

HERITAGE COUNTS 2011

LONDON

Heritage Counts 2011 is the tenth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of London Historic Environment Forum. This year the theme for Heritage Counts is the role of the historic environment in strengthening civil society. Visitors to the Heritage Counts website can download the complete research projects commissioned to support this year's report and access the full set of local statistics and maps detailing the historic environment for London, including asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. www.heritagecounts.org.uk

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND BIG SOCIETY

New research shows that the historic environment can provide the context and means for people to get involved in their local areas. Heritage groups are an important source for community input into shaping areas, with 85% of civic societies responding to planning applications. They also provide opportunities for people to take part in their community, with 50% of The Heritage Alliance members offering volunteering opportunities. To encourage more people to play a part in their local heritage, Heritage Counts presents a checklist which local heritage groups can use to widen and strengthen community involvement in their projects and groups. Please see the national Heritage Counts report for more detail. www.heritagecounts.org.uk

The Big Society aims to encourage individuals, communities and voluntary groups to come forward and take a more active role in shaping their local area, and for the State to support this wherever possible.

These are central themes in the protection of the historic environment, which has always been largely maintained by the non-government sector, with private owners, volunteer organisations, charities, local amenity groups and trusts looking after much of it. Their importance is set to increase with the Localism Bill which devolves power and responsibility for the shape of local areas to local communities and groups. A prime of how local groups and people have taken the initiative to save and promote historic buildings are described below.

BRIXTON WINDMILL, LAMBETH

The most central of the capital's few surviving windmills, this early 19th century grade II* listed mill was on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk register for over 10 years. Although occasional repairs were carried out by Lambeth Council (as owners) there was no long term strategy to secure the building's future and open it to the public. However, reflecting the concern of many local people, the Friends of Windmill Gardens was set up in 2003.

Their efforts culminated in the award in March 2010 of a Heritage Lottery grant of just under £400,000 to fund the windmill's restoration. A partnership of Lambeth Council and the Friends are providing additional money, officer and volunteer time to fund the project, which includes a four-year programme of educational activities. Officially reopened on 2 May 2011, some 2,000 locals marched up Brixton Hill to witness the event. Final works were completed this year and the Friends are building up a volunteer network to act as guides on open days. See much more at www.brixtonwindmill.org.



Brixton Windmill. © English Heritage

HERITAGE COUNTS: INDICATOR DATA

www.heritagecounts.org.uk provides a comprehensive set of statistics on the historic environment in London. The key changes for 2010/11 are highlighted below and overleaf.

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

Regional Assets	2010	2011
Listed Buildings Grade I	583	586
Listed Buildings Grade II*	1,346	1,364
Listed Buildings Grade II	16,684	16,795
World Heritage Sites	4	4
Scheduled Monuments	153	154
Registered Parks and Gardens	149	149
Registered Battlefields	1	1
Protected Ship Wrecks	1	1
Conservation Areas	892	1,000

CARING AND SHARING

LONDON	2009/10	2010/11	% CHANGE
Planning application decisions	68,755	75,459	+10%
Listed building consent decisions	3,919	4,493	+15%
Scheduled monument consent decisions	78	50	-36%
Conservation area consent decisions	632	779	+23%
Planning applications for registered parks and gardens	118	83	-30%

LISTING LONDON'S

UNDERGROUND STATIONS

In July 2011 (and therefore not included in the table overleaf) 16 London Underground stations were listed at grade II and three upgraded to grade II*. This brings the total number of listed stations to 72. For an illustrated summary of the 2010 listings in London visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/london-list/.



St John's Wood underground station.
© English Heritage

MANAGING POSITIVELY

2010/11 is the first year where the number of planning application decisions in London has risen since 2007/08, although this is still 10% fewer than in 2002/03 and 17% fewer than in the peak years of 2003/04 and 2007/08. The capital saw the largest rise of all English regions. The situation is similar with listed building consent decisions, with London having the second highest percentage increase on 2009/10 figures. London is the only region where the number of listed building consent decisions is greater than in 2002/03 (3% more). The third main category to see an increase is conservation area consent decisions, up 23% on last year

and 42% on 2002/03. Although scheduled monument consent decisions have decreased on last year, since 2002/03, the annual figures have fluctuated with no discernable trend (a pattern seen across all regions), indicating that scheduled monument consents are less affected by the economic situation than other types of consents.

HERITAGE AT RISK IN LONDON

Since the recording of buildings at risk in London commenced in 1991, over 90% of those on the original register have now been removed, although every year new entries are added – the register is only ever a snapshot of what is a dynamic situation. In 2011:

4.1% (80) of grade I and II* listed building entries are at risk compared to 5.5% (98) in the 1999 baseline year. Whilst four were added in 2011, nine were removed.

2.4% (395) of grade II listed buildings entries are at risk compared to 3.8% (468) in the 1999 baseline year. 44 were added in 2011 and 50 removed.

23.0% (35) of scheduled monuments are at risk compared to 27% (41) in the 2009 baseline year. Three were added in 2011 and five removed.

9.4% (14) of registered parks and gardens are at risk, which represents no change on the 2009 baseline year.

6.4% (60) of conservation areas surveyed are at risk compared to 8.1% (72) in the 2010 baseline year.

USING AND BENEFITING

VISITORS, MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING

In 2010 there were at least 11.4 million (10.7 million in 2009) visits to London's heritage sites, with 4.7m visits to National Trust's staffed properties in London and the South East in 2010/11, a very small

increase on the previous year. English Heritage's staffed sites in London saw a decrease of 3% in the same period to almost 363,000. Membership of both bodies remains healthy with year on year increases since 2006/07. There are now 1.2 million National Trust members in London and South East and 87,786 London members of English Heritage. The National Trust's volunteer programme continues to grow, with 14,750 volunteers in London and the South East (up by 6% on previous year). A new indicator for this year is the number of English Heritage volunteers, of which there were 141 in London in 2010/11, mainly volunteering at English Heritage properties.

POLICY UPDATE FOR LONDON: THE MAYOR'S LONDON PLAN

The Mayor adopted a new London Plan that is clearer and shorter than the previous document. The plan provides an integrated economic, social, environmental and transport framework for London's development over the next 20-25 years. English Heritage has been actively engaged in its development to ensure that London's 'world class heritage' is appropriately sustained and enhanced for the future through a series of strategic heritage policies.

As part of implementing the Plan, the Mayor is preparing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on a number of key issues, many of which will have an impact upon the historic environment. This includes an updated London View Management SPG, (currently out on consultation), and a new World Heritage Site Settings SPG (expected consultation in the autumn). Further details on the London Plan can be found at www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/londonplan

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