage Counts 2012](#), produced by the Historic Environment Forum, examined the characteristics that contribute to the resilience of organisations involved with heritage and provided a 10-year overview of the heritage sector as a whole. In December 2013 HLF produced their annual research [review](#), a précis of new research published during the course of the year. The report covered four areas:

- Valuing heritage – studies looking at the public's attitudes towards heritage and the ways that people value heritage;
- Heritage visits – both the numbers of people visiting heritage across the MLA, historic building, parks, countryside and IMT sectors, and the quality of their experience;
- Social benefits of heritage projects;
- Economic benefits of heritage.

English Heritage has compiled specific work to inform skills and training needs and to understand local authority capacity (see 2E1/2 above). English Heritage and CCSkills commissioned a survey to assess overall skills in the cultural heritage sector which was reported on in [Heritage Counts 2013](#). In partnership with the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, English Heritage collects data on the level of historic

environment expertise available to local government. The data for 2014 can be compared to [2012 and earlier](#). Already mentioned under Measure 2, but of particular significance are the results of a [review of the archaeological profession in England](#).

[Heritage Counts 2014](#) brings together evidence to demonstrate the value and impact of heritage in terms of its cultural, social and economic contribution to our national welfare. It is mainly concerned with demonstrating the value and impact of the built historic environment. The report quantifies overall levels of participation in heritage, perceptions of and attitudes to it among members of the public. It then goes on to examine three different types of heritage: individual impacts such as pleasure and fulfilment; community impacts such as community cohesion; and economic impacts such as job creation and tourism.

Understanding the **social values** placed upon heritage (A2) is a vital underpinning activity for shaping the NHPP. English Heritage commissioned BOP Consulting to facilitate a national consultation with experts in under-represented areas of heritage between May-June 2012. Their report of the responses to that consultation and the EH response can be found [here](#).

Our work to examine **economic value** (A3) has included research on the effects of conservation areas on house prices and the attitudes of conservation area residents to the planning system; the commercial uses of listed buildings and the characteristics of their listed building consent applications (both forthcoming); and the value of marine archaeology (specifically wreck sites) to local economies is being explored. Assessments of the knowledge dividend of commercially funded historic environment investigations have shown the magnitude of the benefits being realised through commercially funded excavations (e.g. Holbrook, N. 2011. 'Assessing the contribution of commercial archaeology to the study of Roman Essex, 1990 - 2004'. *Essex Soc. for Archaeol. and Hist.*)

B) Capacity-building

Training and skills activities (B1) are being undertaken to address skills shortages, complementing those provided directly by specific Activities (see 2B2 and 2E1 above). The EH [HELM](#) training programme has continued to deliver a range of training courses and events on topics such as:

- Asset Transfer;
- Stopping the Rot;
- Energy Efficiency and the Green Deal;
- Heritage Values;
- Marine Planning;
- Heritage at Risk;
- Heritage Crime;
- ERRA 2013;
- Constructive Conservation: How Heritage Works and Enabling Development (for example, in late 2013 a series of courses enabled 205 delegates to look at the impact of development in rural areas);
- National Planning Policy Framework guidance;
- Easy Access to Historic Buildings and Landscapes (delivered with the Centre for the Accessible Environment);
- Decision Making: Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings (delivered with the Centre for the Sustainable Environment);
- Local Listing events in 2013 which provided 140 places for interested parties,
- Understanding the changes to Building Consent (ERRA) and Assessing the impact of change on the historic environment (NPPF) courses which provided 210 places.

Numerous short courses covering a variety of subjects have been provided, including:

- OUDCE (Oxford University Department for Continuing Education) courses on archaeological survey;
- Flooding and Flood Risk Management and the Historic Environment;

- Scientific Techniques to help us understand the Significance of Buildings;
- Understanding and Recording Historic Buildings.

Science based disciplines were well covered with short courses on zooarchaeology; human bone, animal bone, faunal remains (undergraduate modules at the University of Liverpool); charcoal and wood identification.

Technical courses included a successful five-day Measured Survey Summer School at Kenilworth Castle addressing survey techniques, their application and the procurement of survey through image and laser based survey, architectural and landscape survey techniques and photographing cultural heritage; specialist training at the International Aerial Archaeology Training School in Denmark as part of the [Archaeolandscapes Europe](#) project; the use of laser scanning and Structure from Motion for Local Authority archaeologists.

The first cohort of three collaborative PhD studentships at University College London, Leicester and Manchester universities are well underway. Partnerships between AHRC and English Heritage, these are looking at particular subjects identified as priorities within the NHPP or our wider corporate plan. They cover research on:

- 'Application of Covers to Conserve Historic Marble and Metal Monuments' (NHPP 2C2);
- 'Religious Heritage in Transition: Sikh Places of Worship in England' (NHPP 4D1);
- 'Defining the potential of Ploughzone Lithic Scatters for interpretation of the final Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Landscape (NHPP 4G2).

The current programme includes a total of nine studentships.

Capacity-building through **direct funding** aid (B2) is provided by EH through its National Capacity-Building programme, mainly aimed at voluntary organisations (see 8A3 above), but also through support to local authority professional groups such as ALGAO.



A selection of guidance and research framework publications whose production has been funded in support of NHPP activities. All are available to download free from our website (B3). © Historic England

Work on **standards, guidance and advice** (B3) has included our guidance development strategy which has delivered consistency of drafting, formalised consultation, formalised charging policy (they will be free online), a single catalogue, and a forward programme in support of developing new resources for local government, researchers and communities.

In addition to the guidance produced as part of specific Activities or Supporting Actions and reported on elsewhere in this overview (e.g. energy efficiency guides – 2A2; heritage crime – 2B2; designation Selection Guides and Introductions to Heritage Assets - 5A2), English Heritage together with sector partners has published almost one hundred guidance documents during the first three years of the NHPP. It is not possible to itemise all that guidance here but the following provides a flavour of the broad range of topics covered:

The [Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials](#), published in March 2014 with the War Memorials Trust, provides guidance and best practice on the understanding, assessment, planning and implementation of conservation work on war memorials as well as their ongoing maintenance and protection.

[House mice and rodents in historic buildings and museums](#) provides guidance on how to detect the presence of rodents, the type of problems caused by house mice in historic buildings, and suggests strategies for early detection and control.

[Conserving Historic Water Meadows](#). This guide aims to promote wider awareness of the rich heritage of water meadows. It is intended primarily for nature conservation groups, farmers, landowners,

communities or individuals undertaking habitat 'restoration' work on historic water meadows. The guide describes the archaeological remains which may be encountered and highlights their importance as part of the historic landscape. It demonstrates how these remains, managed sensitively, can provide considerable benefits for wildlife.

[English Heritage's Strategy for working with places of worship 2013-2018](#). This strategy has been developed to promote the value of places of worship as part of England's heritage, support the communities which look after them and support creative and viable ways of using them.

[Caring for our Shipwreck Heritage](#) provides guidelines for the first aid treatment and conservation management of finds recovered from designated wreck sites resulting from licensed investigations.

[Multi-light imaging techniques](#) for heritage applications gives practical guidance on an innovative recording technique which provides enhanced surface relief, a powerful resource for the study of faint surface detail. The technology has been successfully used as an analytical tool in many heritage fields of study, such as epigraphy, numismatics and art conservation, as well as in the study of ancient rock art.

[Midas Heritage](#), the UK Historic Environment data standard is a British cultural heritage standard for recording information on buildings, archaeological sites, shipwrecks, parks and gardens, battlefields, areas of interest and artefacts.

An extension of this activity is the development of **research resources** (B4), for which English Heritage has prepared a Strategy which will guide the development of a new generation of Research Frameworks and provide a prioritisation process for Reference Resources, which is based on need, timeliness and value for money.

Research Frameworks provide an overview of the current state of knowledge and understanding about the historic environment, any gaps in this knowledge and a list of potential research areas and strategic priorities. They can cover a specific geographical area, period or theme; for example the Regional Research Frameworks. **Reference Resources** include a wide range of typologies, classifications, thesauri and works of synthesis covering such topics as archaeological and building objects, types and materials. They are the essential building blocks of historic environment research.

The first step in implementing the strategy has been a major initial [review](#) which had over 400 consultation respondents: its findings show that Research Frameworks are generally valued by the majority of current users, however the breadth and complexity of the historic environment sector, coupled with the diverse needs, remits and specialisms of the target audience, means that a root and branch reform is likely to be the only way to ensure more regular and consistent use of frameworks in the future.

EH's role in **scientific and technical development** (B5) has been set out in the English Heritage [Science Strategy](#) (EHSS). Launched in October 2013, it takes up the challenges set out in the [National Heritage Science Strategy](#) and lays out the priorities for EH to 2015 and beyond. The actions detailed in the strategy address three broad themes or topics incorporating the 9 objectives of the National Heritage Science Strategy and linked to existing projects and activities identified within the National Heritage Protection Plan. These are:

1. Understanding materials and environments,
2. Raising awareness, improving methods, access to information and advice,
3. Capacity, capability and public benefit.

In addition to these 3 topics the EHSS also details a number of overarching actions about how we can work more effectively and efficiently. These have included developing a Science Network to bring together EH scientists to share skills and ideas as well as establish future priorities, setting up a Building Information Modelling (BIM) special interest group, and reviewing EH use of scientific literature in conjunction with EH Library staff leading to cost savings and improved access to resources for staff.

As a member of the [National Heritage Science Forum](#) EH has helped establish the [NHSF kit Catalogue](#) as a means of facilitating the sharing of equipment and contributed to a number of government consultations on science policy and infrastructure.

The following is a small selection of science-based projects undertaken as part of the NHPP and falling under the mantle of the English Heritage Science Strategy. They illustrate the breadth and diversity of the science research work and its contribution to the protection of the historic environment.

The Historic Window Glass project included the in situ and non-destructive chemical analysis of historic windows in both English Heritage and National Trust properties and successfully demonstrated that portable XRF (X-ray Fluorescence) is well-suited to identify both original and later glazing. The methodology and results, which will enable scientists to date the manufacture of the glass from specific sites, are published in several articles, such as: Dungworth, D 2012 'Historic window glass. The use of chemical analysis to date manufacture'. *Journal of Architectural Conservation* 18, 7–25 and Dungworth, D 2011 Kenwood House, Uxbridge, London. An Investigation of the Music Room Window Glass. Research Report 3/2011.

The analysis of 97 infant burials from the [Yewden Roman villa](#) site, Buckinghamshire, in collaboration with Chiltern Archaeology, University of Bristol, University of Manchester and Open University has identified that a substantial proportion of the perinatal infants from the site were likely victims of infanticide. DNA analysis suggested that similar numbers of males and females were present,



Paul Bryan of English Heritage using modern laser scanning and digital imaging techniques to aid analysis, interpretation and presentation of Harmondsworth Barn, Middlesex (B5) © Historic England

adding to earlier evidence that manipulation of the sex ratio was not a motive for infanticide in Roman Britain. The analysis also revealed that one infant was the victim of an embryotomy, an operation used to dismember the foetus within the birth canal in instances where difficult labour endangered the mother. This is only the second time a British site of this date has produced evidence for embryotomy and shows that the Yewden villa inhabitants had access to surgery that would have been at the forefront of medicine in the Roman World.

The Sheep Project was developed to improve understanding of sheep management in the past through the study of a large modern research collection of domestic sheep skeletons of known life history. It has investigated the effects of sex, castration, breeding age and nutrition on bone growth and fusion, tooth eruption and tooth wear

in sheep, using a population of 356 unimproved Shetland sheep skeletons, and was carried out by EH in collaboration with the Scottish Agricultural College. The study has generated enormous interest and resulted in seven publications, (such as Popkin, P, Baker P, Worley F, Hammon A, Payne S 2012 'The Sheep Project (I): determining skeletal growth, timing of epiphyseal fusion and morphometric variation in unimproved Shetland sheep of known age, sex, castration status and nutrition' *Journal of Archaeological Science* 39: 1775-1792), six international conference presentations, and in excess of twelve requests to use the skeletal and wool collections for academic research.

During the summer of 2012, a programme of research, ultrasonic investigation and analysis on the remains of two protected early submarines began off England's south coast. Using an ultrasonic thickness gauge for non-destructive thickness measurement testing, we have been able to develop a diver-based methodology to monitor metal hulls of historic wreck sites. This will allow us to implement management and conservation measures where historic wreck sites are at risk.

The results of many of the science (as well as other) projects can be downloaded free of charge from the [Research Reports database](#), which holds over 6100 reports produced over the last 50 years by English Heritage and its predecessor bodies, including all those produced as part of the NHPP.

Promoting **Knowledge Transfer** (B6) included a number of key conferences to discuss heritage protection, key among which was a two-day conference in September 2013 entitled [Heritage Past, Present and Future](#). Organised by English Heritage, AHRC, the Society of Antiquaries of London, and the National Trust, and hosted by the Society of Antiquaries, the conference celebrated the centenary of the 1913 Ancient Monuments Act. As well as looking back at what has been achieved over the last 100 years, the conference debated issues such as how best to assess significance, who is responsible for the care of the historic environment, and crucially what are the key challenges for heritage over the next century.

Over the past three years, EH has also organised or participated in many conferences, events and seminars covering a range of topics, including the following:

- Heritage Counts;
- Iron Harvest seminar in support of development of Conflict Archaeology Guidelines by a cross-sector group;
- Thames Water Forum to discuss threats and challenges to water resource provision over the long term;
- Planning Now seminar;
- Historic Forum Buildings Conference;
- Future for Religious Heritage conference on the extended use of Places of Worship;
- University and higher education lectures on a wide range of subjects;
- Responding to Heritage Crime: Issues, Approaches and Partnerships presentation;
- a Victorian Society symposium on Religious Orders and their Houses;
- a workshop with Defra's Rural Communities Policy Unit, The Office for National Statistics and others on environmental mapping of rural settlements;
- Where Now for Historic Town Centres – an event bringing together key people with an interest in retail, development and the historic environment to help shape thinking on how changes to the retail sector affect our historic towns;
- Development-Led Archaeology ClfA conference session;
- Historic Environment Forum Skills Summit looking at the present routes through which people enter employment in the sector;
- various local society lectures;
- Future Earth – a Royal Society meeting looking at a ten-year international research programme developing the knowledge to respond effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change;

- Climate Change meeting with the US National Park Service to share information;
- a World Wide Web Consortium seminar on Linked Open GeoData;
- a meeting of marine heritage representatives to discuss Devolved Administration Government or Heritage Agency.

Projects tackling specific aspects of Knowledge Transfer include: Towards a Collaborative Online Strategy (TACOS); and a research project on Tools for Online Collaborative Knowledge Capture.

EH has developed a number of internal networks to facilitate communication and provide a focus for strategy about specific issues:

- Climate Change
- Guidance
- Industrial
- Landscape
- Marine
- Places of Worship
- Science
- Training

C) Accessing Knowledge

Work on new digital **knowledge-sharing systems and processes** (CI) included the start of a review of EH's own data systems in parallel with a wider review of the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations ([OASIS](#)) and the Archaeological Investigations Project (AIP) with the aim of developing a better-integrated strategy for digital information sharing.

The development of the Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS), an initiative intended to develop a more cost effective approach to the handling of digital heritage data by English Heritage itself, but more importantly by our partners in local authority historic environment records, in order to create a logical, digital and shared national heritage record, is in the planning stages.

EH played a key role in organising the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH), and in developing national and international initiatives for data sharing and searching, for example CRM-EX and SENESCHAL. As part of partnership work with the UK heritage sector through the AHRC '[SENESCHAL](#)' project, EH has made available a unique online version of all the key indexing vocabulary standards maintained by EH on behalf of the sector. Our indexing standards, such as the Thesaurus of Monument Types, now have 'a web page for every word' to which heritage records can be linked. In the past everyone had their own slightly different copies of these standards so it was difficult to bring together records from different systems. Now everyone who wants to record, for example, a barrow cemetery, can link to a unique reference (a 'Uniform Resource Indicator - URI') on the web. This will promote ever closer international integration of cultural heritage records.

Under the provision of **new online resources** (C2) NHPP has delivered: 15,000 grey literature reports added to the ADS Grey Literature Library, a GIS-based atlas of rural (medieval) settlements in England (which will help neighbourhood planning and provide a baseline for local authority advice); and digital versions of the Survey of London volumes and the RCHME inventories (which will support planning decisions) both hosted on [British History Online](#).

A [toolkit](#) for the rapid assessment of the palaeoenvironmental potential of small wetlands has recently been published online (see also 3A5 wetland survey). The database of intertidal and submerged peats around England's coastline continues to develop, aiding shoreline management plans and marine development.

Nine new revised volumes on [Practical Building Conservation](#) have been produced alongside further online guidance, whilst online access to our [archive collections](#) has been greatly enhanced.

Other online research resources developed over the plan period include a [bibliography of palaeopathological](#) resources published by the Animal Palaeopathology Working Group; the [Archaeological Fish Resource](#) and two [radiocarbon date list](#) volumes.

Improving and deepening **local authority heritage resources** (C3) is currently focused on the completion of the national programme of Historic Landscape Characterisation projects, providing digital landuse maps based on historic and current mapping to inform strategic landuse change planning. Oxfordshire, West Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and Wiltshire will essentially complete the national coverage.

D) Local Empowerment

EH provides advice to third sector groups to enable their bids to other parties (e.g. HLF, Leverhulme) as part of **community engagement development** (D1). Examples include: the Morecambe Bay Partnership for their Headlands to Headspace (H2H) Landscape Partnership bid; a bid to the Leverhulme to fund a project on the PAS as a Tool for Archaeological Research; advice and training given to local volunteers for an EH South Pennines Watershed Landscape project; providing representatives to sit on the Project Board for the CBA Community Archaeology Bursaries Project to agree hosts for placements and advise on skills training sessions for community groups.

E) Engaging with the Past

As part of the **Presentation and communication to promote protection** (E1) EH continues to ensure delivery of key newsletters and periodicals to inform the wider sector and general public, such as Conservation Bulletin, HELM e-newsletter, and Research News.

EH also supports the NHPP through [dedicated web pages](#). Usage of these has steadily increased during the Plan period to c. 40,000 hits per annum.



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