

Introduction

This report is one of nine regional documents that are being published alongside the national document *Heritage Counts 2003: The State of the Historic Environment*. The suite of *Heritage Counts* documents builds on the first *State of the Historic Environment Report* (SHER), which was published in 2002 in response to the Government's statement *The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future* (2001). This regional report has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the South East Historic Environment Forum. It aims to quantify and monitor the condition of the historic environment in the region, the pressures it faces and its contribution to economic and social well being. The report focuses on the collection and synthesis of key data relating to the region's historic environment, and should be viewed as an evolving document in its second year of development.

The South East is a dynamic region. Its economic successes, failures and related government policies for housing and transport, as well as wider social change, all drive the region forward. The historic environment plays an important part in sustainable development, which is often defined as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (The Brundtland Commission, 1987). Sustainable social and economic development should recognise the value of the historic environment both to present and future generations and must leave succeeding generations a stock of capital no less than we have now. *Heritage Counts* in the South East begins to quantify this resource, its condition and the pressure it is under as well as the contribution it makes to the regional economy and our quality of life.

Regional Profile

1 www.statistics.gov.uk

2 Countryside Agency

3 www.statistics.gov.uk



The South East, at 19,069 sq km, is the third largest of the 9 English regions, covering 15% of the total area of England. It is nearly a third larger than the average English region.

Its population of 8,077,600 is the largest for an English region (13.6% of UK total) and with 420 people per sq km it is well above the average density for an English region of 381 people per sq km. 1 24.4% of the population are classified as living in rural areas. 2

The region is governed by 66 local authorities (excluding counties), almost 70% more than the average English region. 3

1.1

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTH EAST

The South East is the gateway between Europe and the capital. The crucial importance of the region to the defence of the realm throughout history is reflected in the region's military heritage. The region contains the ports and dockyards of Dover, Chatham and Portsmouth and many individual defensive structures, such as the Martello Towers and the Royal Military Canal.

Buildings obsolete for their original purpose are a persistent issue for the region. The South East has the highest number of buildings on the register of buildings at risk. This includes many defence structures, of which there are 61 on the register in the region.

Major transport routes spread across the region from London through historic cities and towns to other regions, the ports and the continent. From 1800 architecture takes its cue from the metropolis and even counties that had not previously been heavily settled show a rich crop of buildings in all the nineteenth-century styles.

The proximity of London was also a factor in the development of both inland and seaside resorts, and in the growth of a distinctive country house culture.

So too was the beauty of the region's countryside. The South East region has the highest coverage of designated landscape in England, with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty covering 31% of its area, 72 km of the 1041 km of Heritage Coast, and the South Downs and New Forest both being in the process of designation as National Parks.

Human impact on the landscape is everywhere. The patterns of building reflect the diversity of the geology of the region – a long coastline (from the New Forest to the Thames Estuary), coastal plains and marshes, chalk downlands, the Weald, the Chilterns, part of the London basin and the Thames and Avon Vales and the east end of the Cotswolds.

The historic buildings and landscapes that characterise these areas add much to the quality of life that underpins the region's economy.

1.2

THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

The South East is one of the UK's most successful regions in conventional economic terms. With an estimated Gross Domestic Product of £146 billion in 2003, it is the second largest economy in the UK accounting for 15% of the UK's GDP and makes the largest net contribution to the UK exchequer (£17 billion). **5**

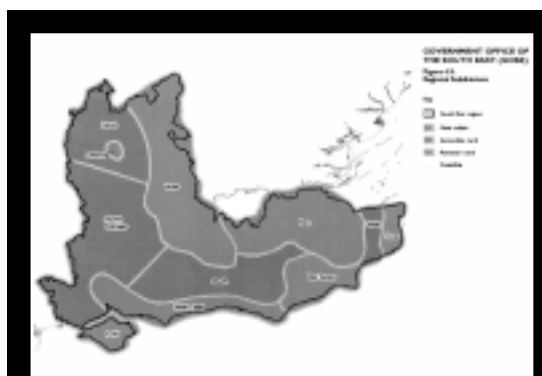
However on an absolute basis the South East has one of the largest groups of excluded and deprived people. Of the 20% most deprived wards in the UK, 119 are in the South East. Over 700,000 people live in these wards, including half the population of Thanet, over one-third of the population of Southampton and over one-third of the population of Brighton and Hove. **6**

Success is putting pressure on the housing market, with supply of affordable housing one of the major issues facing the region. The economically buoyant parts of the region also suffer from severe congestion on road and rail giving rise to unreliable and protracted journeys. However, in the region's deprived areas improving the quality of the housing stock and the often relatively poor transport systems are a regional priority.

The main forces for change acting on the historic environment are generated by the economic successes and failures of the region, related government policies for housing and transport, and social and economic change.

Section 5 – 'Forces for Change' describes regional housing and transport strategy in greater detail, and outlines the forces acting on particular settlement and building types, such as military structures, seaside towns, churches and farm buildings.

Change is inevitable and necessary. The challenge in the South East is to make it both sustainable and a welcome contribution to the future's past. To manage change successfully we must start with an audit of the resource and the pressures it is under.

Map 1 **7**Map 2 **8**The South East –
Urban or Rural?

Map 1. These tentative classifications of rural zones indicate different pressures on the historic resource across the region. Development pressure on historic buildings in near urban and accessible rural areas brings forward issues of acceptable re-use and of design in historic context as well as pressures on buried archaeology. In remote rural areas the threats are mainly to buried archaeology through agriculture and in particular through plough damage.

An Economic Success?

Map 2. Although the region is thought of as prosperous there are pockets of severe deprivation. This map shows the areas of deprivation across the South East and those areas that have been prioritised for regeneration. The historic environment matters to people and can contribute to sustainable regeneration in these areas.

5 SEEDA figures.

6 Indices of Deprivation 2000, DETR.

7 South East England Regional Assembly, Planning for Sustainable Rural Economic Development, April 2003.

8 South East England Regional Assembly.

2

The Historic Environment of the South East Region

2.1

INTRODUCTION

Conservation of the built environment is about managing change so that we can hand on that which we value to future generations. It is rooted in the philosophies of 'sustainability'.

The importance of a site may be recognised nationally or locally through specific designations, such as World Heritage Sites, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, registered historic parks and gardens and registered battlefields. The wider non-designated archaeological resource is recorded on county Historic Environment Records (HERs) and is afforded protection through Planning Policy Guidance.

However the impact of man upon our environment is everywhere, not just in the individual designated sites. Increasingly we are looking at the wider historic character of a given area to inform proposals for change. County-wide historic landscape characterisation (HLC) and intensive and extensive urban archaeological surveys describe the impact of past human activity in a given landscape.

2.2

LISTED BUILDINGS

What they are and how they are chosen

Listed buildings are those of special architectural or historic interest and include a wide variety of structures from grottos to country houses. There are four main criteria that are applied in deciding which buildings to include in the statutory lists, these are: architectural interest, historic interest – illustrative of important aspects of our history, close historical association – associated with important people or events, and group value – where buildings comprise an important unity. A building may qualify for listing under any one of these criteria.

There are 76,008 listed buildings in the South East, the second highest for an English region and much higher than the average of 41,288. Listed buildings are categorised into three grades according to their level of importance. Those at Grade I are buildings of exceptional interest, of which there are 1,736 in the region (1,019 – average region). Grade II* are particularly important buildings, of which there are 3,817 (2,359 – average region). Grade II are buildings of special interest, of which there are 70,455 (37,886 – average region).

Only 2.3% of the region's buildings are Grade I, 5% are Grade II*. 92.7% of the listed buildings in the region are Grade II. Local authorities may also maintain a local list. There is no statutory protection for buildings on the local list, but many will be protected by policies in local plans. The average number of locally listed buildings per local authority in the South East is 184.

Development pressure and degree of protection provided by designation

Once a building is listed, listed building consent is required for any works, internal or external, which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest. Listed building consent may not be granted by the local authority for Grade I and II* and some Grade II without an application being made to the Secretary of State (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister). English Heritage advises the Secretary of State on whether to call in applications for his own determination and is consulted at an early stage by local authorities in order to avoid the need for the Secretary of State's intervention.

There were 96,412 planning applications decided in the South East over the year 2002/03. 6,731 (5.8% of all applications) involved applications for listed building consent and of these 5,985 (88.9%) were granted.

Of the South East's counties, Kent had the highest number of applications for listed building consent (1,389). This represents a rate of 7.8 applications for every 100 listed buildings. East Sussex has the highest number of applications per 100 listed buildings at 12, with Brighton and Hove at 28.7. See Table 1.

English Heritage was consulted on 1,122 applications for listed building consent in the region, which represents 17% of the total applications for listed building consent across the region.

Condition of listed buildings within the region

The English Heritage *Register of Buildings at Risk* brings together information on all the Grade I and II* listed buildings and scheduled monuments, known to be at risk through neglect or decay or due to an uncertain future are vulnerable to becoming so.

The South East, with 216 buildings at risk, has more than any other region, (down from the 1999 baseline of 233). This is partly due to the size of the Grade I and Grade II* listed building stock (the second highest of any English region at 5,553). The proportion of Grade I buildings at risk (3.5%) is higher than average (3.1%), but Grade II* (2.0%) is below the average (3.8%). The figure also includes 105 scheduled monuments. This is the highest regional figure (next highest is the West Midlands with 67). A quarter of the entries (54) are public-owned.

During 2002/03, 16 entries were added to the list, but 22 were removed. Since 1999, 58 have been removed as their future has been secured, six have been removed from risk of rapid deterioration, but are still at risk and 10 of those that were slowly decaying with no solution have had a solution agreed, but not yet implemented.

55 are at immediate risk, 10 of which have a solution agreed (but not yet implemented). 152 are slowly decaying, 35 of which have had a solution identified (but not yet implemented).

The extent to which the cost of converting an historic building to its optimum viable use, compatible with its special interest, is greater than the value of the completed building is known as the 'conservation deficit'.

The total conservation deficit in the South East on buildings at risk is £94.1 million. This is far higher than the average of £38.6 million. Only 6.5% are economic to repair. 32 have a conservation deficit between £250,000 and £500,000, 28 between £500,000 and £1 million and 11 of over £1 million.

56 entries on the register (25.9%) are capable of beneficial re-use, the lowest percentage of all regions. The proportion that may find a low-key use is higher than any other region. 23 entries are incidental to a registered garden or landscape, 11 are intact isolated structures and 52 are isolated ruins (all higher than any other English region).



Seaplane, Calshot, Hampshire

Adaptive re-use of a listed building

The Seaplane hangars at Calshot, Hampshire, which date from between 1914 and 1918 have been listed at Grade II*. The site is now an outdoor activities centre, and the great steel-framed hangar of 1918, shown here, has been converted into a multipurpose sports hall with velodrome, ski slope, tennis courts and sports pitches. This is just one example of the many uses that have been found for the buildings, which we value in the region, and which otherwise might have become redundant.

It is the region's defence and maritime buildings that contribute the most items to the register (61). The region also has the highest number of agricultural and subsistence buildings at risk (21) and items in the gardens, parks and recreational category (27).

Buildings at risk registers for Grade II structures are maintained by the local authorities themselves. It is not known how many local authorities maintain a buildings at risk register for Grade II buildings, although research on this topic is taking place.

1 Number of listed buildings and listed building consent decisions by district

REGION	NO OF LISTED BUILDINGS (ALL GRADES)	LISTED BUILDING CONSENT (LBC) DECISIONS	LISTED BUILDING CONSENT (LBC) GRANTED	LBC DECISIONS AS % OF ALL PLANNING APPLICATIONS	LBC DECISIONS AS % OF TOTAL LISTED BUILDINGS	% LBC DECISIONS WHICH WERE GRANTED
BRACKNELL	259	17	17	1.5	6.5	100
READING	503	49	43	3.9	9.6	87.8
SLOUGH	63	6	6	0.5	9.5	100
WEST BERKSHIRE	1,882	160	148	6.6	8.5	92.5
WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD	993	111	94	4.6	11.4	84.7
WOKINGHAM	638	67	58	2.8	10.5	86.6
BERKSHIRE	4,338	410	366	3.8	9.5	89.3
AYLESBURY VALE	2,865	297	257	10.8	10.4	86.5
CHILTERN	974	93	88	4.4	9.5	94.6
SOUTH BUCKS	713	57	52	4	8	91.2
WYCOMBE	1,228	82	76	3.2	6.7	92.7
MILTON KEYNES	1,072	66	61	3.4	6.2	92.4
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	6,852	595	534	5.5	8.7	89.7
CHERWELL	2,283	217	190	10.1	9.5	87.6
OXFORD	1,124	113	112	7.1	10.1	99.1
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE	3,288	241	227	9	7.3	94.2
VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE	2,184	174	162	9.5	8	93.1
WEST OXFORDSHIRE	3,192	204	195	10.5	6.4	95.6
OXFORDSHIRE	12,071	949	886	9.3	7.9	93.4
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE	1,600	142	124	6.1	8.9	87.3
EASTLEIGH	181	14	14	0.9	7.7	100
EAST HAMPSHIRE	1,316	143	118	6.8	10.9	82.5
FAREHAM	431	40	34	2.5	9.3	85
GOSPORT	153	14	14	2.1	9.2	100
HART & RUSHMOOR	983	99	89	4.6	10.1	89.9
HAVANT	241	28	24	2.2	11.6	85.7
NEW FOREST	1,478	115	99	4	7.8	86.1
TEST VALLEY	2,069	152	138	7	7.3	90.8
WINCHESTER	2,251	229	193	8.9	10.2	84.3
PORTSMOUTH	444	40	36	2.8	9	90
SOUTHAMPTON	314	34	31	2.4	10.8	91.2
HAMPSHIRE	11,461	1,050	914	4.8	9.2	87
ISLE OF WIGHT	1,933	132	124	5.6	6.8	93.9

ELMBRIDGE	493	51	41	2	10.3	80.4
EPSOM & EWELL	330	38	34	3.7	11.5	89.5
GUILDFORD	1,062	87	72	3.8	8.2	82.8
MOLE VALLEY	995	45	44	2.9	4.5	97.8
REIGATE & BANSTEAD	442	42	40	2.4	9.5	95.2
RUNNYMEDE	308	32	30	2.5	10.4	93.8
SPELTHORNE	211	23	21	2.3	10.9	91.3
SURREY HEATH	172	13	10	1	7.6	76.9
TANDRIDGE	601	39	33	2.6	6.5	84.6
WAVERLEY	1,679	102	94	4.5	6.1	92.2
WOKING	162	7	7	0.5	4.3	100
SURREY	6,455	479	426	2.7	7.4	88.9
ADUR	120	0	0	0	0	0
ARUN	967	106	93	6.5	11	87.7
CHICHESTER	3,313	411	365	14	12.4	88.8
CRAWLEY	95	6	6	0.9	6.3	100
HORSHAM	1,756	189	159	7.7	10.8	84.1
MID SUSSEX	1,043	84	80	4.1	8.1	95.2
WORTHING	215	24	20	2.1	11.2	83.3
WEST SUSSEX	7,509	820	723	7.4	11	88.2
EASTBOURNE	119	12	12	1.6	10.1	100
HASTINGS	552	73	61	8.8	13.2	83.5
LEWES	1,258	109	95	8.2	8.7	87.2
ROTHER	2,179	175	151	9	8	86.3
WEALDEN	2,223	188	168	7.2	8.5	89.4
BRIGHTON & HOVE	1,220	350	294	11.4	28.7	84
EAST SUSSEX	7,551	907	781	8.6	12	86.1
ASHFORD	2,411	197	161	10.3	8.2	81.7
CANTERBURY	1,874	149	139	8.5	8	93.3
DARTFORD	182	17	17	1.7	9.3	100
DOVER	1,912	114	104	8.7	6	91.2
GRAVESHAM	303	29	23	3	9.6	79.3
MAIDSTONE	2,020	147	115	8.3	7.3	78.2
SEVENOAKS	1,699	111	98	5.5	6.5	88.3
SHEPWAY	890	49	47	3.9	5.5	95.9
SWALE	1,456	91	80	6.7	6.3	87.9
THANET	1,002	46	45	4.4	4.6	97.8
TONBRIDGE & MALLING	1,301	153	146	8.6	1.8	95.4
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	2,247	239	211	11.5	10.6	88.3
MEDWAY	605	47	45	1.9	7.8	95.7
KENT	17,838	1,389	1,231	6.7	7.8	88.6
SOUTH EAST REGION	76,008	6,731	5,985	5.8	8.9	88.9
AVE ENGLISH REGION	41,288					

Source: Data from English Heritage and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)

■ Local Authority
Conservation Provision
(EH/IHBC 2002).

2.3 CONSERVATION AREAS

What they are and how they are chosen

Conservation areas are areas of architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. They are designated by local planning authorities usually after a period of consultation with the local community. Within the region there are 1,979 conservation areas. The average for an English region is 1,009.

Once a conservation area is designated, in considering development proposals, the local authority has a duty to preserve or enhance its character. There are restrictions on permitted development rights and trees cannot be felled or lopped without first notifying the local authority. Conservation area consent is required for the demolition of any unlisted building or part of a building with a cubic content of greater than 115 cubic metres.

Development pressure

In 2002/03 there were 497 applications for conservation area consent, of which 361 were granted (73%). This equates to an average of around one application for conservation area consent for every four conservation areas. The most conservation area consent cases in any local authority was recorded in Brighton and Hove, with 33 applications, equating to one for every conservation area.

There is no available data for the number of planning applications that take place within or impact on the setting of a conservation area. However local authorities are required to notify English Heritage of any development of a site with a size of 1000m², and over, or which would be over 20m high, which lies within, or would affect a conservation area. In 2002/03, the South East regional team was consulted on 1,092 such applications. This equates to an average of just over one 'major' application for every two conservation areas.

Condition of conservation areas within the region

There is no nationally defined indicator for assessing the condition of conservation areas. Pilot work is being undertaken to agree a methodology that will allow the quantification of change in historic areas.

Both PPG15 and the English Heritage publication *Conservation Area Practice* advocate the production of conservation area appraisals to assist in the understanding and management of conservation areas. A joint IHBC/EH survey on local authority conservation found that, of those authorities in the South East that responded, under a third of conservation areas are covered by a character appraisal. ■ See Table 2.

2.4 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

What they are and how they are chosen

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport compiles a schedule of monuments of national importance. In general terms scheduling of an historic site or building signals the intention to ensure its preservation as a monument, as far as possible without significant alteration. Once a monument has been scheduled any works, except those provided for under the Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994, which materially affect it or its site will require scheduled monument consent. There are 2,598 scheduled monuments in the South East. See Table 3.

Development pressure

There were 154 applications for scheduled monument consent in the South East in 2002/03. This is the equivalent of one application for every 17 scheduled monuments.

Condition of scheduled monuments within the region

Since 1945, increasingly intensive cultivation has damaged many archaeological sites. Nearly 3,000 scheduled monuments are being actively ploughed across the country. Over the year 2002/03 English Heritage spent £77,490 on archaeological management agreements, including £50,000 for the Royal Military Canal (see case study p.14). These agreements ensure an appropriate standard of care and maintenance, management and public access, where changed circumstances mean assistance is required. A pilot study of scheduled monuments at risk has taken place in the East Midlands to agree a method for assessing the condition of scheduled monuments.

2 Number of conservation area consent decisions by county

	NO. OF CONSERVATION AREAS	CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS (CAC)		% CAC DECISIONS GRANTED	CAC DECISIONS AS % OF ALL APPLICATIONS	AVERAGE NO. OF CAC DECISIONS / CA
		DECISIONS	GRANTED			
BERKSHIRE	114	30	25	83	0.28%	0.26
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	196	37	29	78	0.35%	0.19
OXFORDSHIRE	236	71	65	92	0.70%	0.3
HAMPSHIRE	325	111	92	83	0.52%	0.34
ISLE OF WIGHT	23	7	5	71	0.30%	0.3
SURREY	233	66	52	79	0.37%	0.28
WEST SUSSEX	230	24	20	83	0.22%	0.1
EAST SUSSEX	133	30	24	80	0.40%	0.23
KENT	489	88	75	85.2	0.45%	0.18
AVERAGE/COUNTY	220	48	40			
SOUTH EAST	1,979	497	361	84	0.45%	0.22

3 Number of scheduled monuments by county

	NUMBER OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS
BERKSHIRE	136
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	189
OXFORDSHIRE	289
HAMPSHIRE	675
ISLE OF WIGHT	119
SURREY	164
WEST SUSSEX	352
EAST SUSSEX	318
KENT	416
SOUTH EAST REGION	2,598*

* The total number of SAMs in the South East is less than the sum of the county totals, because some SAMs fall within more than one county. In the regional total each SAM has only been counted once.



Chatham Historic Dockyard provides the context for development on this sensitive site

Characterisation – The Thames Gateway

The Thames Gateway is the largest of the 'Growth Areas' identified in the Government's plan for *Sustainable Communities*. It aims to create five new communities in the lower Thames area, which falls within the South East, London and East of England government regions. Growth in the Thames Gateway is identified as a major force for change in the South East region (see Section 5).

A greater awareness of the wider historic environment of the Thames Gateway is needed if development is to be sustainable, and we are to hand on what we value to future generations. English Heritage, in partnership with local government, has initiated a rapid characterisation project of the Thames Gateway. It will step back from issues of significance and importance to produce a new, comprehensive and generalised overview of character, of sensitivity and of opportunities for change. It will be geographically comprehensive, providing the highest-level strategic overview and will identify the need for and scope of later work, on which later work can build.

2.5 MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

Despite their radically different environmental circumstances marine and terrestrial archaeological remains are a continuum. The National Monuments Record contains over 40,000 marine sites on its Maritime Record, many of which lie off the coast of the South East.

However there are only 39 sites of vessels lying in or on the seabed off England which are designated under the 1973 Protection of Wrecks Act. Fifteen of these are off the South East.

2.6 HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

What they are and how they are chosen

The register of parks and gardens of historic interest is compiled by English Heritage. The main purpose of the register is to help ensure that the features and qualities which make these parks and landscapes of national importance can be safeguarded. Within this region there are 354 historic parks and gardens, which is just under 23% of the national register. 271 are privately owned, 31 are National Trust properties and 18 are Urban Public Parks. See Table 4.

Development pressure

There are no additional planning controls over development affecting the site of a historic park and garden. However their existence must be taken into account by local planning authorities when considering development proposals. The Garden History Society is notified of all planning applications affecting a registered park or its setting. In 2002/03, it was notified of 235 applications, the highest for any English Region, (the average for an English region is 81).

Condition of historic parks and gardens

There are 27 structures at risk in the region's historic parks and gardens. A pilot study is underway to establish a methodology for assessing historic parks and gardens at risk.

2.7 WORLD HERITAGE SITES

What they are and how they are chosen

These sites, inscribed by UNESCO, are considered to be of outstanding universal value. The region has two of England's 15 World Heritage Sites: Blenheim Palace (inscribed 1987) and Canterbury Cathedral/St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church (1988). See Table 6.

Development pressure

There are no additional planning controls for World Heritage Sites, but their existence is a material consideration for local authorities when they consider development proposals. There is no information available for the number of applications affecting either World Heritage Site in the South East.

4 Number of registered parks and gardens in the region, how many have been added in the year 2002/03, by type

REGION	NO. OF SITES	ADDED 02/03
SOUTH EAST		
CEMETERY	10	5
URBAN PUBLIC PARK	18	4
COUNTRY PARK	3	
OTHER PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	4	
TOWN SQUARE	2	
HOSPITAL	8	1
NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES	31	
ENGLISH HERITAGE GUARDIANSHIP SITES	7	
PRIVATELY OWNED PARK OR GARDEN	271	2
SOUTH EAST TOTAL	354	12

5 Battlefields in the South East region

BATTLE, EAST SUSSEX (1066)

LEWES, EAST SUSSEX (1264)

CHALGROVE FIELD, OXFORDSHIRE (1643)

CHERITON, HAMPSHIRE (1644)

CROPREDY BRIDGE, OXFORDSHIRE (1644)

NEWBURY, OXFORDSHIRE (1644)

6 Inscribed World Heritage Sites and those on the tentative list 2003

INSCRIBED

BLenheim PALACE, OXFORDSHIRE (1987)

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL/ ST AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY AND ST MARTIN'S CHURCH (1988)

TENTATIVE

CHATHAM

THE NEW FOREST

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

Condition of World Heritage Sites

The presence of a management plan is an important indication that management decisions affecting World Heritage Sites are made in a fully informed context. At present the Canterbury site has an active steering committee and an adopted management plan. A management plan for Blenheim Palace is in preparation.

2.8

REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

There are 6 of England's 43 registered battlefields on the list compiled by English Heritage. See Table 5. There are no additional planning controls, although their existence is a material consideration for local authorities when they assess development proposals. There is no information available for the number of applications affecting registered battlefields or on their condition.

2.9

CHARACTERISATION

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) provides a generalised, county-wide understanding of the historic character of the landscape, including the historic fabric of the countryside, the settlement patterns and the tracks and roads. The products are sophisticated Geographical Information Systems (GISs) with related databases, that are being used as supplementary planning guidance to guide planning decisions. So far HLC has been completed for Kent, Surrey and Hampshire. The Isle of Wight, both Sussexes and Buckinghamshire are in progress.

2.10

OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS

Scheduled monuments represent only a small proportion of the total archaeological resource in the region. Local authority archaeologists are responsible for maintaining a register of all the known archaeological sites in their area – known as Historic Environment Records (HERs). Sites on the HERs are formally recognised through the planning process.

Intensive urban archaeological surveys are underway in major historic urban centres. The database for Winchester is completed and pilots completed in Canterbury, Chichester, Oxford and Southampton. Extensive urban strategies have been completed for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and are in progress in Kent and Surrey. Assessments and strategies based on these databases will provide a sound basis for future management and reduce uncertainty for developers.

2.11

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS

Archaeological Research Frameworks provide an effective and flexible structure for decision making regarding archaeological research. They give an overview of the current understanding and knowledge in the region, identifying gaps in understanding and providing a prioritised set of research objectives for the future.

There are three regional research frameworks for the South East. The first covers Kent and East and West Sussex, the second covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire and Surrey both of these are in their early stages. The Greater Thames Estuary research framework was published in 1999 and will be due for re-appraisal in 2004.

Managing the Historic Environment

3

3.1

EH GRANT AID

In the period 2002/03 English Heritage offered £4,469,000 in grant aid for the historic environment in the region. £889,000 was offered to 17 buildings at risk and a further £147,000 to private owners, primarily for urgent repairs. £720,000 was offered to Heritage Economic Regeneration Schemes and £2,475,000 to churches and places of worship.

3.2

HLF GRANT AID

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) represents the single largest source of funding for conservation of the historic environment in the South East. In the region a total of £245,212,695 of HLF funds had been committed by 1st July 2003. This represents 9% of the total for the UK.

Funding is divided nationally (UK) between historic buildings and sites (30%); industrial, maritime and transport heritage (8%); countryside and nature conservation (19%); documentary heritage (7%); and museums and collections (20%). However the HLF were not able to fund privately or commercially owned buildings. The two biggest HLF grant programmes nationally (UK) are the Townscape Heritage Initiative, grants that help communities to regenerate the historic parts of their towns and cities, and the Repair Grants for Places of Worship. ¹

3.3

LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANTS FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

In relation to the other sources of funding for the historic environment, the overall expenditure from local authorities is small, although not insignificant. According to a recent survey 61% of local authorities had their own historic building grant programme. The average budget for 2001/02 of the respondents was £32,360. 42.2% of respondents had a budget for conservation area enhancement work.



Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS), Lewes

In October 2000 flooding damaged many of the listed buildings and properties within the conservation area. The following February English Heritage offered to fund £40,000 per annum over the following three years, with match funding from the local authority. Through this grant aid the proper repair of the damaged fabric was encouraged.

The scheme is targeting the repair and restoration of lost features of commercial properties within the conservation area and housing in Morris Road and Timberyard Lane. The scheme allows for the traditional repair of flood defences and environmental improvements around the area of Cliffe Bridge.

3.4

RDA FUNDING

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) is the regional agency concerned with promoting sustainable economic development within the region. Its aims are to enhance quality of life as measured by economic prosperity, environmental quality and social inclusion. Through the Regional Sustainable Development Framework SEEDA is committed to development which 'through design and location uses land efficiently, conserves natural, cultural and historic heritage'.

With a budget for 2002/03 of £126 million, SEEDA receives only 7% of the total provided to regional development agencies in England. ²

¹ Fact Sheets, Heritage Lottery Fund.

² Department of Trade and Industry.

3 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

4 Defra figures.

Royal Military Canal

Built between 1804 and 1806, as part of the defence strategy against the threat of Napoleonic invasion the canal was designed with unique 'kinks' every 600 metres for the placement of field guns and a 35 foot soil parapet for the protection of troops.

If no further dredging were to be carried out, the canal would silt within 30 years – between Seabrook and Ladies Walk this would happen in just 10-15 years and at localised problem areas even sooner. The conservation plan aims to preserve the fabric of the monument and ensure it remains as open water.

Resolving the issue of silt accumulation will also provide a base on which the vision for widening access and enhancing understanding and enjoyment of the monument can be developed. £2.9 million has been raised from Shepway District Council, The Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage for the dredging of the canal and for improved access and interpretation, including re-surfacing the tow-path, two new foot-bridges, re-introducing visitor access along the military road and interpretation panels.

3.5

RURAL FUNDS

- **Agri-Environment Schemes**

Defra's **3** Entry Level agri-environment scheme will offer a series of management options to prevent damage to the historic character of farms and improve the condition of many archaeological sites and historic buildings and features, as part of the overall stewardship of farm land. There is one pilot scheme in the region in Mortimer, near Reading, in Berkshire.

Major repairs to derelict farm buildings or site interpretation can currently be funded by other agri-environment schemes such as Countryside Stewardship (CSS) or Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) schemes. In the region 11.9% of scheduled monuments and 19.2% of the area of historic parks and gardens are covered by CSS. 7.5% of scheduled monuments and 2% of the area of historic parks and gardens are covered by ESA schemes. **4**

- **Market Towns Initiative**

The Market Towns Initiative, run jointly by SEEDA and the Countryside Agency, aims to revitalise the region's market towns. The Market Towns Initiative

has been identified as a major force for change in the historic environment of the South East (see Section 5)

- **Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund**

The Aggregates Levy is a levy on producers of £1.60 per tonne that is intended to make the price of aggregates better reflect the true social and environmental costs of their extraction, transportation and use. In 2002/03 the South East region had 25 projects worth over £1 million, some shared with other English Heritage regions or departments, supporting projects that develop the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the historic environment that has been, or may in the future be, affected by the aggregate industry.

3.6

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY STAFF

The majority of applications for development affecting the historic environment are determined by the region's local planning authorities. Each has a responsibility for protecting, on average, 1,152 listed buildings and 30 conservation areas. A huge responsibility, therefore, rests with the local planning authorities who are at the front line of safeguarding the historic environment.

A recent report commissioned by IHBC and English Heritage describes local authority conservation service as 'over-stretched' and 'under-resourced'. The average number of conservation posts per authority in the South East is 1.5 (FTE) compared to a national average of 1.7. The situation is exacerbated by the current development pressure in the region.

Historic building conservation specialists within local planning authorities are routinely engaged on a wide variety of tasks including development control (which tends to occupy the majority of the workload), advice to owners, education/outreach work, administering grant schemes, developing enhancement schemes and undertaking appraisals and regeneration work. Given the varied workload of each authority and the diversity of activities each conservation officer is required to undertake, it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons between the staffing levels of one authority and another.

3.7

HER STAFFING

The HER provides planning advice both to the local planning authorities and to developers or their consultants. All local authorities have access to archaeology advisory services. There are 13.5 (FTE) archaeologists engaged in providing advice and maintaining the HERs in the region.

3.8

ENGLISH HERITAGE STAFFING

English Heritage is the statutory advisor to the Secretary of State on all matters relating to the historic environment. Its regional staff provide expertise in a wide range of areas including cultural resource management, architectural history, archaeology and archaeological science, historic buildings architecture, historic environment planning, artefact curation, marketing, education and visitor outreach.

Within the region 33 staff provide advice and assistance to local authorities and other organisations involved with the historic environment including the Heritage Lottery Fund, and are responsible for providing grants to owners and occupiers of listed buildings, ancient monuments and conservation areas. This team consists of three Directors, with a team of two Historic Areas Advisors, three Historic Buildings Inspectors, two Historic Buildings Architects and one Historic Building Surveyor, one Landscape Architect, one Land Use Planner, five Inspectors of Ancient Monuments, five Field Monument Wardens and a support team of 10 casework staff.

3.9

COMMISSION FOR ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (CABE)

The importance of the historic environment in providing the context for new design is recognised by CABE and joint publications with English Heritage have been produced nationally on *Building in Context – New Development in Historic Areas* and *Shifting Sands – Design and the Changing Image of English Seaside Towns*.

A network of regional architecture centres is being set up. The first in Chatham, Kent is already established and two further centres are planned for the Solent area and for Milton Keynes.


3.10

MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES


The region has more museums, libraries and archives than any other English region, with over 300 museums, 258 archive collections and at least 2,500 libraries employing about 8,500 people, including a large proportion with knowledge and expertise relating to the conservation of the historic environment. SEMLAC is the development agency for museum, library and archive activity in the South East.

3.11

REGIONAL SKILLS SURVEY

There are considerable skill shortages in specialist conservation work and general construction across the UK. The CITB  -Construction Skills 'Employers' Skills-Needs Survey' in Spring 2001 found that across the whole construction sector more than three-quarters of participating employers were having difficulties in recruiting skilled staff.

English Heritage and the CITB have jointly sponsored the creation of the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) to address the lack of specialist conservation skills across England. The NHTG are establishing the evidence base for skills shortages through research, following the Department for Education and Skills 'Foresight' planning protocol. This research is required to unlock government training resources.

 Construction Industry Training Board.

4

The Social and Economic Impact of the Historic Environment

1 Creative and Cultural Industries: An Economic Impact Study for South East England (SEEDA and South East England Cultural Consortium, July 2002).

2 South East Tourist Board (includes Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex only).



Reading Hindu Temple

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days celebrate England's architecture and culture by allowing visitors free access to interesting properties that are either not usually open, or would normally charge an entrance fee. The Reading Hindu Temple and Community Centre was one of over 600 buildings that opened free to the public. The temple at Reading was the only Hindu Temple in England to take part in the event. The building erected in 1905 was originally a Methodist Chapel, which the Hindu community have since purchased and carefully restored after years of disuse. This example encapsulates the spirit of HODs.

Nine of the top 14 most visited paid admission attractions were historic attractions, such as Leeds Castle and Wisley Garden. In the region there are 75 major properties opened to the public by the National Trust and 68 by English Heritage. The Historic Houses Association open 52 properties as visitor attractions and a further 58 are open to pre-booked parties. In total there were 4,092,167 visits to historic properties in the South East Tourist Board area. 2

Ten million visits are made to museums in the region each year, a significant proportion of which are in listed buildings and interpret aspects of the historic environment for the general public.

It is suggested in *The Environmental Economy of the South East of England*, that the natural and built environment is important in attracting inward-investment and the self-employed particularly.

4.2

EDUCATION

The historic environment of the South East is a vital educational asset, a means for the understanding of history and of our origins and identity.

In 2002/03 there were 184,163 free educational visits made to sites in the care of English Heritage (43% of all educational visits to English Heritage properties). Having increased from 176,593 in 2001/02. There were 19 teacher training events provided by English Heritage. The Historic Houses Association received an estimated 50,000 children on educational visits and the National Trust welcomed 983 groups of various sizes.

Museums managed by other organisations that interpret the historic environment also attract large numbers of educational visits and contribute to life-long learning.

4.1

ECONOMY

In the terms used in the SEEDA – led report *The Environmental Economy of the South East of England* the historic environment contributes to the regional economy both through activities that lead to a high quality environment and in encouraging activities that rely upon a high quality environment.

Tourism has been recognised as a significant industry in the region, benefiting from the outstanding built and natural heritage. There were 263,300 (FTE) employed in tourism in 2000 in the South East England and Southern Tourist Board areas (which includes part of Dorset, which is not within the Government region of the South East). 23.5 million UK residents, spent £2,992 million and 4.05 million overseas residents, spent £1,359 million. There were 210.6 million day trips to the region in 2000 with a total spend of £5.053 billion. 1

4.3

VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS

Within the region there are a number of voluntary organisations and charitable bodies with volunteers and members that care for and about the historic environment.

There are 18 Building Preservation Trusts (BPTs) in the region. BPTs are charities whose objectives include the preservation of historic buildings, which are usually suffering from neglect or redundancy to the point that open market solutions cannot be found, for the benefit of the public. They are helped by the Architectural Heritage Fund, who provide low interest loans, grants and advice.

There are 162 Civic Societies in the South East. Civic Societies are voluntary organisations promoting high standards of planning, conservation and regeneration for the benefit of the local community, particularly by restoring old buildings and improving the quality of public places.

Museum and archive 'Friends' organisations and local history and archaeology societies also make a major contribution towards involving local communities in the interpretation and conservation of the historic environment of their area.

4.4

FUTURE STUDIES

National research is taking place on volunteering and the historic environment, the economic impact of historic environment tourism, the economic contribution of heritage and on the development of historic environment indicators.

5.1 HOUSING

The Government is targetting brownfield sites to address housing issues. Many of these sites lie within or adjacent to historic settlements and contain historic and archaeological sites.

The national plans for 'Sustainable Communities' proposes the Thames Gateway, Milton Keynes and Ashford for major housing growth. The draft regional housing strategy aims to improve the supply and affordability of housing in the South East, with a target of 28,000 new houses in 2001/02 and steadily greater targets until 2006. The housing strategy proposes focus on the following key categories:

1) The major growth areas

The Thames Gateway, Milton Keynes and Ashford have been identified as a national priority in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's (ODPM's) plans for **Sustainable Communities**. £446 million has been allocated to Thames Gateway and £146 million to Milton Keynes and Ashford (with London- Stansted- Cambridge) for the provision of local infrastructure and land reclamation. 200,000 homes above levels already planned are thought to be possible.

2) Other key strategic growth points

Other key strategic growth points identified include: MOD land in Rushmore, West of Waterlooville, Basingstoke, Vale of White Horse/ South Oxfordshire, Bracknell, Andover, West Durrington, Wealden.

3) Urban renaissance/regeneration

The Priority Areas for Economic Regeneration (see **Map 2** on p.3) are: Thames Gateway, North East Kent, South Kent and Sussex Coast, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South Hampshire, Southampton. Particular attention will be paid to those local authorities with Neighbourhood Renewal Status – Southampton, Portsmouth, Brighton and Hastings. Priority for funding will also be given to investment in the major urban areas of Oxford, Reading and Slough.

4) Areas with particular problems of affordability and homelessness

It is recognised that the growth areas are not affordability hot-spots and that care needs to be taken to match resources with need. According to the draft strategy the top 20 list of authorities in the South East with the highest proportion of households unable to buy at lower quartile house prices is as follows: Portsmouth, Runnymede, South Bucks, Epsom and Ewell, Guildford, Oxford, Elmbridge, Woking, Surrey Heath, Adur, Waverley, Reigate and Banstead, Horsham, Spelthorne, Mid Sussex, Arun, Mole Valley, Havant, Windsor and Maidenhead, Chichester

5) Rural settlements

720 homes are planned in villages of fewer than 3,000 people between 2004-06. Priorities will include Market Towns in South and East Kent, East Sussex and the Isle of Wight

5.2 TRANSPORT

The economically buoyant parts of the region suffer from severe congestion on the road and rail networks, whilst the more deprived areas are relatively poorly connected. The Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), ■ outlined below, addresses these problems.

Plans for transport improvements must take into account the value that people attach to the historic environment. New road and rail links and the development of transport hubs must avoid as far as possible damaging archaeology or the historic character of places.

The investment priorities of the Regional Transport Strategy are to improve transport infrastructure within and to:

- Thames Gateway
- Milton Keynes
- The Western Policy Area
- The Sussex Coast and the Crawley/Gatwick area
- East Kent and Ashford

The wider strategy encompasses:

Rural areas – It is recommended that Local Transport Plans should develop innovative approaches to public transport in rural areas.

Inter and intra-regional connectivity – A network of regional frames, hubs and spokes will be developed to improve movement between urban centres and priority areas and provide links with neighbouring regions, while avoiding the need to inter-change in London and to assist in the regeneration of sub-regional priority areas.

Gateway function enhancement – To develop more sustainable transport connections to the region's key ports, airports and international rail stations as a basis for the enhancement of its gateway function to Europe and the rest of the world. The role of the gateway ports of Dover, the Channel Tunnel, Portsmouth, Newhaven, Ramsgate, Southampton, Shoreham and the Medway ports will be enhanced under the strategy.

Air transport – The RTS proposes developing the role of Gatwick and Heathrow airports within the currently agreed levels of growth, to encourage Southampton Airport to sustain and enhance its role as an airport of regional significance, and to assess the potential of Manston airport. There will be further pressures on the transport systems serving these airports and the RTS recognises that additional investment in public transport will be required. Priority will be given to delivering Crossrail, Airtrack, and the west-facing connection onto the Great Western main line.

A White Paper on aviation is expected in December 2003, following the consultation on the South East and East of England Regional Air Services Study (SERAS)

Alongside these measures the RTS looks to:

Encourage modal shift and reduce car dependence – By developing public transport, bringing forward measures to positively manage the transport system in urban areas, encouraging development that is located and designed to reduce average journey lengths and safeguarding sites next to railways, ports and rivers for developments that maximise freight movement by these modes.

Reducing the environmental impact – By requiring local development plans and local transport plans to include policies and proposals that reduce the impact of transport on the natural and built environment.

5.3

THE CHANGING ECONOMY

The changing economic and social demands of the South East put particular settlement types and building types at risk of redundancy. Changes in levels of worship, the demise of the English sea-side holiday, the reduction in agricultural land-use, changes in the role of the military and in the role of the major ports after the introduction of the Channel Tunnel are all having a major impact on the historic environment of the South East.

The private sector

Many of the changes are led by the private sector. Growth in successful areas has led to development pressure. The risks to the historic environment posed by the successful economy are of over-development, development insensitive to its context and loss of historic assets. In deprived areas the maintenance of historic structures may lapse, buildings go out of use entirely, historic parks and gardens fall into decay and conservation areas into a cycle of decline.

To meet the needs of the South East densification of urban areas and some development in the countryside is inevitable. The challenge is to manage these changes in ways that value existing assets and produce high quality development fit for society's needs.

Rural

The decline in agriculture in the region has led to many traditional farm buildings becoming redundant. These agricultural buildings need to find uses that maintain and enhance their value. At the same time many historic market towns are now struggling to survive.

The Countryside Agency and the South East Economic Development Agency (SEEDA) are working together to provide a co-ordinated and properly funded approach to market town revitalisation. Both agencies have joined with partners, including local authorities (town, district/borough and county/unitary councils), rural community councils, economic partnerships, and Action for Market Towns, to form the South East Rural Towns Partnership.

2 *Shifting Sands*
CABE/English Heritage
(2003).

3 Civic Trust South East.



Greenham Common, West Berkshire

The photo shows one of the cruise missile shelters at Greenham Common. The site had international significance during the 1980s when it was central to NATO defence policy and became a world famous icon for protests against nuclear weapons. By 1990 the cruise missiles had gone and in 1992 Greenham Common Airbase was declared redundant for military purposes. The Greenham Common Trust purchased the former airbase on 24th March 1997. The Common has now been restored and re-opened for the people of Newbury to enjoy again, and a new business park is being created for the benefit of the local community.

The community is then equipped to assess the needs of the town and the surrounding villages through the 'healthcheck' process.

Selected towns in the South East, where the Market Towns Initiative will eventually be a 'Force For Change' include: Aylesham, Battle, Cranbrook, Faringdon, Hampshire-wide, Heathfield, Hythe, the Isle of Wight Partnership including Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor, Minster, New Romney, Lenham, Hailsham, Rye, Carterton, Horsham towns of Steyning, Storrington, Pulborough and Billingshurst, Haslemere and Cranleigh, and Sheerness.

Seaside, ports and defence towns

The English Tourism Council's report *Sea Changes* 2001 showed a significant fall in English seaside tourism over the last 25 years from 32 million to 22 million trips. By the end of the twentieth century many seaside towns were in decline, suffering from a low-wage economy, high claimant unemployment and poor private housing, often with extensive multiple occupation.

This had a consequent effect upon the state of the built environment and the public spaces that in the past have given these towns their particular charm. 2

With its proximity to London and 72km of heritage coastline the South East contains many historic seaside towns, such as Brighton, Eastbourne, Folkestone, Hastings, Lewes, Margate and Ramsgate. Many of which contain some of the UK's most deprived wards. Heritage Economic Regeneration Schemes include Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne, Hastings and Ramsgate.

Likewise many wards within the ports and former defence towns fall within the 20% most deprived in the country. This is in part due to the reduction in naval requirements and the introduction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

Military heritage

The military structures of the region are of great value to our understanding of the international relationships and the defence of the realm over time. They chart the development of battle tactics, with each advance in warfare leading to a potential redundancy in the existing defences. As a consequence, many are on the buildings at risk register. This is one of the more intractable issues for the region as it is difficult to find an economically viable re-use consistent with their value as part of our heritage.

Today more of our military heritage is becoming redundant, the Ministry of Defence is selling off unwanted sites, large and small, in response to defence cuts and consolidation onto joint tri-service facilities. The South East is particularly affected – 56 sites were being sold in January 2003. 3 These are a particular type of brownfield site, which offer a unique opportunity for urban and rural regeneration and sustainable development.

However maximum value land uses are sought, rather than uses that meet local goals and aspirations, in order to achieve the highest prices for the sites. Currently, each sale is seen as a one-off, so that it is hard to see the national picture; but Civic Trust research is now establishing the full extent of the sell-off. Airfields, Territorial Army halls and many other military, airforce and naval sites are making their way onto the market.