

HERITAGE COUNTS 2012

SOUTH WEST

Heritage Counts 2012 is the eleventh annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the South West Historic Environment Forum. This year the theme for Heritage Counts is resilience in the historic environment. Visitors to the Heritage Counts website can download the complete research projects commissioned to support this year's report and access the full set of local statistics and maps detailing the historic environment for the South West, including asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. Many of these indicators were first reported in 2002, so this year also marks 10 years of indicators in Heritage Counts. Further analysis has been carried out on some of the key indicators to identify changes and trends in the last ten years.

HERITAGE AND RESILIENCE

This year, Heritage Counts focuses on resilience: the ability of heritage organisations to cope with issues that affect them. Although prompted by the current economic climate, the research found that the resilience evident in the organisations studied predates the current difficulties, suggesting that resilient organisations have a long history of change and adaptation. The research identified barriers to resilience which might make it difficult for organisations to adapt to a changing climate. It looks at a sample of heritage organisations that have adapted in a range of ways, and identifies how these changes can be applied across other organisations in the sector. Please see the national Heritage Counts 2012 report for more detail.

www.heritagecounts.org.uk

Resilience: Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol

By the 1980s Arnos Vale, one of the finest examples of Victorian Arcadian garden cemetery design, had fallen into disrepair and was at risk of redevelopment. A Friends group worked with Bristol City Council over many years to secure the site (which was eventually achieved in 2003 following a Compulsory Purchase Order or CPO), then to raise HLF funds for restoration and to establish the present Trust.

Bristol City Council took on the site after the CPO, project managed the restoration and, unusually, gifted an endowment to sustain the site in the future; it now leases the site to the Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust, whose Chief Executive and small team of staff relaunched the newly restored cemetery in May 2011.

A key decision was to introduce a range of unusual, lively and popular

uses for the cemetery rather than restoring then 'quietly' maintaining it. After its first year of operation, Arnos Vale Cemetery has a dedicated core of volunteers, a range of new activities, and a strong Board with expertise in legal and financial matters as well as heritage and wildlife. Relationships with the local community are building, and new income streams are being identified and tested. The Trust's application to the HLF's Catalyst Fund was successful in June 2012, and will be matched by the proceeds of a major, four-year fundraising programme.

New Cafe at Arnos Vale Cemetery
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Understanding the Assets

South West	2012
World Heritage Sites	4
Scheduled Monuments	6,988
Listed Buildings Grade I	2,046
Listed Buildings Grade II*	5,150
Listed Buildings Grade II	82,419
Registered Parks and Gardens	295
Registered Battlefields	8
Protected Wrecks	23
Conservation Areas	1,535

Caring and Sharing

159 (2%) of the region's grade I and II* listed buildings are at risk, along with 1,415 (20%) scheduled ancient monuments, 18 (6%) registered parks and gardens and 83 (7%) conservation areas. For full details see

www.heritageatrisk.org.uk

Nationally, in 2011/12 planning application decisions are down by 1% on 2010/11. The fall was 3% in the South West, which has seen a 30% drop in planning decisions since 2002/3 (26% nationally).

Listed building consent (LBC) decisions have decreased by 1% in 2011/12 nationally and in the South West, but the regional decrease since 2002/3 is 21% as opposed to 10% for England.

Since 1994/5, the Heritage Lottery Fund has made awards totalling over £453m in the South West. £10.6m was offered in 2011/12.

English Heritage offered £1.3m in grants to projects in the South West in 2011/12, 8% of the national figure.

There were 155 full-time equivalent (FTE) local authority historic environment staff in the South West, 5 fewer than in 2011/12. The loss relates to an 8% decrease in archaeology FTE. Since 2003, numbers have decreased by 10% nationally, and 14% in the South West. Data collected for the South West Historic Environment Forum illustrate that capacity has also been affected by loss of experienced staff, focus on development control casework, and reduction in working hours.

Using and Benefiting

According to DCMS's Taking Part survey, 75% of adults in the South West visited at least one heritage site in 2011/12. This is a 4% increase on 2010/11. The national participation rate (74.3%) has also increased by just under 4 percentage points on 2010/11.

Last year there were 16,402 National Trust volunteers in the South West, up nearly 13% on 2010/11.

Heritage Open Days (HODs) have continued to grow in the South West, where there were 603 events in September 2011, 14% of the national programme. Gloucester was one of the top five cities for HODs events.

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The *National Heritage Counts 2012* report summarises major policy developments including the publication of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) in March 2012, progress on the National Heritage Protection Plan 2011-2015, the implications of the March 2012 Budget on VAT for work to historic buildings, and implications of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill. The following gives a flavour of policy developments in 2011/12 which affect the historic environment sector in the South West.

Supporting Building Preservation Trusts

The first ever report into the work of the region's building preservation trusts was published in July. It found that there are over 50 active trusts in the South West, supported by over 9,500 volunteers. Many are tackling assets on the Heritage at Risk Register. See www.ukapt.org.uk

The Architectural Heritage Fund Heritage at Risk Support Officer for the South West was appointed in January and has already helped progress a number of trust-owned buildings at risk. The post is part-funded by English Heritage.

Localism

The sector held a number of events in the South West in 2011/12 to explore the implications of the localism agenda for the built and historic environment. A report of one of these events, English Heritage and Bristol City Council's 'Heritage and Localism' conference held on 22 March is available online at www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/working-locally/south-west/highlights/

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are strategic partnerships to help manage the local natural environment and embed its value in local decision-making. In September 2012, eight LNPs, covering the entire South West, had been recognised by Government and were beginning to formulate action plans and engage with stakeholders. In the predominantly rural South West, it will be important

to ensure that the historic and cultural aspects of landscape are reflected in LNP plans and priorities.

London 2012 Legacy

In August and September, Weymouth and Portland hosted the sailing events of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Spectators enjoyed the events from the historic settings of The Nothe and the recently repaired Sandsfoot Castle. Environment and Sustainability, is one of five themes through which the London Organising Committee will record the legacy of the Games, offering scope to consolidate on the benefits already secured through the £3.5m investment in Weymouth's seafront regeneration, which attracted both English Heritage and Arts Council funding.

Heritage Counts 2012 is edited by Elizabeth Clare. It has been produced by English Heritage on behalf of the South West Historic Environment Forum. Its members include the following organisations:

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, UK Association of Preservation Trusts, Churches Conservation Trust, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Country Land & Business Association, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Houses Association, Institute of Historic Building Conservation, National Trust, Natural England, RIBA, University of the West of England.

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