



Vital Statistics

Heritage:

1. Almost everyone lives close to at least one heritage asset
2. Over 30 million adults (72.6%) who live in England visit heritage sites annually, hundreds of thousands volunteer to protect heritage, and 4 out of 5 adults believe that heritage makes their area a better place to live
3. Despite this enthusiasm and the huge investment from private owners, nearly 1 in 7 scheduled monuments and just under 1 in 20 of our most important listed buildings are at risk
4. Heritage organisations benefit the public through education and funding programmes

1. Discovery, identification and understanding

- **99.3% of England's population live within 1 mile of a designated asset¹**
Using GIS mapping, a 1 mile 'buffer area' was drawn around each designated heritage asset. These buffers were then used alongside Census 2011 population data to determine the percentage of people living near heritage assets.
- **There are 407,289² historic assets on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE)³**
This 'listing', or designation, identifies their special architectural or historical interest which warrants special protection.
Visits to the National Heritage List for England online now top 1 million a year⁴.
- **In addition, 40% of local authorities in England have a local heritage list⁵**

Local authorities are encouraged to operate a list of locally important heritage assets. Local lists do not have a statutory function in the planning system but are able to identify assets of special local importance. Local lists can also inspire local enthusiasm for heritage and bring communities together.

- **There are 5,615 assets⁶ on the Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register**
HAR helps to understand the overall state of England's historic sites by identifying those sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.
- **HAR is designed to help protect and manage the historic environment**
The aim is to reduce the number of 'at risk' historic places (see graphic on next page which summarises the number of designated historic assets and proportion of assets at risk).

¹ Historic England Data Management Team (2015)

² Asset figures are correct as of April 2014 (recorded for *Heritage Counts* 2014).

³ This is the number of entries on the NHLE. An entry can represent multiple

individual buildings, for example, so the number of assets may be considerably higher. The NHLE is available here: <http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk/listing/>.

⁴ Historic England Data Management Team (2015)

2. Constructive conservation and sustainable management

In 2014/15 there were:

- 409,809 Planning applications decided in England⁷
- 30,005 Listed building consent decisions in England⁸
This is a return to pre-recession levels: in 2009/10 there was a significant drop in listed building consent applications from consistently above 30,000 before 2008/09 to 27,234 in 2009/10.

Data for 2014/15 has not yet been collected, however in 2013/14 there were:

- 723 Parks and gardens consents received⁹
- 988 Scheduled monument consents¹⁰
- Historic England received and processed 20,579 requests for advice in 2013/14¹¹
Historic England also provided pre-application advice on 3,692 proposals.



Blencowe Hall, Penrith, Cumbria. General view of Hall with 2 peel towers lit at twilight. © Historic England

- People care about their local built environment:
15% of people have been involved in planning decisions that affect their community or themselves (according to the *Taking Part Survey* in 2013/14).



England has a total of **407,289** designated historic assets

There are **5,615** heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk Register (2014)



⁵ Historic England (2014) Heritage Counts 2014

⁶ Heritage at Risk data correct as of October 2014, published by Historic England.

⁷ DCLG (2015)

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Historic England (2014) Heritage Counts 2014

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Historic England 2013/14 Annual Report and Accounts

- 80% of people think local heritage makes their area a better place to live¹²
This is according to research by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).
- There are 835 historic environment specialists¹³ working in local authorities in England¹⁴
This is a 32% decrease overall since 2006.
- There are 61 Historic Environment Records (HERs) available online¹⁵
HERs are an invaluable repository of local heritage information which store data on archaeological sites, and historic monuments and buildings.

3. Public engagement

- 58.6 million people visited an historic property in 2013¹⁶
This data, collected by VisitEngland, includes castles and forts, gardens, historic houses and monuments, heritage centres, and places of worship.
- According to the Taking Part Survey, 72.6% of adults in England visited a heritage site¹⁷ at least once in the previous 12 months¹⁸
There were statistically significant increases in participation amongst lower socio-economic groups, black and ethnic minorities, and the disabled between 2014 and 2005/06 when the Survey began.



Heritage open Days, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Group being led around Kings school. © Historic England

¹² HLF (2015) 20 years in 12 places

¹³ Full time equivalents: conservation officers and archaeological staff.

¹⁴ Historic England (2014) Heritage Counts 2014

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ VisitEngland (2014) Visits to Visitor Attractions for Heritage Counts

¹⁷ The Taking Part Survey records a broader range of heritage sites, not just paid attractions, and includes historic towns and cities for example.

¹⁸ Taking Part Survey (2015)

- In 2013/14 there were approximately 4.7 million individual memberships to the National Trust and English Heritage Trust¹⁹
- Heritage tourism is more popular in Britain, compared with most of Europe
UK citizens have the 4th highest participation rates for visiting a historical monument or site in the past 12 months (65%) – this is 13 percentage points higher than the EU average²⁰.
- **12,000 people are employed in the operation of historic sites in the UK²¹**
This is the only heritage-specific category collected by the Office for National Statistics.
- **People who visit heritage sites are happier than those who do not**
Taking Part asked respondents to self-assess their happiness on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is 'extremely happy'. **The average happiness score was 8 out of 10 for heritage participants²².**
People who did not participate in heritage were less happy, reporting an average score of 7.6.
- **The wellbeing value of visiting heritage sites has been calculated as equivalent to £1,646 per person per year²³**
This is more than participating in sports or the arts. Visiting a historic town or city was found to be the most beneficial.
- **Approximately 445,000 people volunteer in the historic environment²⁴**
This is 1% of England's adult population.
 - In 2014, 39% of volunteers took part for the first time and overall, 89% are more likely to volunteer with other heritage sites and organisations²⁵.
- **Volunteering has a positive impact on personal development:**
 - 35% of Heritage Lottery Fund volunteers sustained friendships outside the voluntary project²⁶.

4. Capacity building

- 1,968,000 school children visited an historic property in 2013²⁷
- 250 schools are directly involved in Historic England's Heritage Schools programme, reaching 100,000 children since the programme began in 2012
It has also provided training for over 600 teachers and created unique online resources²⁸.



Schools project. Ikon Gallery, Oozells Square, Birmingham, West Midlands. General view of front elevation.
© Historic England

¹⁹ Historic England (2014) Heritage Counts 2014. This is the number of memberships, not people, as there could be duplication if an individual holds membership to both charities.

²⁰ European Commission (2013) Cultural access and participation report

²¹ ONS (2013) Business Register and Employment Survey

²² Taking Part Survey (2014)

²³ Fujiwara, D. (2014) Subjective wellbeing and heritage for Heritage Counts 2014.

²⁴ Taking Part Survey (2015). The research found that this is the amount of money that would have to be taken away from a person to restore them to their level of

wellbeing had they not visited a heritage site

²⁵ Heritage Open Days (2014) Report 2014

²⁶ BOP (2011) Assessment of the social impact of volunteering in HLF-funded projects: Yr 3

²⁷ Visit England (2014) Visitor Attractions Trends in England 2013: Annual Report for Heritage Counts

²⁸ Historic England (2014) Heritage Schools. <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/heritage-schools/how-programme-operates/>

- **The heritage sector attracts young people:**
 - 111,040 students studied higher education courses related to the historic environment in the academic year ending in 2013²⁹.
 - 4,526 young people benefitted from an apprenticeship or traineeship in the heritage sector in 2013/14³⁰.
- **In relation to building capacity through grant assistance:**
 - The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded £456 million in grants in 2013/14³¹. **69% of people the HLF surveyed said that HLF investment in their local area has been a good or excellent use of Lottery money.**
 - In 2013/14 Historic England provided grants worth £17.8 million³².
 - The Listed Places of Worship grant scheme gave out £17.6 million to help repair and maintain listed places of worship in 2013/14³³.
 - Since 2005, historical and archaeological protection has received £46.2 million in funding from Natural England’s Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ESS)³⁴. Historical and archaeological protection is the single most funded category in the ESS.

5. Advocacy

- In 2013/14, Historic England published 34 pieces of advice and guidance online³⁵
- **74% of local authorities in England have a Heritage Champion**³⁶
Champions are normally a local councillor who is nominated to represent local views on heritage within their authority, influence planning decisions and support local historic

environment services. Historic England supports Champions with a range of events and guidance.

- **Historic England is successfully engaging in new media to advocate the historic environment to the public:**
 - @HistoricEngland has nearly 145,000 followers on Twitter³⁷. This is the main Twitter account for the organisation, but it also has regional and topic-specific accounts keeping the general public up to date.
 - Each month, the Heritage Calling blog receives nearly 300,000 views³⁸. Historic England has been blogging since October 2012. The blog covers a wide variety of historic environment topics which help publicise research and other programmes, and inspire public interest in heritage.
 - On LinkedIn, Historic England has 11,314 followers, and 6,455 group members³⁹. This enables the organisation to communicate with professional audiences effectively.

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²⁹ Historic England (2014) Heritage Counts 2014

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

³² Historic England (2014) Heritage Counts 2014

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid – data is from 2005 up to 2014

³⁵ Historic England 2013/14 Annual Report and Accounts

³⁶ Historic England (2014) Heritage Counts 2014

³⁷ As of April 2015, Historic England monitoring

³⁸ Collected from the total number of views January-April 2015, Historic England monitoring. This would include repeat visits from the same user

³⁹ As of April 2015, Historic England monitoring