

HERITAGE COUNTS 2012

SOUTH EAST

Heritage Counts 2012 is the eleventh 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 the theme for Heritage Counts is resilience in the historic environment. 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 the South East, including asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. Many of these indicators were first reported in 2002, so this year also marks 10 years of indicators in Heritage Counts. Further analysis has been carried out on the 10 year trends of some of the key indicators.

HERITAGE AND RESILIENCE

This year, Heritage Counts focuses on resilience: the ability of heritage organisations to cope with issues that affect them. Although prompted by the current economic climate, the research found that the resilience evident in the organisations studied predates the current difficulties, suggesting that resilient organisations have a long history of change and adaptation. The research identified barriers to resilience which might make it difficult for organisations to adapt to a changing climate. It looks at a sample of heritage organisations that have adapted in a range of ways, and identifies how these changes can be applied across other organisations in the sector. Please see the national Heritage Counts 2012 report for more detail.

www.heritagecounts.org.uk

TEN YEARS OF HERITAGE COUNTS

Understanding the Assets

In terms of the numbers, the overall picture is little changed with only small increases in asset numbers during the last ten years. The most significant change has been the upgrading of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to National Parks – the New Forest in 2005 and the South Downs in 2011.

Caring and Sharing

Heritage at Risk English Heritage has published its Buildings at Risk (BAR) register of Grade I and II* buildings for more than a decade. In 2002 there were 132 entries in the South East. In 2012, for the first time ever, the number of BAR entries is below 100 (97) and the South East has the lowest percentage of BARs in the country, with just 1.7% of all our Grade I and II* buildings considered at risk. Since 2009 English Heritage has expanded the register to include buildings, scheduled monuments, places of worship, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, battlefields and protected wrecks. In 2012 there are a total

South East Heritage Assets (as at 31 March 2012)	2002	2012
World Heritage Sites	2	2
Scheduled Monuments	2,614	2,634
Listed Buildings Grade I	1,730 (in 2003)	1,730
Listed Buildings Grade II*	3,817 (in 2003)	3,867
Listed Buildings Grade II	70,490 (in 2003)	70,670
All Listed Buildings	75,370	76,266
Registered Parks and Gardens	344	367
Registered Battlefields	6	6
Protected Wrecks	15	20
Conservation Areas	1,979	2,148
Land in South East Designated as National Park or AONB	31% (in 2003)	37%
Online Historic Environment Records	5 (in 2008)	11

of 513 entries on the South East list.

Managing Positively Planning application decisions in the South East over the last decade mirror the fortunes of the economy. The number of applications is down by 25% on 2002/03 to just over 88,000. It peaked in 2004/05 at 123,000. The South East

accounts 20% of all planning. There is a similar pattern for listed building consent decisions, though the decline since 2002/03 is only 7% overall. The South East has the highest proportion of Planning and Listed Building Consent decisions of any of the nine English regions. The number of conservation

Resilience: Headly Forge

Headly Forge is an eighteenth century, Grade II listed forge which has been updated and modernised over time. It remained a working forge until 2009 when the blacksmith who ran it left due to financial difficulties. It was empty for two years and its condition deteriorated.

The Forge was bought at auction by Paul Furr, a local property developer, who refurbished it in seven months. He saw it as an opportunity to develop quirky business offices, not just as a conservation project. A blacksmith has subsequently returned to work at the Forge, connecting the present of the building with its past.

The project at the Forge is an example of effective private sector funding for heritage assets. Paul Furr's investment has achieved many good conservation results but most importantly has given the building a sustainable, viable and resilient use for the future – and one that was achieved without resorting to public investment. The building has since won an award from the Surrey Historic Buildings Trust.

Headly Forge: Old Hearth converted into a conference table.

© Pete Mills, Mole Valley District Council



area consent decisions has increased since 2002/03 by 11% but remains 35% below its peak in 2005/06.

Capacity Surveys from IHBC and ALGAO on the numbers of staff employed in local authority heritage services in England show a steady decline of 20% in the South East over the last decade, with the biggest drop in numbers in the period 2009-2010. With local government at the forefront of managing and protecting local heritage this is a worrying trend, even in the context of austerity measures and of doing 'more for less'.

Resources During the last decade the Heritage Lottery Fund has been the most significant funder of heritage in the South East. Since it started in 1994 the HLF has awarded £501million in the South East. The amount of funding the HLF has to distribute has nearly doubled in the last twelve months following a redistribution of lottery funds and the end of lottery funding for the London 2012 Olympics. In 2011/12 the HLF distributed £39million in the South East to 192 different projects.

English Heritage awarded nearly £2.3million in grant aid in 2011/12 in the South East, significantly down since 2002/03 from £3.8million, reflecting the overall reduction in government funding to English Heritage over the period.

Using and Benefiting

A special report for Heritage Counts 2012 highlights that there are 11 active Building Preservation Trusts in the South East in 2012, of which 6 are currently involved with live projects.

Participation in the South East's historic environment continues to increase. 80% of adults (up from a baseline of 76% in 2005/06) participated in heritage according to the Taking Part survey. The number of visitors to historic properties has grown substantially over the decade, making a significant contribution to the South East economy.

The Taking Part survey also highlights that 1.3% of the South East population volunteers in/for heritage.

New research for Heritage Counts 2012 highlights just how much of a social media revolution has taken place since 2002, with nearly 30% of adults having visited a heritage website. Social media has transformed the way people engage with heritage, from gathering support for a cause to engaging with potential customers.

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The advent of the Localism Act, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the forthcoming Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, are significant changes for the heritage sector this year. All bring greater scope for local communities to be involved in managing their own heritage – with the introduction of neighbourhood planning, community rights to bid for and manage heritage, and a streamlined planning system for designated assets among the numerous changes. This is in the context of a challenging economic climate and declining numbers of expert staff working in local heritage services. Sector partners continue to seek the opportunities these changes afford and look for ways they can support and work with local communities in their endeavours.

Heritage Counts 2012 is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the South East Historic Environment Forum.

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