

A man wearing a light-colored straw hat and a red shirt is holding a large, dense bundle of harvested reeds or marsh grasses. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows a wetland environment with a body of water, a wooden walkway, and another person in the distance. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2004

The State of the  
**SOUTH EAST'S**  
Historic Environment

# Heritage Counts 2004 in the South East

**Cover image:** Volunteers at the watercress beds at Ewelme in Oxfordshire work to restore these historically significant agricultural features. The Heritage Lottery Fund has recently funded a volunteer and visitor centre at the site, featuring a museum of tools and artefacts used in cress growing. Open days for visitors and educational visits by children from local schools help to increase awareness of the historical importance of the Ewelme Brook and its contribution to the economy of the area.

*Heritage Counts 2004* is the third annual state of the historic environment report. It provides new information and analysis on the condition of heritage assets, the pressures they face and the social and economic benefits that they provide. This report has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the South East Historic Environment Forum and is one of nine separate regional documents. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2004* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

This edition of *Heritage Counts* celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which has helped thousands of individuals and communities to enjoy the rich and diverse heritage of the South East. By ensuring that everyone can have a role in looking after their local heritage assets, HLF support has significantly increased the number of people with an active interest in safeguarding our diverse heritage for the future. Widespread public involvement is critical to sustaining both our heritage and our communities and is itself one of the benefits of conservation.

A key challenge to the sector is to increase participation even further, through volunteering, educational projects and training. The aim is to help people understand the heritage around them, so that they value and cherish it, and to harness opportunities for them to enjoy it in a way that whets their appetite for further participation.

This report shows that the South East has an extensive and varied historic environment, which contributes a great deal to sense of place, but that it is subject to immense pressure. The apparent wealth of the region means that public resources for heritage are limited, and that the historic environment sector must work even harder to make the case for investment. *Heritage Counts 2004* helps the sector to make that case by encouraging greater recognition and care of the historic environment amongst those responsible for change in the region, rigorously assessing the needs of the historic environment and demonstrating comprehensively the manifold benefits of conservation.

Andy Brown  
Chair of the South East Historic Environment Forum

# The regional context

The South East is the third largest in area of the nine English regions, and at just over eight million people is the most highly populated region in the country. Its estimated gross domestic product of £140 billion per year makes it the second most economically important region in the country after London.

The region has a high-quality historic environment, which is one of its greatest assets. A variety of landscapes, building types and historic towns can be seen in the South East, each with particular past and present social and economic functions that help to make each place distinct. Seaside and market towns, military heritage and ports, historic rural and urban settlements, fields and farms, woodlands, canals, footpaths, roads, parks and gardens are only a part of the rich tapestry of the historic environment of the South East. In addition to designated historic assets such as listed buildings and scheduled monuments, 31 per cent of the region is designated as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on account of the quality of its natural landscapes.

The South East is heavily influenced by its relationship with London. There is no lead city within the region, but a number of large towns and small cities and distinct rural areas that inform the identities of its communities. Identity is defined at the local level, where the historic environment can be the foundation of places of lasting value.

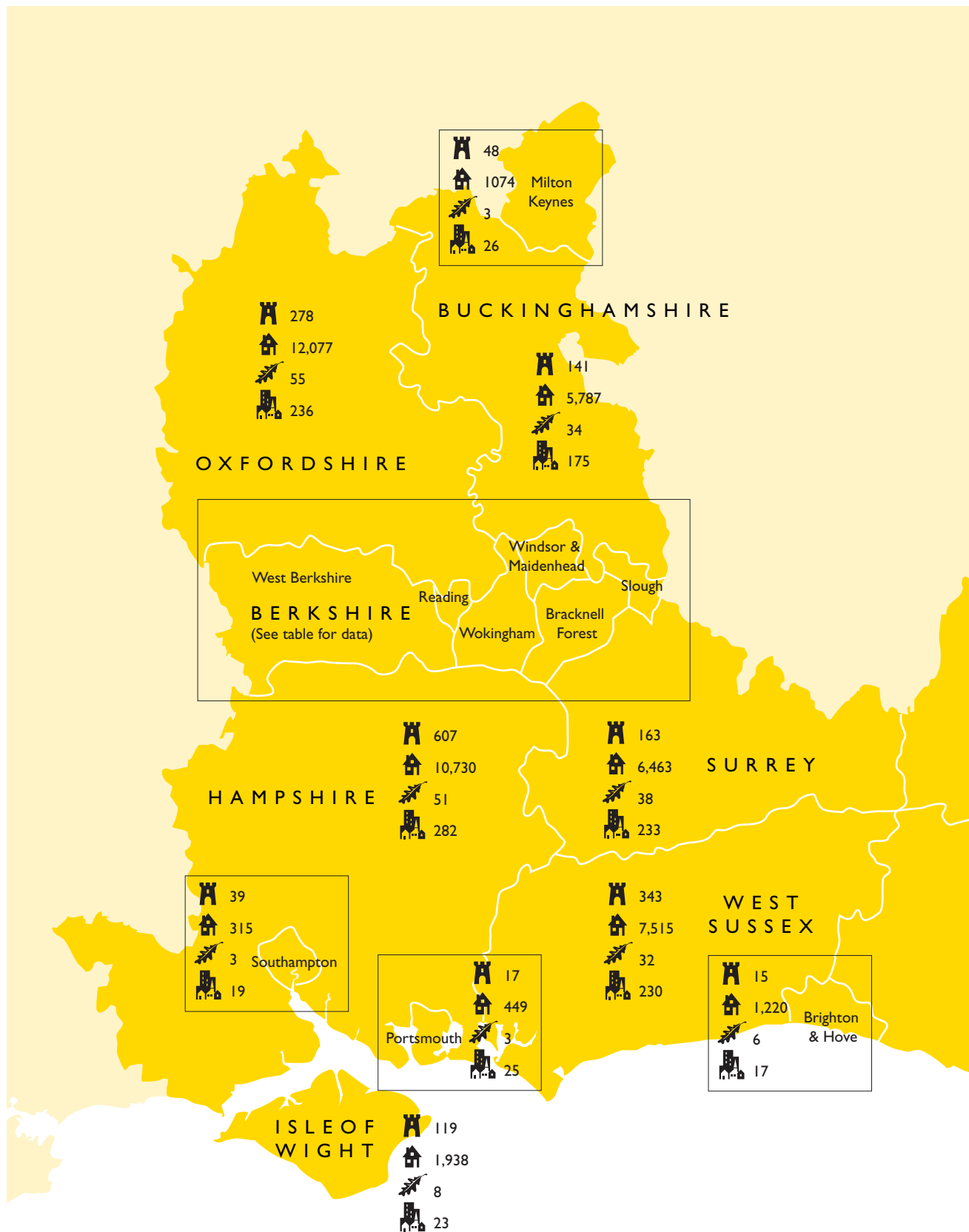
Nevertheless, the South East is a region under pressure. Demographic trends and projections suggest that by 2021 the South East will account for over 28 per cent of the total increase in population of the UK, adding an estimated 600,000–700,000 households, most of which will be single occupancy. The South East has experienced rampant house price inflation over the last decade or so, putting even less expensive homes out of reach of owner occupation for many people in the region. Under-supply of housing, and affordable housing in particular, has been a factor and the need to increase substantially the supply of housing is a key objective for the region.

This will lead to increased pressure on public services, infrastructure, skills provision and the environment, quality of which is a key attraction to businesses in the South East. The pressures brought by population growth will be particularly acute in the growth areas identified in the Sustainable Communities Plan, the government's plans to tackle housing problems across the UK and to regenerate towns and cities. Three of the main growth areas identified in the plan fall in full or in part in the South East: Thames Gateway, Ashford, and Milton Keynes-South Midlands.

Because the South East is one of the most successful UK regions, the risk facing the historic environment is of the over-development of urban and rural landscapes. Moreover, although the region makes largest net contribution to the UK exchequer (£17 billion), it also has the lowest level of public investment per head of any English region. The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2003 show that the South East, at £4,438, had the second lowest per capita identifiable expenditure on public services of any region in England for 2001/02.

However on an absolute basis, the South East also has one of the largest numbers of excluded or deprived people of any English region. Over a million adults of working age lack basic skills in the region, 176,000 people are unemployed and 119 of the most deprived 20 per cent of wards in England are in the South East, covering a population of well over 700,000 people. The historic environment in these areas has often been neglected, and re-use of historic buildings presents a valuable opportunity for regeneration that enhances sense of place.

# The South East: key facts



AREA 19,069 square kilometres  
POPULATION 8,037,000  
GDP estimated £140 billion

MAP KEY

 Scheduled Monuments





 Listed Buildings

 Parks & Gardens

 Conservation Areas

 Unitary authority



 72  
 609  
 1  
 13  
Medway Towns

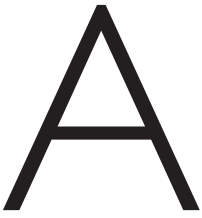
 338  
 17,313  
 58  
 477  
KENT

 300  
 6,339  
 31  
 116  
EAST SUSSEX



BERKSHIRE

Bracknell Forest	12	259	4	3
Reading	2	502	5	13
Slough	2	63	2	4
West Berkshire	81	1,883	10	52
Windsor and Maidenhead	17	993	9	29
Wokingham	18	638	6	13



# Understanding the Region's assets

Historic environment assets are of both direct and indirect value. They can bring a sense of wellbeing to communities, provide learning and leisure opportunities and contribute to social cohesion. The historic environment is a major component of environmental quality and encourages economic growth.

Within a diverse region such as the South East, the historic environment creates strong identities at the sub-regional and local levels, for example, in Kent, on the South Downs, the Chilterns, and through our major cities such as Oxford, Canterbury and Brighton and Hove.

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## A1 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

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The historic environment is what generations of people have made of the places in which they live. It is the physical evidence of the past, brought about by the interaction of man and the environment. This evidence is important in informing our understanding of how the places in which we live and work became what they are today.

The historic environment has an important role to play in maintaining and enhancing our sense of place. An understanding of existing assets provides a solid foundation for deciding what change is possible or desirable. There are a number of different ways of identifying what is of value to present and future generations. The rest of this section of the report is organised according to a framework of historic environment 'indicators', about which more detail can be found in the national *Heritage Counts* report.

### A1.1 WORLD HERITAGE SITES

The identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world which is considered to be of outstanding value to humanity is administered by UNESCO, the United Nations committee responsible for cultural heritage. Within the South East there are two world heritage sites. Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire was inscribed in 1987 in respect of the impact it had on the development of English architecture. A collection of

sites in Canterbury – the Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church – were inscribed in 1988 because of their association with the history of the introduction of Christianity to the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

### A1.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance. They are particularly significant and vulnerable to change. The region's coastal defence sites, the Neolithic monuments of the South Downs, the iron furnaces of the Weald, prehistoric settlements, Iron Age farmsteads, royal hunting lodges and Roman villas are just a part of the legacy of past generations that have been recognised by scheduling. As at April 2004 there were 2,610 scheduled monuments in the South East, an increase of 13 compared to the total in 2003.

### A1.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

Buildings of special architectural or historic interest are listed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) at either grade I, II\* or II. A listed building can be almost any man-made structure, ranging from terraced houses to churches, from industrial buildings to sign-posts and from grottoes to maypoles. Buildings can be included for either their architectural or historical interest, their value as part of a group or an association with nationally important people or events. Buildings may also be identified as of local importance by local authorities, which maintain local lists and provide policies within

the local plan for their management. There were 76,167 listed buildings in the South East in 2004, a net increase of 157 on the figure for 2003.

## A1.4 HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

Historic parks and gardens of particular historic interest are identified on a register maintained by English Heritage. Providing places for quiet and solitude as well as for meeting and exploring, the parks and gardens on the register reflect the ideas and passions of those that designed and cared for them. The South East has 359 registered parks and gardens, more than any other region – a net increase of five gardens compared to last year. The register includes town squares, cemeteries and public parks as well as National Trust and private properties.



**The Vale of the White Horse**  
© English Heritage Photo Library

## A2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

### A2.1 CONSERVATION AREAS

Wider areas of special architectural or historic interest, whose character or appearance should be preserved or enhanced, are identified principally by local authorities. Among the elements that provide special character are: street patterns; property boundaries and visible archaeological remains; particular mix of uses; building materials and construction methods; the relationship between buildings; scaling and detailing; vistas and views; topography, open spaces and trees.

The special interest that justifies the designation is recorded by means of a conservation area appraisal and provides the basis for local planning policies, development control decisions and the formulation of proposals for the preservation and enhancement of the character of the area. There were 1,986 conservation areas in the South East in 2004, seven more than the total reported for 2003.

### The Vale of the White Horse

Lying between the Ridgeway and the River Thames, White Horse Country stretches from the edge of Oxford to the threshold of the Cotswolds. The area has supported human habitation for thousands of years, especially along the North Wessex Downs where ancient hill-forts, long barrows and other remains are sited near the Ridgeway, one of England's oldest roads. Its enchanting landscape is marked by its pagan past – the very name of the Vale comes from the oldest chalk figure in Britain dating back over 2,000 years. The Iron Age chalk carving and scheduled monument at the Vale of the White Horse are important to the identity of the district.

### A2.3 OPEN SPACES

Orchards are an important and vulnerable part of the historic environment of the region, particularly in Kent. Commons, woodlands and rights of way are all appreciated as part of the intricate patchwork of the countryside. New rights of way identified in maps drawn up by the Countryside Agency have opened more of the countryside to the public.

## UNDERSTANDING THE REGION'S ASSETS

### A3 ACQUIRING INFORMATION



**Public Parks and Quality of Life**  
© Vale of White Horse District Council

## Public parks and quality of life – Abbey grounds, Abingdon

Well-designed and maintained parks and green spaces have an essential role to play in enhancing the quality of life in urban environments. They provide interesting and diverse places for recreation and social interaction as well as for learning and contemplation. The region has 18 registered historic urban public parks.

The restoration of the Abbey Grounds in Abingdon has involved the community at all stages and improved interpretation has meant that the heritage value of the site can be more easily appreciated. At the time of the dissolution the Abbey was one of the seven largest and wealthiest abbeys in the country. The area contains a number of scheduled monuments and areas of formal garden laid out in the Victorian era. The community continues to be involved in the project, supported by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £881,000.

The South East has more than twice the proportion of its area covered by ancient woodland than any other region (6.7 per cent). The High Weald remains the most densely wooded area of England and boasts the highest proportion of ancient woodland in the country (see [www.highweald.org](http://www.highweald.org)).

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are designated for their landscape qualities. AONB partnerships led by local authorities are dedicated to conserving and enhancing their natural beauty. However, landscape is not just a natural

phenomenon. The rich history of human settlement over the centuries is an important feature of the landscape. There are 37 AONBs across England, covering 15 per cent of its area. The South East has 31 per cent of its land area designated as AONB.

National Parks are areas with their own managing authority to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities. The New Forest became a National Park in July 2004 and is the first to have been designated in almost fifty years. It is the most intact surviving example in England of a medieval hunting forest and pastoral system and its diverse landscape includes woodland, open heath land and coastal land. The Countryside Agency began the process of designating the South Downs as a National Park in April 2000.

## A3 ACQUIRING INFORMATION

Historic landscape characterisation (HLC) provides a large-scale understanding of the historic character of the landscape, the field patterns, archaeology, settlement patterns and tracks and roads. The products are sophisticated geographical information systems (GIS) with related databases maintained by county historic environment records (HERs). The method can be used for a variety of purposes, including: guiding planning decisions at a strategic level (see case study on the Thames Gateway); providing a positive and proactive basis for landscape management; helping to define, understand and describe landscape character; and helping to raise awareness of the historic landscape. Historic landscape characterisation has been completed for Kent, Surrey and Hampshire, and is in progress in East and West Sussex and in Buckinghamshire.

County HERs also maintain registers of all known archaeological sites in the region. These include archaeological sites that are not scheduled as being of national importance, but are important both locally and for their potential for further finds. There are estimated to be over 130,000 monuments and finds recorded in 22 HERs across the region.





**Participation and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Surrey Hills**  
© English Heritage



**Characterising the Thames Gateway**  
© English Heritage. James O. Davies.

## Participation and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Surrey Hills

The Surrey Hills A-Z project was launched at the Surrey Hills Annual Forum 2003. Over 120 people were asked to list from A to Z what they saw as special and distinctive about the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The project was inspired by Common Ground, an organisation internationally recognised for its unique role in the arts and environmental fields. Its objectives are to link nature with culture, focussing upon the positive investment people can make in their own localities, championing popular democratic involvement, and inspiring celebration as a starting point for action to improve the quality of our everyday places.

## Characterising the Thames Gateway

The Thames Gateway is an area targeted for development on both sides of the Thames Estuary, covering parts of three English regions. The area has a subtle yet rich and varied historic environment that has evolved from millennia of interaction between humans and nature that needs to be better understood. It consists of a number of distinct localities, each with their own histories and historical themes, which will be the basis for the creation of attractive environments that will encourage people to live and work there.

The characterisation project commissioned by English Heritage provides a broad understanding of the historic environment of the whole of the Thames Gateway. It shows the full potential of the area's heritage and will enable planners, developers and regeneration agencies to understand the rich historic environment in the Thames Gateway and use it to enhance the sense of place that already exists.

Among the area's characteristics are:

- The early Roman and pre-Roman origins of some towns and roads
- The development of naval and mercantile dockyards
- The growth of medieval markets and ecclesiastical centres
- The growth of nineteenth- and twentieth-century resort towns
- The use of the rivers and reclamation of the marshes for agriculture, fishing and industry
- A rural landscape influenced by prehistoric field systems and migratory farming
- A patchwork of ancient forests, orchards and hop gardens

# B

## Caring and sharing

Protecting the distinctiveness of local places requires active management and engagement, not only of planners, but of the whole community.



**Darnley Mausoleum**  
© English Heritage

### Buildings At Risk – Darnley Mausoleum, Cobham

The Darnley Mausoleum in Cobham Park, Kent, is one of the South East's best-known buildings at risk. Designed in 1786 by one of Britain's most eminent architects, James Wyatt, the Mausoleum is considered to be of international architectural significance. The Cobham Ashenbank Management Scheme (CAMS), a partnership led by Gravesham Borough Council and supported by the country's leading conservation organizations, has recently been awarded a major grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the landscape and buildings within the park, including the Darnley Mausoleum.

The project will provide opportunities for recreation, countryside access and education adjacent to urban areas in need of regeneration. A Community Warden will increase public involvement in the project. CAMS organises regular local Forums to keep people involved and encourage volunteer support. Recently volunteers helped to locate and remove nearly 100 vehicles dumped in the park. Over 800 people visited Cobham Park at the recent Open Day on 1 June 2004.

The works will commence in early 2005 and the project is planned for completion in 2007.

## BI HERITAGE AT RISK

The *Register of Buildings at Risk* is maintained by English Heritage and records all those grade I- and II\*-listed buildings and standing scheduled monuments considered to be at risk. Again this year the number of entries on the register fell slightly to 213, but this is still higher than any other region in England. This year 12 structures were removed from the *Register*, of which eight were grant-aided by English Heritage. Nine new entries were added.

The overall economic strength of the region has meant that most of those buildings that could be economically restored have been already. The region is left with a high proportion of very important buildings with no obvious solution. Indeed, only 57 of the entries on the *Register* are capable of beneficial re-use. The *Register* is dominated by defence and maritime buildings, the legacy of the South East's role in the nation's defence, which have fallen out of their original use. Agricultural items, religious items and items in gardens and parks are also well represented.

93 per cent of the region's listed buildings are grade II-listed, which is consistent with the national picture. A recent survey suggested that 24 per cent of local authorities in the region maintained an up-to-date buildings at risk register and that as many as 1,900 listed buildings of all grades across the South East may be at risk.

Methodologies are being piloted in other English regions to assess the condition of below-ground scheduled monuments and the condition of the region's historic parks and gardens. It is crucial to our understanding of the historic environment of the region and its active management that these methodologies are developed and applied to the South East.

## B2 MANAGING POSITIVELY

The historic assets identified in the previous section are integral to the quality of the local environment in the region. They are the building blocks from which new development should be considered. Local authorities, English Heritage and the various amenity societies work together to ensure that the historic environment is adequately recognised within the planning process.

The historic environment is particularly important in the South East due to the mix of a booming economy, a pressurised lifestyle, the threats and opportunities presented by development and the plight of deprived areas, particularly in some coastal towns. As a consequence, care needs to be taken to conserve and enhance historic environment assets and to take them into account when new developments are planned. High-quality new design should relate developments to their contexts so as not to destroy the character of places. Equally, historic sites create opportunities for leisure activities and for regenerating run-down areas.

### B2.1 PLANNING TRENDS

In 2003/04 there were 6,639 applications for listed building consent to alter or demolish listed buildings. This represents an average of 8.4 applications per 100 listed buildings (down from 8.9 last year). Over the same period there were 533 applications for conservation area consent, which represents just over one application for every four conservation areas, approximately the same as last year. The Garden History Society logged 194 notifications of planning applications affecting a registered park or its setting (down from 235 last year). 17 of these applications concerned proposals for car parking.

A key objective of the South East Regional Housing Strategy is to make sure there is enough housing so that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home. It sets out the target of 28,000 new homes each year from 2001. This development will need to be managed carefully, and with respect to the historic environment, if a high-quality environment contributing to quality of life is to be maintained.

### B2.2 MANAGING CHANGE

Understanding exactly what is of value and why is the first step when it comes to making decisions about the future of any site. This understanding of what is significant is important when managing change as it helps the creation and preservation of distinct and valued places. A number of tools are available to structure our understanding of the significance of a site and its various elements, such as statements of significance, conservation plans and management plans.

The level of detail required will depend on the complexity of the site and the scale of the proposed interventions. The presence of a management plan, for example, is an important indication that management decisions affecting world heritage sites are made in a fully informed context. At present the Canterbury world heritage site has an adopted management plan. A management plan for Blenheim Palace is in preparation. The Heritage Lottery Fund encourages conservation management plans when providing funding for projects which aim to restore and manage many types of heritage, including buildings, parks and sites that may include a complex interaction of built and natural heritage and heritage collections.

Similarly, conservation area appraisals prepared by local authorities are intended to provide a clear assessment and definition of an area's interest and the action needed to protect it. Fewer than a third of conservation areas in the South East are covered by a conservation area appraisal. Annual data for this indicator may be available if it is accepted as one of a series of proposed new Best Value Performance Indicators for local government.

## CARING AND SHARING

### B3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES



**Planning for Tall Buildings**

© Brighton and Hove Tall Buildings Study (courtesy of Gillespies)

## Planning for tall buildings – a strategy for Brighton

Brighton's strategy for tall buildings was commissioned by the city council in April 2003 in response to the key local issues of limited local brownfield sites and a significant shortfall in affordable housing provision. It is an example of a plan-led approach to development that recognises the importance of historic context and which allows for the different sensitivities of different parts of the city. The strategy takes into account visual impact, topography, transport infrastructure and movement patterns, tall building activity, open space, conservation areas and urban character. Detailed guidance aims to ensure that new proposals for tall buildings are of suitably high quality in terms of design, sustainability, form, massing and public realm.

## B3

### CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

The Heritage Lottery Fund has had a major impact on the historic environment of the South East since accepting the first requests for lottery money in 1995. Since 1994 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded over £270 million to more than 1,600 projects in South East England. HLF is unique in two ways – no other heritage funder covers such a breadth of heritage, and no other UK organisation

funds heritage projects on such a huge scale. HLF can also take an integrated approach to funding of the heritage – for example, supporting projects on sites which combine a range of interests such as a museum collection housed in a historic building in a designed parkland setting.

Although well known for supporting conservation, HLF does not only fund the repair and restoration of historic collections, land and buildings. A high priority is given to encouraging communities to identify, be involved in and make decisions about their heritage. By ensuring that everyone can have a role in looking after their local heritage assets, for example through volunteering, educational projects and training, HLF support has significantly increased the number of people with an active interest in safeguarding our diverse heritage for the future.

Widespread public involvement is also critical to sustaining the benefits of heritage conservation. Many projects HLF has supported have involved finding new community uses for sites that have fallen into dereliction or disrepair. At the same time, each project has also had people at its heart – ensuring that as well as addressing conservation needs, there is provision for public access in the broadest sense, and opportunities for learning and enjoyment.

In the last ten years HLF funding has contributed to changing the face of the South East through projects ranging from the large-scale regeneration achieved through the £13 million invested at Chatham Historic Dockyard, to small land acquisitions enabling local communities to take ownership of and conserve areas at risk. With the region's heritage significantly enhanced, there remains the challenge of retaining its distinctive character and ensuring its continued contribution to the economy, tourism, education and quality of life.

Other investment in the historic environment in the South East comes from a variety of sources, both public and private. The majority of historic buildings and landscapes are in private ownership where the full cost of maintenance and repair falls to these owners. English Heritage gave a total of £3.1 million in 2003/04 of which £1.72 million was spent on secular buildings, £1.02 million was spent on places of worship and £369,000 was spent on area grants.

7,678 staff were employed at historic properties in the South East in 2003, which with the South West accounts for half of all staff employed in historic properties in England. There were 4,298 full-time and part-time staff employed in museums and heritage services. A survey of local authority conservation provision in 2002 indicated that there was an average of 1.5 dedicated conservation staff per authority in the region (compared to 1.7 nationally.)

## B4 SKILLS AND TRAINING

Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) is a comprehensive training programme aimed at improving decisions that impact on the historic environment by raising awareness of its intrinsic value among decision-makers within local authorities and government agencies, in particular elected members and officers such as planners, highways engineers and estate managers. The first stage of the project saw the launch of a website, [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk), which provides a range of expert guidance relating to historic buildings, archaeology and landscapes.

The Kent Architecture Centre is delivering a project to develop a regional toolkit for buildings in context, based on the national advice prepared by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and English Heritage (*Buildings in Context*). The two-year programme is being developed in partnership with the South East Regional Design Panel, CABE South East Regional Commissioner and local planning authorities. Regional case studies, a publication, a website and training events will take the messages to a local level.



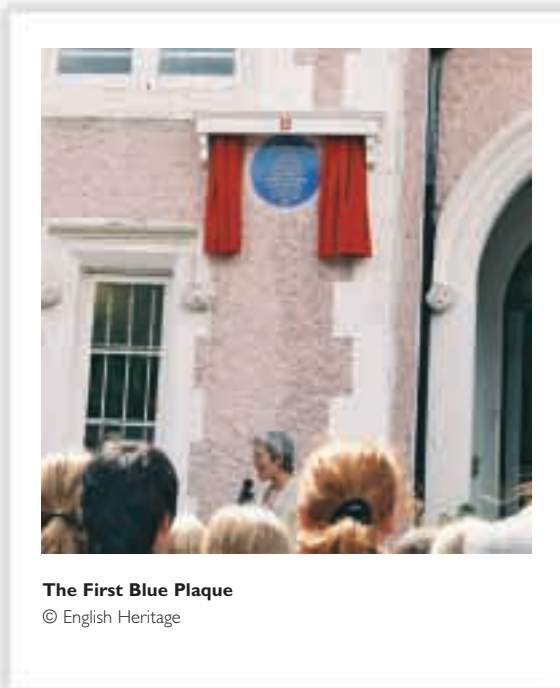
**Brighton Museum and Art Gallery**  
© Heritage Lottery Fund

### Brighton Museum and Art Gallery

A grant from the HLF of £7.56 million supported the restoration of Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, originally the stables and riding school of the Royal Pavilion and involved a major redisplay of the museum's nationally important collections.

### HLF in South East England 1994 – 2004, a summary:

- 1,628 awards totalling £271 million
- This equates to £33.82 awarded per capita of the South East population
- These projects unlocked £202.3 million of recorded partnership funding
- Applicants in the South East enjoyed a 61.15 per cent success rate
- Awards in the South East represented 10.54 per cent of all HLF awards and 8.94 per cent of all HLF spend



**The First Blue Plaque**  
© English Heritage

## The first Blue Plaque in the South East Region unveiled

Thomas Ellis Owen (1805-1862), architect and developer of the garden suburb of Southsea, Portsmouth, was commemorated with the first English Heritage Blue Plaque for Portsmouth in July 2004. The unveiling ceremony took place at Dover Court, a property that Owen designed for himself featuring gargoyles, friezes, a tower and a chapel, and where he lived from 1849. The building now forms part of Portsmouth High School. The Thomas Ellis Owen Festival in 2004, sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund, included an exhibition at the Portsmouth City Museum. Sue Pike from the Thomas Ellis Owen Festival Committee said, 'Owen has been described as "the father of Southsea" and has had a huge impact on the development of the town. His memory lives on in the streets and houses that surround us today'.

## B5 BROADENING ACCESS

Broadening access and inclusion is a priority for the sector, and national targets have been set to attract 100,000 new users of the historic environment from priority groups by 2005/06. English Heritage aims to improve understanding of the role of different ethnic groups in the history and culture of the region, researching the built heritage of under-represented groups and providing imaginative interpretation. Current projects include:

**An exhibition in the Durbar Room** at Osborne House, showing the contribution of craftsmen and women from the Indian sub-continent to the creation of the Durbar Room and on the wider influence on tastes and fashions in Victorian England.

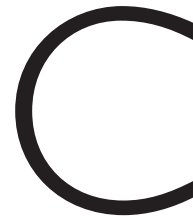
**New interpretation at the Chattri on the Sussex Downs**, will be launched by English Heritage in early 2005. This memorial to Indian servicemen, who died at the Royal Pavilion during the First World War, is one of the sites being visited through an outreach project with the Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association of Slough.

**The Sikh Heritage Trail project highlighting 150 years of Anglo-Sikh history.** English Heritage is working with the Maharajah Duleep Singh Centenary Trust to fund the project, which was launched in summer 2004.

**A survey of Jewish built heritage**, undertaken by English Heritage's characterisation team.

**An exhibition of work inspired by the Muslim Burial Ground** on Horsell Common, which went on tour to museums in the region in 2004. Working Galleries worked with artist Said Adrus and the South East Film and Video Archive.

# Using and benefiting



This section of the report considers the different ways in which the historic environment is used by and provides benefits to people living in the South East.

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## C1 HERITAGE AND REGENERATION

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The regeneration of a single building or group of historic buildings and public spaces can initiate improvement of a wider urban area. It can create the vibrancy and renewed confidence in an area which will in turn attract more businesses.

A recent parliamentary select committee investigation into the contribution of historic buildings to urban regeneration found that improving the environment and securing the re-use of buildings which have historic value can make an important contribution to the regeneration of urban areas acting as a catalyst to the regeneration of a neighbourhood or district, boosting the local economy and creating jobs.

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## C2 TOURISM

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Heritage tourism is vital to the health of the economy in South East England. The wealth of heritage in the region is a key factor in attracting tourists from overseas and also for encouraging domestic residents to take short breaks or days out. Tourists are attracted to historic landscapes such as the Chilterns and the South Downs, as well as to our historic towns and cities such as Oxford and Canterbury.

12.7 million visits were made to historic attractions in the South East in 2003, reflecting the high number of attractions in the region. 63 per cent of visits were day trips taken by UK residents. Historic attractions generated £47 million of revenue directly.

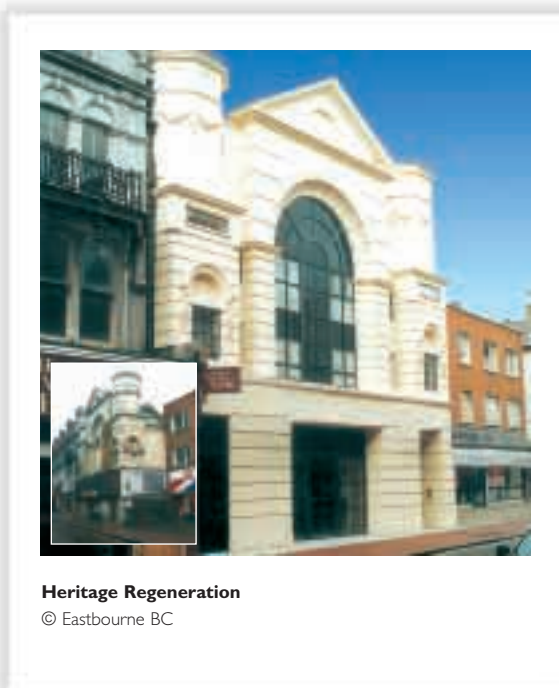
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## C3 PARTICIPATION AND ENJOYMENT

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People can enjoy heritage in a variety of ways, whether through visiting built and landscape heritage sites and museums, membership of heritage organisations such as English Heritage and the National Trust, or through volunteering at historic sites. Museum visiting is higher among adults in the South East than any region outside London. The South East is the region with the highest number of visitors to National Trust properties – nine of the top 20 most visited National Trust properties are in the South East. National Trust membership shows a similar trend with 770,000 members in the South East from a total of 3.3 million across England and Wales

Volunteering is a major driver in the heritage industry. Heritage Link, an umbrella group formed by non-governmental organisations in the heritage sector, estimated that there were 157,000 volunteers nationally in 2003. There are a range of types of volunteering of value to communities – individual volunteers, youth groups such as the Princes Trust and Millennium Volunteers, offender programmes, employee programmes and volunteering organisations such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). This range of opportunities has the ability to benefit many sectors of society.



## Heritage regeneration – Seaside Road, Eastbourne

The late-Victorian Italianate style and Edwardian Dutch-gabled terraces of Seaside Road in Eastbourne are of considerable historic and architectural importance. Until recently, however, many had been neglected and were in need of substantial repair work. A Seaside Road Regeneration Strategy was launched in July 2000 and was used to attract external funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage and from other grant sources. Since the late 1990s more than £12 million has been spent regenerating and refurbishing buildings. The street is now evolving an improved retail mix, a greater range of leisure activities, new and refurbished homes, and a variety of cafes, restaurants and bars. It is fast becoming a popular residential area, being well located for access to the town centre, the seafront, leisure facilities and public transport links.

## C4 EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

The historic environment offers a variety of interests and experiences that help people to learn and get involved. Heritage sites, and museums and archives, provide opportunities for direct involvement rather than second-hand experiences. The use of heritage sites in formal education across the curriculum can make learning more memorable and meaningful. The Real World Learning Campaign is a partnership between the Field Studies Council, RSPB, National Trust, 3D Education and Adventure, and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust amongst others. The campaign is seeking to secure clear policy commitments from the three major political parties, entitling all children to at least one outdoor learning experience each year of their school career.

Both formal and informal learning helps to provide children with a direct sense of inspiration and discovery, health benefits, social skills and opportunities for discussion. It offers them involvement outside their normal experience in a safe environment. There were 186,478 school visits to English Heritage South East properties in 2003/04, a slight increase on the previous year.

However, it is not only children who can learn from heritage sites. The historic environment provides opportunities to develop existing interests and to inspire new ones. These opportunities can be explored in a number of ways, for example, through regular visits, volunteering, presentations and formal courses.





**Characterisation and Market Town Regeneration**

© Countryside Agency, Anne-Katrin Purkiss.



**Learning and the Historic Environment**

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## Characterisation and Market Town regeneration in Wolverton, Buckinghamshire

Wolverton, established in 1838 by the London and Birmingham Railway Company as the first railway town, now lies within the Milton Keynes growth area. It has a very distinct sense of place and community, stemming in part from its physical lay out: a grid-like series of redbrick terraced houses and corner shops, which in itself promotes a sense of community, a tight geographical boundary, and terraced streets.

A characterisation study has assisted in providing an understanding of the influences on the town, particularly the links between the railway company works, its establishment of a building society and residential streets. Undertaking the study has assisted community discussion, which has focussed on distinctiveness and reinforced the community's pride in its railway heritage. Wolverton's railway heritage has become an opportunity for the town to reinforce its identity in the plans for regeneration within Milton Keynes. A company *Wolverton Unlimited* has been established to work within the local delivery vehicle for Milton Keynes growth, a Building Preservation Trust has commenced and importantly substantial funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (£7.3 million) has been obtained for the adaptation and retention of the extensive redundant railway buildings.

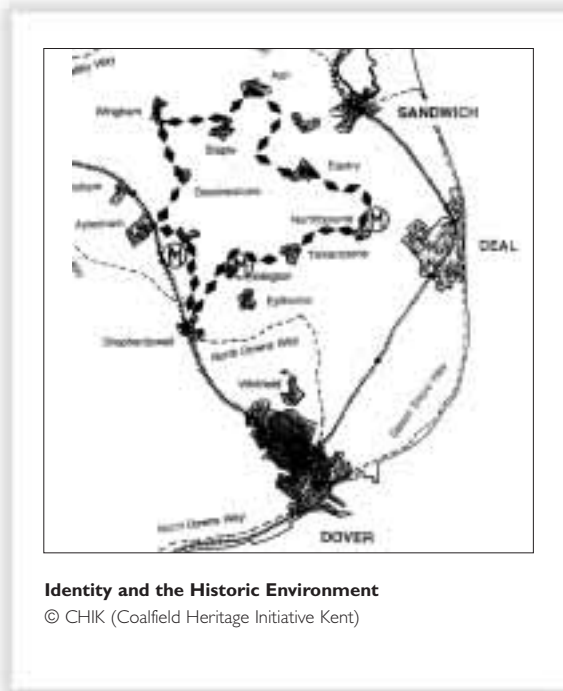
## Learning and the Historic Environment – developing the educational use of HHA properties

English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association (HHA) have worked together to develop the educational use of the historic environment through a one-year project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The South East and the North West were the two English regions chosen to take part in the project. Two project Education Officers, one in each region, worked closely with their colleagues in English Heritage to identify and manage twelve pilot projects across a range of historic houses, directed at a variety of audiences, to develop educational services and broaden access.

One of the aims of the project was to increase awareness and to develop skills in house owners and managers, both in the pilot sites and the wider membership of the HHA. A booklet has been written for all those interested in historic house education, containing details of each project, what it set out to achieve, the work that was carried out, and what was learned from each activity.

The picture shows pupils participating in a project at Dorney Court, near Windsor.



## Identity and the historic environment – the Kent coalfields

Since the last colliery closed in Kent in 1989, most of the pithead buildings and infrastructure have been dismantled. However, the many features related to the industry remaining in and around the mining villages give them a distinctive and vivid character. Dover District Council and a number of community groups have joined forces to record the social history of the mining industry in the Kent Coalfields. Together they will create a community archive and oral history collection, establish a web-based 'virtual museum', provide educational information about life in the Kent Coalfields and establish a Miner's Way Trail for walking, cycling and horse riding. The Coalfield Heritage Initiative Kent project has attracted support from HLF (£208,500) and other agencies and is currently under way.

Also in the Kent Coalfields area, but not included on the Miner's Way route, is the village of Hersden which was built to accommodate the miners from Chislet Colliery. Hersden Neighbourhood Centre Association has received a £27,500 grant from HLF to restore the former Methodist church building for use as a community centre. The church was built in 1929 by the miners from the colliery and is the last piece of mining history still standing in the village.

These initiatives play an important role in providing the area with its sense of identity and have provided a focal point for the community.





This document has been produced by the South East Historic Environment Forum:

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Association of Preservation Trusts
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Civic Trust
- Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
- Country Land and Business Association
- Countryside Agency
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- English Heritage
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- National Trust
- Regional Action and Involvement South East
- South East England Development Agency
- South East Regional Assembly
- South East Museums, Libraries, and Archives Council
- Tourism South East



ENGLISH HERITAGE