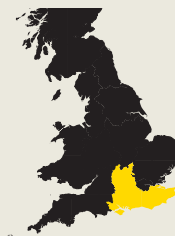


HERITAGE COUNTS

SOUTH EAST



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

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

SOUTH EAST	2009
WORLD HERITAGE SITES	2
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	2,628
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	1,709
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	3,788
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	70,434
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	366
NUMBER OF CONSERVATION AREAS	2,112
NUMBER OF PROTECTED WRECKS	19
NUMBER OF REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS	6

- ▶ Scheduled monument consents in 2009 decreased by just 1% since 2002, but are down 19% since last year.
- ▶ The number of planning applications received affecting registered parks and gardens has increased by 7% since last year.

CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

Spending in the historic environment comes from a variety of sources: private owners, the voluntary sector, local and regional government and central government. It is not possible to collate all this data together to produce a grand total for spend in the historic environment. In most regions, the key sources of funding for the historic environment are the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage. Their funding figures are presented here:

The vast majority, some 89%, of grant-aid available through English Heritage South East remains directed towards Heritage at Risk cases or Places of Worship. The number of projects now funded through Capacity Building Grants is, however, increasing year on year with seven projects amounting to offered funding of £155,000 in 2008/09.

In 2008/09 HLF funding is down on previous years. In part this is because of the 2012 Olympics but is also due to legislative changes in the way that Lottery money is funded. The HLF has made awards of over £428 million to projects in the South East since 1994. However in 2008/09 the total sum awarded was just under £12 million. Whilst this figure represents a reduction of some 78% in the last year alone, some of this is due to changes in assessment procedures.



Image Engaging local communities in their heritage, Watts Gallery open day.

CARING AND SHARING

In 2009 1.9% of listed buildings (Grade I and II*) were at risk, a fall from 2.5% in 1999. The proportion of scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens at risk were 10% and 7% respectively.

MANAGING POSITIVELY

- ▶ There were 95,300 planning application decisions in the South East in 2008/09, almost 20% of the national total. This is a 19% decrease since 2002/03.
- ▶ There were 6,200 listed building consent application decisions in 2008/09, a decrease of 8% since 2002/03.
- ▶ There were 600 conservation area consent application decisions in 2008/09, an increase of 21% since 2002/03.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are central in the protection and management of the historic environment. Their role is set to be even greater under Heritage Protection Reform. An important piece of research in late 2008 looked at existing historic environment resources in Local Government. Since 2003 the total number of local authority conservation staff in the region has reduced from 193.3 to 180.6, one of only two regions to see an overall reduction in the number of conservation staff over the time period.

There are now 58 nominated Heritage Champions in South East local authorities, up from 38 in 2006 and representing some 78% of our local authorities.

USING AND BENEFITING

PARTICIPATION

In 2008, the final figures for measuring Public Service Agreements PSA 3 – increasing participation in culture and sport for priority groups, were published. In the South East region participation in the historic environment was 77.9%, this has not changed significantly from the baseline in 2005/06. DCMS moved to a new measure of participation in 2008/09, with the definition of participation changing from one visit in the last 12 months to at least two visits. The baseline figure in the South East is 63.8%.

The number of visitors to English Heritage properties in the South East region increased by 1% between 2007/08 and 2008/09. In the same period, visitors to National Trust properties in the South East and London were down by 6%. There were 3,365,894 visitors to Historic Houses Association properties in the South East 2009.

EDUCATION

The number of educational visits to English Heritage properties in the South East was down by 2% in 2008/09; however the region had over 12,000 Discovery Visits, 30% of all such visits to all English Heritage properties.

MEMBERSHIP

25% of all English Heritage members continue to come from the South East region, whilst the number of National Trust members has increased by 3.5% in the last 3 years.

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

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Over the last year, the policy context in the South East has continued to evolve, including the implementation of new regional governance structures and process, such as the formulation of the new South East Cultural Partnership and the continued cross-sectoral efforts on place-making in growth areas. For the heritage sector itself, the publication of the draft *Historic Environment Planning Policy Statement* in July 2009 was a major milestone. For the historic environment



Image Children learning about the history of the secret wartime tunnels at Dover Castle.

to play a central role in how our region develops and evolves in the future, the importance of engaging local communities in their heritage and increasing participation cannot be understated.

In 2009 English Heritage assumed full responsibility for the Heritage Open Days programme, stepping in to rescue the scheme when the previous organisers, the Civic Trust, went into administration earlier this year. Heritage Open Days celebrates England's wonderful architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Heritage Open Days aims to develop community projects in new areas and encourage people to open up properties and run activities that reflect the cultural diversity of their communities. In 2008 there were 896 events held in the South East region, up from 786 in 2007. The event is expected to have been even more popular in 2009, underlining once again that Heritage Open Days is Britain's biggest and most diverse celebration of architecture, history and culture.

Statistics for the South East on participating in heritage through visiting historic places, volunteering or membership of heritage organisations continue to be amongst the highest in the country. The demand for careful management of change is shown by

the Conservation Areas at Risk campaign launched in 2009, which demonstrated the commitment of local people to their most valued places and buildings. It is clear that through heritage, people and places come together and heritage can be the key component in building more cohesive and sustainable communities. The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire is leading the way forward by committing itself to delivering quality places as part of its growth agenda. Enhancement of heritage assets will help to deliver benefits across a wide spectrum from safer and stronger communities to greater satisfaction with local places. Sharing resources across local authority boundaries is one example of innovation in response to the economic downturn.

Heritage Counts 2009 is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the South East Historic Environment Forum:

- Association of Gardens Trusts
- Association of Preservation Trusts
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- English Heritage
- Government Office for the South East
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation
- Museums Libraries and Archives
- National Trust
- Natural England

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our Customer Services department:

Telephone: 0870 333 1181

Fax: 01793 414926

Textphone: 01793 414878

E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk



ENGLISH HERITAGE