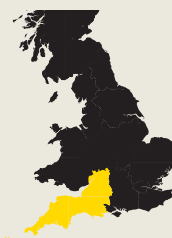


# HERITAGE COUNTS

## SOUTH WEST



*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 West 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.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts) for more information on the historic environment in the South West and our sense of place research.

### UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

SOUTH WEST	2009
WORLD HERITAGE SITES	4
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	6964
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	1994
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	5028
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	81450
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	293
NUMBER OF CONSERVATION AREAS	1534

### CARING AND SHARING

English Heritage's *Heritage at Risk* initiative is helping the sector to understand the scale and nature of threats to the many heritage assets in the South West. Good progress has been made on finding solutions for threatened listed buildings over the past ten years, reflecting the investment of many agencies including English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. However, tackling the hard-to-solve cases which make up an increasing proportion of the regional Register remains a challenge.

In the past two years, the Register has grown to encompass other heritage assets. In 2008, scheduled monuments at risk were added – a third of which were in the South West. This year details of individual Registered Parks and Gardens and the partial results of the first ever survey of Conservation Areas at Risk were published.

- ▶ 2.1% of listed buildings (Grade I and II\*) were at risk in 2009, a change from 2.3% in 1999 and lower than the national percentage of 3.1%.
- ▶ In 2009 20.7% (over 1,400 monuments) of scheduled monuments were at risk as opposed to 17.9% nationally and 5.5% of registered parks and gardens were at risk (6% nationally).
- ▶ The first regional census of Conservation Areas at Risk suggested that just under 17% of conservation areas surveyed were at risk, consistent with the national average. However only 40% of the region's conservation areas were covered in this year's survey.

### MANAGING POSITIVELY

In 2009 there were:

- ▶ 66,500 planning application decisions, a 17% fall on 2002/03. In the first quarter of 2009/10 the region experienced a decrease in applications of 24% year on year, the highest of all regions and higher than the 21% decrease nationally.
- ▶ 6,500 listed building consents decisions, a 13% fall on 2002/03 – significantly more than the 7% fall nationally over the same seven year period. The 10% drop between 2007/08 to 2008/09, however, was in line with the national average.
- ▶ 162 scheduled monuments consent decisions, down by 16% on 2002.
- ▶ 500 conservation area consent decisions, a 19% fall on 2002/03.

Planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens have increased by 40% between 2003/04 and 2008/09 (Garden History Society).

### CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

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

There has been a 41% drop in expenditure of English Heritage grants in the South West between 2002/03 and 2008/09. The amount spent in 2008/09 was the lowest since 2002. In 2008/09 66 separate awards were made totalling £5.2m. The majority (62%) was offered to 33 separate historic buildings and designed landscapes. Amongst these were 13 Buildings at Risk which received £1.3m of the regional offer budget.

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. In the South West, £9.25m was offered in 2008/09. In total, over £404m has been offered to projects in the region since the HLF began in 1994/5.

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are central in the protection and management of the historic environment. Their role is set to be enhanced under the proposed Heritage Protection Reform. An important piece of research this year looked at existing historic environment resources in Local Government.

In the South West, the number of local authority staff working on the historic environment has fallen slightly from an average of 4.38 FTE posts per authority in 2006 to 4.32 FTE in 2008. Numbers working on archaeology in the region have increased slightly from a total of 79 FTE posts across the region in 2006 to 84.6 FTE posts in 2008. Staff working on Conservation have, by contrast, fallen by 10 per cent over the same two year period. Overall, the average number of FTEs in all historic environment services in the South West is above the national average.

There are 40 Heritage Champions in the South West, representing 80% coverage.

## USING AND BENEFITING

### PARTICIPATION

In 2008, the final figures for measuring PSA 3 – increasing participation in culture and sport for priority groups was published. In the South West region participation in the historic environment was 73.8%, this has not significantly changed from the baseline in 2005/06. Similarly, there have not been significant increases in participation among priority groups. In 2008/09 DCMS moved to a new measure of participation in the historic environment, with the definition changing from one visit in the last 12 months to two visits. The baseline figure in the South West region is 62%.

### VISITOR NUMBERS

There was a slight drop in the number of visitors to historic sites in the South West between 2007/08 and 2008/09, with English Heritage and the National Trust experiencing a 3% and 2% decline in visitor numbers respectively. There were concerns that the economic situation would have a continued negative impact on visitor numbers to historic environment sites. However figures for the first half of the financial year 2009/10 are encouraging with visitor figures at many sites the highest they have been since 2001/02.

Research undertaken during April-June 2009 indicates that membership schemes and public events are already having a strong positive impact on the performance of historic attractions in the current economic climate and are likely to increase in importance in the medium term. This is borne out by first quarter 2009/10 figures for English Heritage properties in the South West, which,

due to a strong event programme and a buoyant UK domestic market, experienced a 25% increase in admissions income and a 31% increase on membership income.

### EDUCATION

There were 72,675 English Heritage education visits in the South West – up by 4% on 2007/08. In the eight years 2001/02 to 2008/09 education visits in the South West are up by 37% – not only the highest percentage of all regions but bucking a negative trend in many other regions. The region hosted 6,682 Discovery Visits, 17% of the national total.

### MEMBERSHIP

There has been a 41% increase in the number of English Heritage members in the South West since 2006/07. The region consistently accounts for 9% of all English Heritage members.

There are 579,234 National Trust members in the South West representing 16% of all National Trust members. The numbers have risen by 3.3% between 2007/08 and 2008/09.

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

## KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ The heritage sector is keen to engage with the new regional structures which have emerged following the Sub National Review of economic development and regeneration. Engagement with the Strategic Leaders Board and their role in producing an Integrated Regional Strategy will be vital to ensure that the historic environment's value to the region is properly reflected in key strategies and forward planning.
- ▶ In 2009, the historic environment sector has continued on the programme to improve and reform heritage protection system. A major milestone was reached with the launch of the consultation draft of the Government's *Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15): Planning for the Historic Environment*. This updates the planning policy affecting archaeology, historic areas, buildings and landscapes and, once finalised, will replace the current Planning Policy Guidance notes PPG15 and 16. At the time of publication of *Heritage Counts*, the consultation was drawing to a close. The national *Heritage Counts* report discusses this policy development in more detail.
- ▶ Following on from a DCMS review in 2008 and the closure of Regional Cultural Consortia, English Heritage, Arts Council England, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Sport England are working together on four key areas: 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad, place-shaping, local government improvement and regional strategies as set out in the joint regional action plan of April 2009.



**Image** TBSBS Training to support skills in the construction industry – eleven of the 70 trainees funded by the Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme (TBSBS) since July 2007 are in the South West, covering diverse skills from earth building in Cornwall to stone masonry at Gloucester Cathedral. For further information go to [www.buildingbursaries.org.uk](http://www.buildingbursaries.org.uk). Further case studies are available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

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