

# HERITAGE COUNTS

## NORTH EAST



*Heritage Counts 2009* is the eighth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the North East Historic Environment Forum. This year *Heritage Counts* has increased its online presence. Visitors to the *Heritage Counts* website will be able to download the full set of regional indicators as well as view maps detailing the historic environment in their region. We have also undertaken a ground-breaking study which shows that the historic environment has a positive impact on sense of place and social capital. Please see [www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts) for more information on the historic environment in the North East of England and on our sense of place research.

### UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

NORTH EAST	2009
WORLD HERITAGE SITES	2
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	1,383
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	389
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	747
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	11,099
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	53
REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS	6
PROTECTED SHIP WRECKS	1
CONSERVATION AREAS	287
DESIGNATED COLLECTIONS	10
ACCREDITED MUSEUMS	67

### CARING AND SHARING

The North East continues to have the highest percentage of Grade I and II\* buildings at risk in the country. Whilst some progress has been made, the recession will further limit the ability of owners to fund repairs whilst also exacerbating problems such as vacancy and vandalism.

The North East has 7.2% of listed buildings (Grade I and II\*) at risk in 2009, a change from 8.5% in 1999.

In 2009, 19% of the North East's conservation areas surveyed are at risk, 17% of its historic battlefields, 14.8% of its scheduled monuments and 3.8% of its registered parks and gardens.

### MANAGING POSITIVELY

Heritage assets of national importance require special consideration in the planning process and where work materially affects their special character, special consent may be necessary. Consent applications are granted in the vast majority of cases to enable constructive change. During 2008/09, the North East region received:

- ▶ 700 listed building consents;
- ▶ 100 conservation area consents;
- ▶ 75 scheduled monuments consents;
- ▶ 17 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens.

### CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

Spending on the historic environment comes from a variety of sources; private owners, the voluntary sector as well as local, regional and central government. It is not possible to collate all of this data together to produce total expenditure in the historic environment. However, in most regions, the most important sources of funding for the historic environment are the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage.

Since 1994, the HLF has awarded grants in the North East totalling £209,620,595 (equivalent to £246,117,377 in 2008/09 real terms). However, in 2008/09, HLF funding is down on previous years. £11,603,608 was awarded during 2008/09 – a decrease by 35% upon the previous year. This in part is due to legislative changes in the way that lottery money is distributed, which particularly impact on funding for this year, as well as the potential impact of the 2012 Olympics.

Between 2002/03 and 2008/09 the value of English Heritage grant expenditure in the region has increased by 20% to £1,144,000 in 2008/09. The majority of this funding was allocated to the repair and refurbishment of secular historic buildings, monuments and landscapes (59%) followed by funding for regeneration schemes in conservation areas (15%).

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are central to the protection and management of the historic environment. Their role is set to become even greater under Heritage Protection Reform. An important piece of research this year looked at existing historic environment resources in local government.

In 2008 the North East region has an average of 2.42 (full time equivalent / FTE) historic environment staff per local authority, which is below the national average of 2.92. The regional average for conservation provision is 1.28 FTE against a national average of 1.91. For archaeological provision it is 0.70 FTE compared with a national average of 1.01.

Before local government reorganisation, 88% of local authorities in the North East had Heritage Champions. Following local government reorganisation this has risen to 92% due to the smaller number of local authorities. Northumberland National Park also has its own Heritage Champion.

## USING AND BENEFITING

### PARTICIPATION

In 2008, the final figures for measuring PSA 3 – increasing participation in culture and sport for priority groups was published.

In the North East region participation in the historic environment was 69.1%, which has not significantly changed from the baseline in 2005/06. Participation rates among priority groups have also not changed significantly over the same period.

In 2008/09 DCMS moved to a new measure of participation in the historic environment, with the definition changing from one visit in the last 12 months to two or more visits. The baseline figure in the North East region is 51.8%.

### VISITORS

Data from Visit Britain's *Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions* shows that visits to historic sites in the region that answered the survey in both 2007 and 2008 fell by 3% between 2007-2008. The Historic Houses Association experienced a 4% drop in North East visitor numbers between 2007 and 2008 and National Trust visitor numbers for the North East and Yorkshire fell by 5% between 2007/08 and 2008/09. Similarly visitors to English Heritage sites fell by approximately 10% for the same period (excluding locally managed sites).

It is unclear whether this was due to the economic downturn or poor weather. However, it is also important to note that these figures do not include the 2009 summer season for which early indications are suggesting improved performance. Next year's data will therefore provide a better reflection of any effects derived from increased domestic tourism and the so-called "staycation".

### EDUCATION

Visit Britain's *Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions* survey suggests that there was a slight decline (by around 2%) in the number of school visits to historic properties in the region between 2007 and 2008. (Those properties which replied in both 2007 and 2008.) English Heritage properties also experienced a slight decline in educational visits between 2008/2009 by around 1%.

### MEMBERSHIP

7% of English Heritage's members are from the North East and 10% of the National Trust's members are from their North East / Yorkshire and Humber territory.

Overall, membership of historic environment organisations in the region is increasing. Between 2006/7 and 2008/9, English Heritage members in the North East increased by 15%, whilst members of the National Trust increased by 5% for their combined area.

## KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENT

### HERITAGE PROTECTION REFORM

In 2009, a major milestone in Heritage Protection Reform was reached with the launch of a consultation on the Government's Draft *Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15): Planning for the Historic Environment*. This updates planning policy affecting archaeology, historic areas, buildings and landscapes and will replace the current Planning Policy Guidance notes PPG15 and 16.

The PPS brings in a new, integrated approach to the historic environment by dealing with all types of heritage in a single document. A supporting Practice Guide (produced by English Heritage) provides detailed explanations and guidance to support the policies outlined in the PPS.

### HERITAGE AND THE NEW REGIONAL STRUCTURE FOR CULTURAL JOINT WORKING

Four of the region's cultural and sporting agencies (the Arts Council, English Heritage, Museums Libraries and Archives (MLA) and Sport England) have been asked by Government to work together to deliver joint priorities across the cultural agenda. Joint work is focused around: regional strategies, local government, place shaping and the Olympics. Under these new cultural arrangements, English Heritage and MLA have been working to promote the role and contribution of the heritage sector in this area.

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### HERITAGE AT RISK

The Heritage at Risk project will increase the amount of information available on the health of the country's protected heritage assets. In 2008, new information was provided on scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, historic battlefields and protected wrecks in addition to existing data on listed buildings. Whilst 2009 saw new information provided from local planning authorities on the condition of conservation areas. This is used to inform the management of vulnerable sites and to target funding.

### WEBSITE

For more information on the state of the historic environment in your region please visit <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts>



North East Historic  
Environment Forum



ENGLISH HERITAGE