

# HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of the  
SOUTH WEST'S  
Historic Environment  
2006



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The local community is actively involved in helping to secure the future of Brunel's historic Goods Shed in Stroud

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2006

## SOUTH WEST

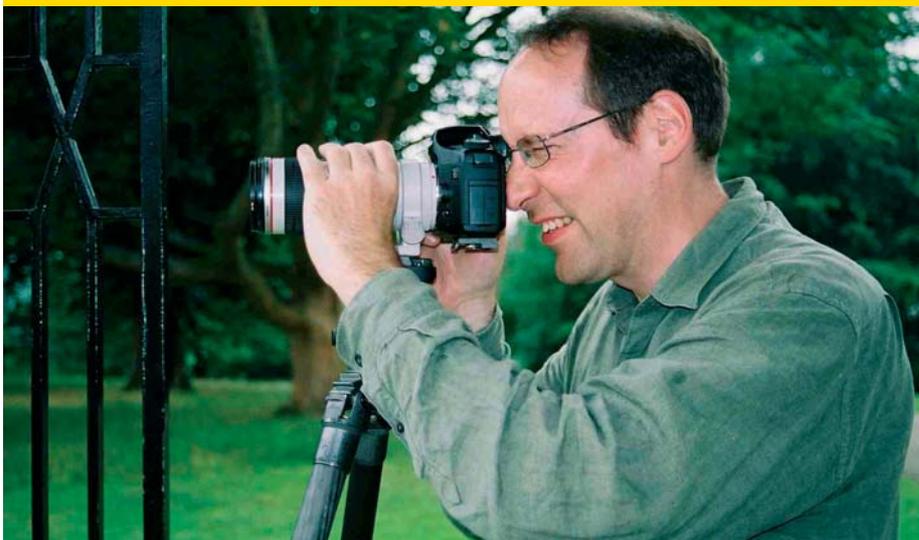
*Heritage Counts 2006* is the fifth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. The report identifies the principal trends and challenges facing the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2006 on the role that communities play by valuing and engaging in England's heritage. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the South West Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2006* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) where further regional information can also be found.

The South West Historic Environment Forum (HEF) is a group of organisations with an active interest in enhancing, preserving and promoting the historic environment of the South West. The HEF works with a wide range of partners to help ensure that the historic environment is recognised and valued for the significant contribution it makes to the economic, environmental and social well-being of the region.

Over the past year the South West HEF has been working on a number of key priorities, one of which is to improve community participation and engagement in the historic environment. We are committed to reaching new audiences and to increasing the number and range of people who can benefit from the historic environment in as many ways as possible. This report sets out a number of examples of community-led projects that are achieving real results across the region. Many people, communities and organisations are actively involved in preserving and improving the many historic buildings, spaces, parks and landscapes that make up the historic environment and which add so much to the quality of life here in the South West. I hope you enjoy finding out more about this work from *Heritage Counts 2006*.

DR ROBERT BEWLEY  
CHAIR OF THE SOUTH WEST HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT FORUM

**IMAGES OF ENGLAND**, a Heritage Lottery funded project managed by English Heritage, is creating an accessible, web-based digital image library of England's 370,000 listed buildings. One photograph is being taken of each listed building in England by volunteer photographers for the project. One example, shown here, is of St John's Hospital in Bath, which was taken by volunteer photographer Mark Sunderland (who is pictured).



# DEFINING COMMUNITIES

The South West is the largest of the nine English regions in terms of area. Its outstanding natural and historic environment has played a major role in shaping the history and character of the region and its many communities. Over five million people live in the South West region. It has the oldest population structure of all the regions in England. 38 per cent of the region's population is aged 50 or over, compared to 34 per cent nationally. Ethnic groups make up around two per cent of the region's population, one of the smallest proportions for any region in the country.

The size and geography of the region and its diversity and quality of landscapes add much to the local character of the South West. Communities in the region have a strong affinity to their local area and to the city or county where they live. Some of the civic and administrative structures in the region, such as the counties, go back many hundreds of years and are a great source of community pride. Yet the South West as a region manages to be more than just the sum of its parts. Its feel, character and attractiveness are due in no small part to the region's environment, its landscape, archaeology, history and heritage, all of which help to define the special identity of the region.

The historic environment makes a significant contribution to the well-being of the South West. It provides exciting and stimulating opportunities for children and young people to learn and express themselves; for older people to make the most of their spare time; it creates a sense of pride and identity, helping to build safer and stronger communities and, of course, it is one of the main reasons why people visit the region, bringing jobs and increased prosperity.

Communities across the South West are playing an active and leading role in meeting the many challenges that face, and occasionally threaten, the historic environment, and in making the most out of the many historic assets in the region. There have been many successful outcomes for the historic environment over the past year, most notably the decision in July 2006 to designate the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape as a World Heritage Site. Some of these successes and challenges, and how communities across the region have played a part in them, are set out on the following pages.



## THE CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON MINING LANDSCAPE WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape has become the fourth World Heritage Site (WHS) in the South West Region. It is the latest addition to the UK's 27 World Heritage Sites, having been inscribed in July 2006. This was the result of five years work by a team led by the Historic Environment Service of Cornwall County Council on behalf of a partnership of over 70 different organisations. The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape, or Cornish Mining to use the popular title, dates from the period 1700 to 1914, when hard-rock mining was at its most expansive and major technological developments within the area helped to transform mining both locally and internationally. One example of this is the Levant Mine in west Penwith, which retains the oldest steam powered beam engine (c.1840) in Cornwall and west Devon.

Comprising ten distinct areas where the physical remains of mining from this period are best represented, the Site includes the mines themselves, the remains of early infrastructure and the surviving evidence of its social and economic impact, including distinctive patterns of settlement. The sheer size of the areas inscribed, over 19,000 hectares, presents many challenges in terms of management and much care has been taken in defining and developing the many issues and policies expressed in the WHS Management Plan. Following inscription, the WHS team can now instigate many exciting initiatives which will further enhance the Site and more effectively communicate its acknowledged international significance.

The photograph below shows the UNESCO Assessor's party inspecting site interpretation material at Wheal Coates, St Agnes, during the World Heritage Site Bid evaluation tour in September 2005. From left to right: Nicholas Johnson (Cornwall County Archaeologist); Sr José María García de Miguel (UNESCO Assessor);



Alejandro Rodriguez Rodrigo (Interpreter/Assistant); Roxana Bruno (Interpreter); and Deborah Boden (World Heritage Site Co-ordinator)

# WHAT COMMUNITIES VALUE

The historic environment of the South West is valued by many people, though different people and organisations will of course have different and sometimes conflicting views of what this value should be. Local or national government often has to take account of these differing values in their decision making processes. It is therefore vital that there is an effective dialogue between all parties and that the case for conserving and enhancing the historic environment is well made and taken seriously by decision makers.

This is one of the reasons why the National Trust, English Heritage, the Historic Houses Association and many other heritage organisations launched the **History Matters: Pass It On** campaign over the summer of 2006. By declaring their support for *History Matters – Pass It On*, members of the public can demonstrate the importance of history and heritage to our society.

All over the South West of England people and communities are showing how much they value the historic environment in their local neighbourhood, village, town or city. Historic buildings, along with the many other listed buildings, historic areas, parks and countryside, make up some of the most treasured assets of the region and a wide range of people and organisations are actively involved in helping to preserve and improve them. This is also reflected in the large number of people who are members of heritage organisations such as the National Trust or English Heritage, who collectively have well over 500,000 members in the South West region.

Yet many historic buildings and areas are at risk from inappropriate development, unsympathetic conversion, a lack of financial resources or simply neglect. Throughout the region there are many examples of communities and organisations campaigning and working hard to raise the funds needed to help preserve and improve the historic environment of the region. Organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage help to support this work by giving advice and grants, though the public funds that are available are not sufficient to tackle the total backlog of works that are necessary. Nevertheless, progress is being made, thanks largely to the value that many people and organisations place on preserving our historic environment in the South West.



## BRUNEL GOODS SHED, STROUD

Brunel Goods Shed, located near Stroud Railway Station, was built in 1845 and is thought to be the oldest surviving goods shed of Cotswold limestone in the country. It is a Grade II\* Listed Building that is currently on the English Heritage 'Buildings at Risk' register. Stroud Preservation Trust acquired a 40 year lease on the Brunel Goods Shed in 1986. At that time, the building was completely neglected and deteriorating, largely due to water damage and vandalism. The Trust spent over £100,000 and carried out major repair and improvement works to the fabric, including the installation of a new slate roof.

The Brunel Goods Shed is an open structure, in a remote area of the town and is subject to attacks of vandalism. Regeneration plans have had to cope with the difficulty of matching the needs of an end-user with the constraints imposed by planning and Listed Building requirements, together with securing adequate funding to carry out the necessary capital works. Restoration of the building has received overwhelming community and corporate support and Stroud Preservation Trust has so far successfully raised in excess of £150,000 towards capital works to the building. It is anticipated that complete restoration costs will amount to over £400,000, thus fundraising continues to be a priority for the Trust, which is now exploring the economic viability of the Goods Shed as a community arts and heritage centre for the town.



## HISTORY MATTERS – NATIONAL TRUST LAUNCH

Corfe Castle was the Dorset venue for the launch of *History Matters – Pass It On*, on 3 July, 2006. Corfe is an excellent example of the importance of history. With over 170,000 visitors and 19,000 education visits it is one of the most visited historic sites in Dorset. In April, the National Trust had to close the top section of the castle for health and safety reasons. A series of inspections were carried out by helium balloon and abseiling engineers, which enabled the Trust to identify and begin the conservation work needed, which will cost over £700,000. Two thirds of the castle will remain open throughout the work, with the Trust opening up as much of the remainder as is feasible as the project progresses. Conservation in Action escorted tours are planned and a programme of changing interpretation will allow people to follow progress. In September 2006, the Conserving Corfe Castle weekend of lectures and practical demonstrations offered the public a chance to meet the architect, surveyors and archaeologists involved.

# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The historic environment sector has recognised for some time that widening participation, particularly from under-represented communities, is one of its key challenges. The government has set a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to increase by three percentage points (by 2008) the proportion of people from black and minority ethnic communities, from lower socio-economic backgrounds or with a limiting disability, attending designated historic environment sites.

The sector has therefore been working closely with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to set up and run the *Taking Part* survey, which will be measuring participation across a range of cultural activities including the historic environment. *Heritage Counts 2006* is the first opportunity for the sector to explore what this survey is telling us about participation by under-represented groups, although the final baseline for participation, against which progress will be judged, will only be known in late 2006.

Based on the first three quarters of the *Taking Part* Survey, 73 per cent of adults in the South West visited at least one designated Historic Environment site, significantly above the 69 per cent national average. Nationally, around 48 per cent of adults from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, 58 per cent of adults with a limiting disability or illness, and 56 per cent of adults from lower socio-economic groups visited at least one type of designated historic environment site over this period.

For the historic environment sector it is those adults who do not attend at all that present the main challenge. Around three in ten of those adults who had not visited a historic environment site during the survey period said that the main reason was that they were not really interested and a similar proportion cited lack of time. Around 15 per cent said that their health was not good enough. Other factors were mentioned by a small number of adults: around 5 per cent cite lack of transport or poor accessibility, around 3 per cent refer to cost and only 1 per cent lack of information.

*Taking Part* will help to identify the barriers that sometimes exist to greater participation and how these are being tackled and overcome. There are many such examples in the region and a common feature is the degree of partnership working that is taking place between organisations in the heritage sector and local communities. A good example is the Heritage Open Days initiative, which in 2006 took place on the 7th to the 10th September, and linked to the *History Matters* campaign.



## BRISTOL RECORDS OFFICE – BLACK ARCHIVES GROUP

Bristol has a rich and diverse history but there is a real danger that the heritage of the city's African-Caribbean community could be lost forever without a major drive to protect it. The Bristol Black Archives Partnership (BBAP) has united to ensure that this heritage is collected, recorded and protected for the benefit of people today and for our future generations. The partnership is an alliance of African-Caribbean organisations and individuals, the city's Record Office and Museums Service, the England's Past for Everyone (EPE) history team at the University of the West of England and various others committed to protecting local Black history.

BBAP will be collaborating with the wider community to collect archives such as photos, films and written records for safekeeping and ease of research in Bristol's City Record Office, as well as objects that reflect people's lives, some of which will be displayed at the Museum of Bristol when it opens in 2009. Many stories will appear in EPE's history of migrants to Bristol over the past 1000 years.

BBAP is an innovative and exciting example of partnership work in the South West, which could act as a springboard for heritage work with other communities in future.

There were around 3,500 open properties and events which took place in the South West, (an increase of 500 on 2005) attracting an estimated 85,000 visitors.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The sector can be justifiably proud that so many people in the South West visit designated historic environment sites, but there are many other ways to engage with the historic environment. Particularly important is the contribution of the thousands of volunteers who help to protect and improve the historic environment and help to increase understanding and enjoyment of it.

Many important historic buildings, which would otherwise have been lost to us, have been preserved through the work of voluntary heritage groups. Building Preservation Trusts have played a major role in helping to secure a sustainable future for many endangered buildings in the region and have also helped to create greater civic pride and promote active citizenship. There are currently over 30 Trusts in the region, and the South West Area Committee of the UK Association of Building Preservation Trusts exists to provide them with support and a regional voice.

Equally important is the role played by Gardens Trusts, one of which exists in each county of the South West. The Trusts are charitable organisations which promote public education and work to preserve and restore designed landscapes for the benefit of the public.

As well as the valuable support of the voluntary and community sector, the historic environment also relies on the work of many public agencies, especially local authorities, to ensure its continued protection and enhancement, not only through policy-making, but also through their own assets, such as public buildings and parks. To help develop this role, "heritage champions" are being appointed in each council. Normally a senior councillor, the role of the heritage champion is to ensure that the historic environment is properly addressed in all council decision-making and to promote the opportunities it offers. In July 2006, of the 50 local authorities in the South West, 29 had appointed a champion.

Policies made by public bodies often have a direct or indirect impact on the historic environment. In July 2006, the Regional Assembly published the Draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for consultation. A response to the document has been submitted by the South West Historic Environment Forum and following the "Examination in Public", the RSS is expected to be approved some time in 2008. Covering the period to 2026, the RSS will set the context for future Local Development Frameworks, which have to be prepared by local planning authorities, who use these policies when making their planning decisions.

## THE WALRONDS, CULLOMPTON

Cullompton is a small Devon town of 7,800 people, located on the old A38 near Exeter. The Walronds is a Grade I listed building in the middle of the town. Completed in 1605 it has been in residential use ever since. The building has a number of finely decorated and panelled rooms but is now on the English Heritage register of Buildings at Risk. To help secure the long term future of the building, the Cullompton Walronds Preservation Trust was set up in 1997. The previous owners of the building worked with the Trust to secure the future of the house and garden, with the aim of giving as much access to the public as possible. In 2005 the Trust inherited half of the property and acquired the remainder by purchase, using a loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund. This has now been paid off as the last owner of the house left the residue of her estate to the Trust, which now owns the building outright.

The Trust has undertaken emergency repairs and carried out a feasibility study which estimated the total cost of restoring the building at around £950,000. The Trustees are in negotiation with the Landmark Trust for future use of the building for holiday lets, though other uses such as weddings, exhibitions and community meetings and displays are also being explored. Work is already underway in the garden. Accessibility for people with disabilities is being improved, and it is planned that the garden will become a new park for the town, which at present is without such a facility. Many partners are involved in the project including local schools, (one of which is creating a web-site), local college students, Army Cadets, Rangers and individual volunteers who have been carrying out works to the garden. Fundraising events are taking place and a new "Friends of the Walronds" group is in the process of being set up. The future of this special building appears hopeful thanks to the generosity and community spirit of the previous owners, the hard work and dedication of the Trust and the support of the local community.





## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE MENDIP HILLS AONB

The Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) lies south of Bristol and covers a total of 198 sq. km. English Heritage, in partnership with the Mendip Hills AONB, has recently embarked on a multi-disciplinary project aimed at enhancing understanding of the historic environment. The involvement of the local community is seen as key to the success of the project. Charterhouse Historic Environs Research Team (CHERT) is a committed group of around thirty local volunteers who meet weekly to survey and record the historic landscape of the Charterhouse area. The project will give English Heritage staff the opportunity to provide training for such groups and to draw on local archaeological knowledge and experience. The photograph shows CHERT members carrying out part of an ongoing survey of a previously unrecognised enclosure, originally discovered during CHERT fieldwork in 2003. It is currently thought to be a medieval sheep-farming enclosure in the uphill grazing land of Blagdon parish.

Community involvement is also a key aim of the Mendip Hills AONB's Lifelines project which was awarded Heritage Lottery funding in December 2005. The two year project will involve a major survey of all the dry stone walls which characterise the landscape of the Mendip Hills. Through a programme of walks, talks, training sessions and innovative arts events the project aims to raise people's awareness of the importance of dry stone walls and to give people the skills to rebuild them.

## THE LYDIARD PARK PROJECT

Lydiard House, rescued from ruin by Swindon Corporation in 1943, has been beautifully restored and is now open to the public throughout the year. Work is ongoing to restore the surrounding grade II registered park, including the magnificent lake which has recently been restored. Thanks to a substantial Heritage Lottery Fund award, support from English Heritage and DEFRA, and unprecedented backing by major local businesses, visitors are now witnessing and participating in a dramatic transformation of historic Lydiard Park. The £5 million project restores the park's principal 18th century features, which provide the setting for the Palladian house and former ancestral home of the St. John family. The works, some of which are now complete, include reinstating the lost lake, conserving the ornamental walled garden and ice house, restoring the stables and coach house for educational use, and upgrading visitor amenities.

Community participation through schools visits, a project events programme and volunteer and training opportunities has been a fundamental part of the project since its inception. Over 1,000 local people were involved in the archaeological investigations alone, and literally hundreds of volunteers from business regularly undertake team sessions helping to restore the walled garden and other parkland features. Uniquely, project contractors and consultants, from water engineers to builders, conduct public tours, offer school and work experience sessions as well as providing apprenticeship opportunities in traditional craft skills.



# COMMUNITY REGENERATION

The South West clearly demonstrates that heritage-led regeneration works. There are a wide range of examples across the region that show how historic buildings and areas have been catalysts for change, bringing much needed physical regeneration while at the same time strengthening local distinctiveness and identity and a sense of place. There is no doubting that the sensitive reuse of historic buildings can present many challenges, but the effort usually pays off. As well as many successful individual projects, there are also a number of more strategic initiatives taking place in the region that have successfully combined regeneration and the historic environment.

In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, European Union Objective One funding, matched by a range of partners, has been used to fund significant investment in the area's historic environment. Over the past seven years it is estimated that around £18 million of Objective One funding has been used for heritage-led regeneration projects, matched by funding from other public and private sources. The current Objective One Programme runs until the end of 2006. This will be followed by a Convergence Programme for the period 2007-2013 to speed up the economic development of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Regeneration in Cornwall is also being boosted by the work of CPR Regeneration, Cornwall's Urban Regeneration Company set up to bring prosperity back to the Camborne, Pool and Redruth area. A new post of Heritage Advisor was established in the company in August 2006, part-funded by English Heritage.

The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTi) was established in 2000 by the South West Regional Development Agency and a number of other partners to promote and support community planning and regeneration. To date, 64 market and coastal towns in the region have taken part in the Initiative, which became an Association in 2005 to drive forward the Initiative and develop broader training and networking opportunities. The historic environment can make a significant contribution to the future success of market and coastal towns and in recognition of this English Heritage has provided funding for MCTA to employ a Heritage Development Advisor for three years. The role of the Heritage Development Advisor is to help town partnerships consider their heritage during the preparation of their Community Plans and to promote ways in which the historic environment can contribute to regeneration and more sustainable communities. Doing this will help to increase the capacity of communities to

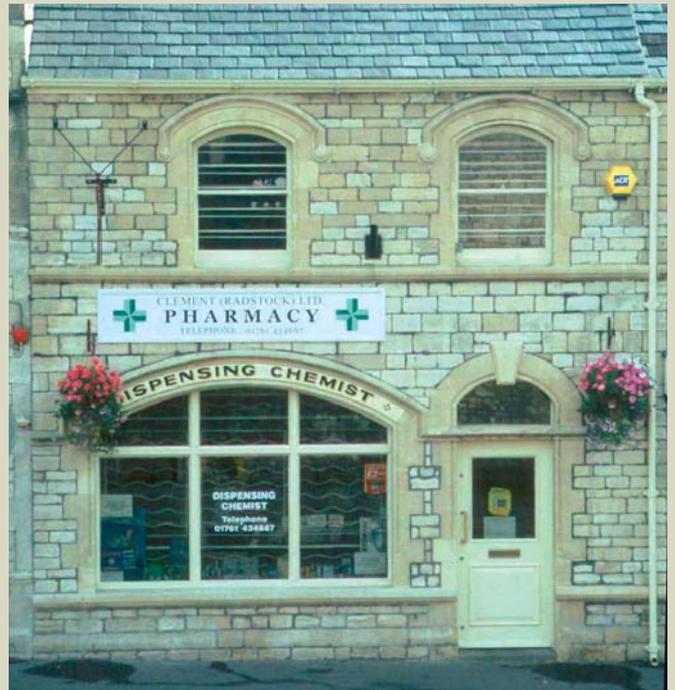


## GLOUCESTER HERITAGE URBAN REGENERATION COMPANY

In July 2006, Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company agreed a new regeneration framework that will concentrate future investment on seven key areas of the city centre, including the historic docks. Important historic buildings, such as Blackfriars and Greyfriars, will form a key part of the plans and already new developments are bringing forward opportunities for the historic environment. For example, the new campus for Gloucester College of Arts and Technology at Gloucester Quays will open up access to Llanthony Priory, a Grade I listed building that has been on the Buildings at Risk register for many years. This new development has given a much needed boost to plans to restore the Priory, which will be carried out by a new building preservation trust. A new post in the regeneration company, part funded by English Heritage, will specialise in the historic environment and will further support the focus on the heritage-led regeneration of the area.

The community has been actively involved in all the work of Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company through a Community and Residents Forum. There is also a similar forum for local businesses, and the two have met jointly to help shape the new regeneration framework. This was also informed by a questionnaire that was circulated through the local newspaper. Over 600 people responded and aspects of the historic environment, such as preserving and enhancing views of the cathedral, came through very strongly in the survey and have been taken on board in the new plans.

understand, care for and promote the historic environment of their area and should facilitate good heritage-related projects emerging in the Community Plans.



## RADSTOCK

The town of Radstock, located seven miles to the south of Bath, has a proud coal-mining history. The last pit closed in 1973 leaving economic and physical decline. It did, however, leave one of the best preserved mining communities in England, and this heritage was recognised as the key to the future of the town. In 1999, Bath and North East Somerset Council designated a conservation area, paving the way for funding and a new interest in this part of the town. A key regeneration catalyst was repair and re-use of the Market Hall, a grade II listed building located in the heart of the town. Radstock Museum Society acquired the derelict 1897 hall as a home for its collections and with assistance from Council Conservation officers and a local architect this community society made a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid for £950,000. The restored hall opened in July 1999 and remains a thriving museum. A mixture of funding, including Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) and a Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme grant from English Heritage, resulted in 11 historic properties being restored, and in 2005 the iconic pit wheel, standing in the town centre, was rebuilt onto an artist-designed structure. The regeneration of the town has been achieved whilst strengthening Radstock's unique character and heritage.



## LANGPORT GREAT BOW YARD

Langport 2020 is the Community Plan for this small town in the Somerset Levels. The Plan explicitly links the economy with heritage by tying together the issues of high demand for business space and the risk of losing historic buildings. Langport Community Development Trust and Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development are working together to address the disused and derelict Great Bow Yard site at the entrance to the town adjacent to the river. They have successfully attracted grants from the Regional Development Agency, English Heritage and South Somerset District Council to purchase the site and develop eight new eco-homes for resale. Repair works have been carried out on the grade II listed 18th-century Stuckey's Warehouse, a building of great local interest because of its historical role in Langport's development. The warehouse, which has been derelict since 1987, will be converted into office units, a café and a community space.



The Great Bow Yard project demonstrates how eco-friendly, energy efficient homes can be built and sold commercially, and is a stylish and contemporary addition to the historic surroundings. The warehouse, which will be complete in mid-2007, is the beginning of a long term plan by both trusts to develop a portfolio of properties as a revenue generator for other projects in the area

# COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

The future well-being of any community is dependent to a large extent on the prosperity of its local economy. Without jobs and incomes a community will not be able to sustain itself. The historic environment plays an important role in contributing to economic prosperity, both directly, in terms of attracting tourism, and indirectly by enhancing the image and quality of a place, which in turn may help retain or attract economic activity and employment.

## Brunel 200

2006 celebrates the bi-centenary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the man responsible for many outstanding engineering feats throughout the region, including the Stroud Goods Shed (pictured on our front cover) and more well-known features such as the SS Great Britain and the Royal Albert Bridge over the Tamar estuary at Saltash. To mark this occasion, a number of partners joined together to plan a series of activities and events under the banner of Brunel 200. This has been a successful initiative that has engaged local communities and promoted tourism in the region.

Brunel's legacy in the region was further acknowledged by the publication by English Heritage of a consultation report in July 2006 to gauge support for nominating the Great Western Railway between Bristol and Paddington Station in London as a World Heritage Site. The proposed site would include a number of important heritage assets in the region, such as Temple Meads Station in Bristol, Swindon Railway Works and Village, Chippenham Viaduct and Box Tunnel near Bath.

## Traditional Building Skills

Following the publication in 2005 of the National Heritage Training Group's report on skill shortages, the South West Historic Environment Forum (HEF) has set up a working group to address the issues identified in the report and to explore how gaps in provision can best be tackled. As needs differ across the region, locally based solutions, such as the Somerset College of Arts and Technology's Genesis Project or Woodchester Mansion in Gloucestershire, are welcome developments that the HEF can promote and use as examples of good practice to stimulate other initiatives elsewhere in the region.



## STEEP HOLM BARRACKS VISITOR CENTRE

The Kenneth Allsop Memorial Trust purchased Steep Holm in 1976 and since then it has, through a huge amount of volunteer

effort, opened access paths and removed a mass of World War Two debris, cleared and maintained the gun batteries and undertaken on-going maintenance of the island's flora and fauna. Project funding of £31,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Your Heritage programme assisted with the final phase of work, which was the restoration of the visitor centre on the island.

This project involved many volunteers whose enthusiasm even prompted visitors to the island to join in helping to unload and carry materials up the steep track from the beach to the Barracks. Volunteers have gained new skills from the project and partnerships have been secured with local museums. The project represents a good example of more sustainable tourism, which the South West is at the forefront of developing.



## TRADITIONAL CRAFT SKILLS TRAINING AT WOODCHESTER MANSION

For nearly twenty years, a small, secluded heritage site in the South Cotswolds has

been pioneering a unique training solution in the field of traditional craft skills. Now 'The Woodchester Model' is set to be adopted across the country as a centrepiece of the national revival of traditional building skills being pioneered by The National Heritage Training Group. Woodchester Mansion was abandoned unfinished by its builders in 1877, leaving behind a remarkable living model of medieval Gothic construction techniques and a catalogue of fine stone carving. Since 1989, student masons from colleges across southern England have trained on its fabric as part of a unique conservation and repair programme.

Woodchester Mansion Trust is now a lead partner in a visionary new initiative, The Cotswolds Heritage Academy. Other partners include four colleges (Cirencester, Stroud, The Royal Agricultural College and Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology), The Cotswolds Canals Partnership, Westonbirt Arboretum and English Heritage. The National Trust and a private training provider, Step to Training, are also partners in a project that will both signpost and provide training in building and management skills as well as a brokering service for clients. The project was pioneered at a national seminar on skills training held at Woodchester Mansion in September 2005, with the Trust's Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales and Woodchester Mansion Trust's Chairman, Stephen Davis.

## THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN THE SOUTH WEST

There are 17 **World Heritage Sites** in England, four of which are in the South West. These are Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites (inscribed in 1986); The City of Bath (inscribed in 1987); The Dorset and East Devon Coast, known as 'The Jurassic Coast' (inscribed in 1986) and The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape, which has been chosen as the UK's latest World Heritage Site (inscribed in 2006).

In July 2006, there were 6,846 **scheduled monuments** in the South West, which is about a third of the total for England as a whole.

There were 89,137 **listed buildings** in the South West region in April 2006, which is 24% of the total for England. Of all listed buildings in the South West, 2,017 were Grade I, 5,111 were Grade II\* and 82,009 were Grade II. The number of listed buildings in the South West has increased by 161 on 2005.

There were 160 Grade I and II\* listed buildings and scheduled monuments included on the 2006 **Buildings at Risk** register. There have been 10 deletions from the previous year and 7 have been added, giving an overall reduction of 3. It would cost £30 million (over and above their value after repairs have been carried out) to properly conserve these buildings.

There are 43 **registered battlefields** in England, eight of which are in the South West region.

Of the 42 **registered historic vessels and wreck sites** in England, 22 are to be found off the shores of the South West. The latest addition to these sites in the South West in 2005/06 was the West Bay wreck, located off the Dorset coast.

In terms of **protected landscapes**, there are two National Parks, Exmoor and Dartmoor; and 14 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in the South West, covering 37% of the region's area.

**Woodlands** cover around 9% of the land area of the region. Ancient woodland (land that has been continually wooded since at least AD 1600) is a key component of the historic environment. The Woodland Trust estimates that ancient woodlands cover just over 3% of the land area in the South West region (compared to 2.6% for England as a whole).

There are 50 local authorities in the South West and in July 2006, 29 had appointed **Historic Environment Champions** (which is 58% of the total, compared to 54% for England as a whole).

In 2005/06, **local planning authorities** in the South West determined 81,400 planning applications, of which 7,400 were for listed building consent (compared to 8,145 in 2004/05). There were also 506 conservation area consent applications (compared to 635 the previous year). For registered parks and gardens, in 2005/06 there were 11 applications affecting Grade I sites, 46 for Grade II\* sites and 54 for Grade II sites.

A total of £4,702,000 was offered in **grants by English Heritage** in 2005/06. Of this, £1,667,000 was for places of worship, £1,268,000 for Listed Buildings and monuments and £382,000 for conservation areas. Other grants were offered through a number of schemes, including the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

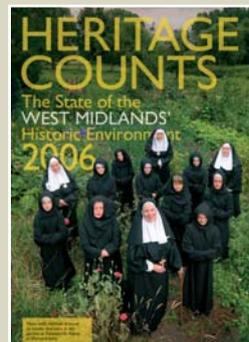
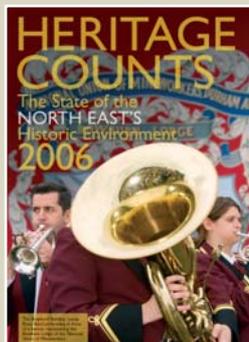
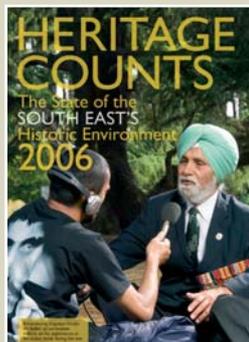
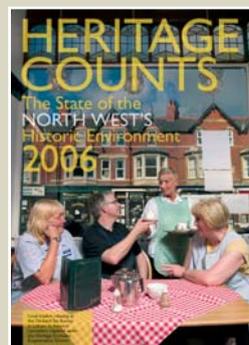
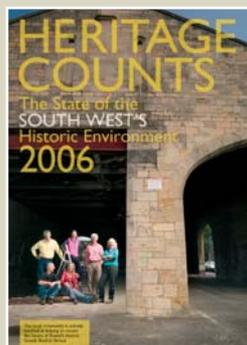
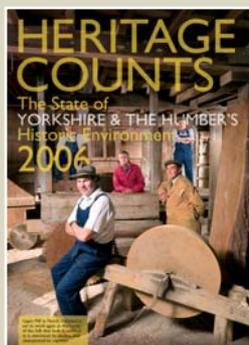
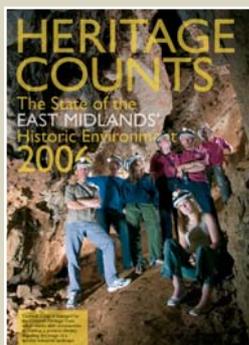
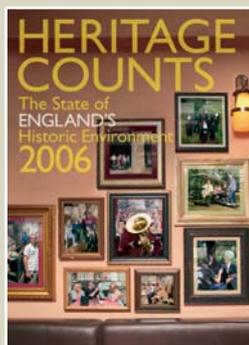
From 1994/95 to 2005/06, the **Heritage Lottery Fund** has made 2,225 awards in the South West with a total value of nearly £373 million. Of this, nearly £116 million has been for historic buildings and monuments.

73% of adults in the South West visited at least one historic environment site in 2005/06, significantly above the national average.

More than one in ten people in the South West are **members of a heritage organisation** such as the National Trust or English Heritage.

249 historic properties in the South West region are members of the Historic Houses Association. Of these, 133 (which is over a quarter of the national total) are open to the public and 10 run formal education programmes.

There were 43,599 free **education visits** to Stonehenge and a further 32,146 to other English Heritage sites in the South West in 2005/06.



This report has been prepared by the South West Historic Environment Forum, a group representing the key agencies and organisations with an active interest in the historic environment of the region.

English Heritage [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

The Association of Preservation Trusts [www.heritage.co.uk/apt/](http://www.heritage.co.uk/apt/)

The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers [www.algao.org.uk](http://www.algao.org.uk)

The Country Land and Business Association [www.cla.org.uk](http://www.cla.org.uk)

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

The Heritage Lottery Fund [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

The Historic Houses Association [www.hha.org.uk](http://www.hha.org.uk)

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation [www.ihbc.org.uk](http://www.ihbc.org.uk)

The National Trust [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

The Royal Institute of British Architects [www.riba.org](http://www.riba.org)

The University of the West of England, Bristol [www.uwe.ac.uk](http://www.uwe.ac.uk)

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