

Introduction



The East of England region: a profile

The East of England is the second largest of the nine English regions covering 15% of the land (19,120 sq km) and is home to over 5,259,958 million people, or 9.1% of the English population. Over the last 20 years the regional population increased by 11% (the national percentage change was 4.4%). The six counties and four unitary authorities (Luton, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock) can best be compared by population per sq km: the highest densities are in the unitary authorities and county towns, south Bedfordshire, Basildon, Castle Point and Harlow in Essex, and south and west Hertfordshire. Below national average densities cover Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk. Our rural areas cover 80% of the region, and are home for 43% of our population. Green belt areas cover 237,000 hectares or 12% of the region, close to the national average of 13%. The Broads, Norfolk, is a National Park.

The region is famous for the strength of its technological research and development sector, accounting for 19% of national expenditure on research and development in 2000. Looking to the east coast, Felixstowe is the largest container port in the UK, and the fourth largest in Europe. This is the driest region in the UK, but we produce a quarter of England's grain in our fields. Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing account for 9-12% of businesses in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, compared to 2% in Hertfordshire. Farms are predominantly arable holdings, with a higher than national average percentage devoted to horticulture, pig and poultry farming.

This report is one of nine regional documents that are being published alongside the national document *Heritage Counts 2003: The State of the Historic Environment*. The suite of *Heritage Counts* documents builds on the first *State of the Historic Environment Report* (SHER), which was published in 2002 in response to the Government's statement *The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future* (2001). This regional report has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England's Historic Environment Forum. It aims to quantify and monitor the condition of the historic environment in the region, the pressures it faces and its contribution to economic and social well being. The report focuses on the collection and synthesis of key data relating to the region's historic environment, and should be viewed as an evolving document in its second year of development.

The historic environment is the cumulative pattern of how people have lived and worked. In our region the dominant pattern of low density, scattered, small-scale villages and market towns runs from Norfolk down to the Thames Gateway area of south Essex. The western side of the region, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, has more in common with the more densely settled pattern of the central areas of England. ■ Our industrial heritage converges around water: draining the fens, creating canal systems, sustaining river and maritime ports, and coastal defence. But the agricultural heritage prevails, and is a major theme of this year's regional *Heritage Counts*.

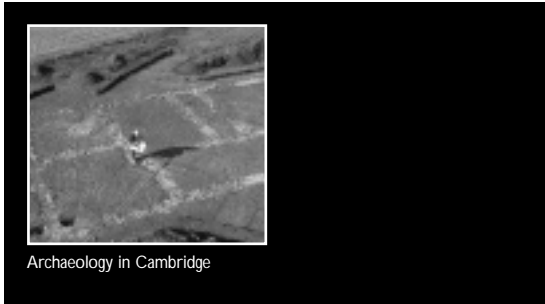
Understanding the value of the historic environment, social, cultural and economic, comes from knowing what we have and how we gain from it. Measuring the historic environment goes beyond lists of sites with legal protection to analysing whole landscapes for their distinctive components. The uses that we find for the reminders of our past are diverse: the results add immeasurably to our quality of life, creating distinctive local and regional character. Benefits come in the economic value of tourism and associated employment, the economic contribution of regeneration schemes in historic towns, the environmental benefits of species-rich historic landscapes and sustainably repaired buildings, or the pleasures of learning from direct contact with the creations of past generations. But there are also pressures, whether from neglect, changing conditions of use, or forces of nature, and we need to understand them and their impact.

■ B. Roberts and S. Wrathmell, *An Atlas of Rural Settlement in England*, English Heritage, 2000, 49.

2

Historic Environment Assets

■ SMR Content and Computing Survey 2002, English Heritage/National Monuments Record Data Services Unit.



This section gives an overview of the historic environment of the East of England region: the resource, its condition, management and the pressures it is under. It can be read in conjunction with the national report. Only a small proportion of buildings, sites and landscapes are protected by statute and many features are difficult to measure. This overview cannot be comprehensive but can identify where we need more research.

The agricultural heritage is an important component of the region's identity, and is a major theme for this year. Farm buildings, field systems, and landscape character are created by farming regimes. All of these historic components are subject to change and the impact of current farming practices also affects archaeological sites that are now in agricultural settings. We present a comprehensive survey of archaeological sites and the pressures they are under in the countryside, and anticipate that English Heritage's follow-up project will allow us to gain a better understanding of how archaeological sites can be protected in partnership with landowners. It is also hard to separate the health and wealth of the region's market towns from their historic connections with agricultural production: evolving around early medieval market places, ornamented by impressive nineteenth-century corn exchanges, they are the focus of regional investment in regeneration schemes. Corn exchanges become cinemas, and the market place is boosted by the provision of internet access for local traders to reach out to their customers.

2.1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Formerly known as Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), enhanced Historic Environment Records (HERs) are databases of archaeological sites (including

buildings) which offer a 'total approach' to the historic environment. ■ They are maintained by county or unitary authorities, although they are not statutory duties. Wider public access is being encouraged through online activity and benchmarks for good practice are being suggested under government-led consultation.

2.2 REGIONAL CHARACTERISATION PROJECTS

Characterisation helps to manage change in the historic environment as a practical tool for developers and planners. Area-based descriptions show how places have developed over time.

English Heritage's Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) programme, in partnership with local government, creates countywide overviews of landscapes. The results are incorporated in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) that can be used to guide planning decisions. This is complete in Hertfordshire and Suffolk, in progress in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex, and planned for Norfolk.

Townscape characterisation is produced by local authorities (funded by English Heritage), surveying urban archaeology, topography and historic buildings, leading to strategies for the management of urban historic assets. The intensive programme covers Cambridge, Colchester, Ipswich, Norwich and St Albans. Extensive surveys are county-wide; completed in Essex and Hertfordshire, in progress in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, and to be initiated in Norfolk and Suffolk.

The three growth areas of Milton Keynes-South Midlands, London-Stansted-Cambridge and Thames Gateway illustrate the potential pressures from development. English Heritage and the relevant county councils are undertaking characterisation pilot projects, based around Stansted and Harlow. Initial characterisation work on the Thames Gateway area, which covers three regions, has been commissioned by English Heritage in co-operation with Essex and Kent County Councils. The aim is to ensure that the development in these areas takes account of and utilises their historic environment assets.

2.3

NATIONAL MAPPING PROGRAMME

The National Mapping Programme (NMP) identifies and records all archaeological sites and landscapes visible on aerial photographs. Projects include the assessment stage of the coastal zone survey in Norfolk and Suffolk. The emphasis on the coast reflects its vulnerability to erosion and climate change.

2.4

MONUMENTS AT RISK SURVEY (MARS) ■: REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The 1995 national picture of recorded monuments (earthworks, buried archaeology, domestic buildings before 1700 and other buildings before 1900) in England showed that 6% were scheduled and a further 12% had other protection. One monument a day had been destroyed since 1945, the majority without excavation records. The single biggest cause of cumulative destruction has been agriculture. Working landscapes are also subject to erosion and loss of assets. In July 2003 English Heritage launched a campaign to address plough damage: *Ripping Up History*. The landscape can be protected through good stewardship and a legislative framework for sites under cultivation.

The East of England was one of three regions with the greatest number of monuments at high risk (severe damage or loss within five years). 3% are at high risk, 38% at medium risk, and 51% at low risk (8% not applicable). Prehistoric earthworks are more vulnerable than later buildings, largely due to changes in land use. Since 1945, 15% of earthworks and 16% of buildings classed as monuments have been destroyed nationally. Cumulative damage comes from agriculture (affecting 30% of surveyed monuments in 1995) and natural processes (water, weather, animals and visitor erosion) (22%), followed by building alterations (11%).

The condition and survival of monuments are closely linked with land use (Table 1), affecting decay and management. English Heritage will be reviewing the monuments in the 1995 survey for changes in their condition. In our region, this programme will begin in 2004. Table 2 shows the total resource.

Historic Field Systems of East Anglia project

South Elmham St Michael, Suffolk, is one of twelve areas in the survey funded by English Heritage, to be published in 2004. Its fields make up a pattern called a 'co-axial' field system, an unusual form characterised by a regular rectilinear layout, often with long linear shared boundaries and tracks. These fields may have been laid out well before the Middle Ages, as a different system of farming to the better known 'open fields' associated with medieval villages. When these fields were laid out and how they relate to the local settlement pattern and feudal ownership are questions for the survey.

2.5

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Scheduled monuments and agri-environment schemes

Defra operates schemes to provide payments to farmers and land managers for long-term agreements to protect and improve the rural environment through conservation and land management. They are enormously important in protecting our rural historic environment, given the land-use pressures suggested in the Monuments at Risk survey and the scarcity of alternative sources of financial support.

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) includes measures to enhance and restore targeted landscapes, including historical features, and to improve public access. Grants include hedge laying and planting and repairing boundary walls. Since 1992, 1,533 ten-year agreements have been made in the region, covering 22,786 hectares. The annual trend since 1992 was for an average 17 agreements per county, until 2000-01 when uptake increased dramatically. ■ (Table 3) To date, 236 scheduled monuments are on CSS holdings, 14% of the regional SMs (national average is 15%). Historic parks and gardens are also included, covering 5,938 hectares, 24.5% of the total designated areas in the region.

The Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme (ESA) was introduced in 1987, with grants for agricultural practices which would safeguard and enhance areas of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value.

■ T. Darvill and A. Fulton, *MARS: the Monuments at Risk Survey of England*, 1995, main report, Bournemouth and London, (1998).

■ Defra Scheme uptake summary table 21 July 2003, www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/sc_hemes/css/cssuptake.htm

4 *Planning and Conservation Casework Survey 1997-1999, ALGAO (2003) with English Heritage; see Appendix 3 for East of England data.*

There are now 22 ESAs in England (10% of agricultural land) including the Broads, Breckland, Suffolk River Valleys and the Essex coast. 34 scheduled monuments (2% of regional total) are on land with an ESA management agreement. Similarly, although 2,000 hectares (8% of the regional total) of designated Parks and Gardens are within ESAs only 2% are within an ESA management agreement.

Archaeology and planning

Pressure on the archaeological resource can be tracked through the number of planning applications which require archaeological mitigation (fieldwork to assess or record the resource). This year the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) published its survey of the provision of archaeological advice for the period 1997-99; the response rate from the East of England was 100%.⁴ Nationally, the proportion of applications with significant archaeological implications remained low (between 2.3% and 3%) but within an increasing proportion of total planning applications, showing that the pressure on the resource increased during the last decade. Responses to the level of threat are recommendations for activity (project briefs) by the archaeological planning advisors. 'Development driven' archaeology accounts for 90% of fieldwork in England and Wales. This year regional figures for the number of planning consultations and resulting briefs issued have been collected (Table 4).

Scheduled monument consent

Works affecting scheduled monuments require consent from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Some scheduled monument consent applications concern works which also need planning permission. In 2003, there has been little change in the number of scheduled monument cases logged regionally (99) or the number of cases as a proportion of scheduled monuments (6%), as compared to 2002.

2.6

LISTED BUILDINGS

The List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest is compiled by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of English Heritage. In the East of England region at April 2003, our listed structures were 15.5% of the total in England, the third highest number of entries for a region, after the South West and South East.

Grade I and II* listed buildings at risk

English Heritage produces annually a national Register of Grade I and II* listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments most at risk through neglect, decay or redundancy. In 2003, there were 128 entries in the East of England on the list, 9.3% of the national total. Since 1999, which is now taken as the baseline year for the survey, 24 or 22.2% of the original 108 entries have been given a secure future and been removed from the Register. The 2003 Buildings at Risk Register identified 28 or 1.6% of the region's 1,746 Grade I listed buildings and 81 or 2.3% of the region's 3,494 Grade II* listed buildings as being at risk. This compares to national figures of 3.1% Grade I and 3.8% Grade II* list entries.

The majority of buildings on the Register, 107 entries or 83.4%, are likely to require some subsidy to bring them back to use. The conservation deficit, the funding necessary to bring the buildings into a reasonable state of repair, is around £18 million. The majority of entries in the East of England, 83 or 64.8%, are in rural areas and have a conservation deficit of around £13.3 million.

This region has the highest percentage of any English region of religious, ritual and funerary buildings (38 building items or 28.1% of the region's register) and of agricultural and subsistence buildings (16 items or 11.9% of the regional register) at risk. Much of the remainder are defence structures (14 or 10.4% of the regional register) and domestic buildings (30 or 22.2% of the regional register). These are all predominantly in the region's rural areas.

Grade II listed buildings at risk

Some local authorities have their own Buildings at Risk registers which cover Grade II, as well as some Grade I and Grade II*, listed buildings. Registers covering 31 out of the 48 district and unitary local authorities in the region and 73% of the listed building stock were available for analysis at September 2003. The total number of entries on the registers was 746, 2% of the listed building stock in the areas they covered. This suggests there could be over 1,025 buildings at risk in the region. There is some overlap with the English Heritage register (78 or 10.5% of entries) but 85% of entries are for Grade II buildings.

Five hundred and forty one (72.5%) are in rural areas. Norfolk has over 40% of buildings at risk in the region, whilst having only 24% of the listed building stock. This may reflect different approaches to compiling registers across the East of England.

1 Monuments in East of England, 1995 – land use

REGIONAL %	ARABLE %	PASTURE/ HEATH %	DEVELOPED/ URBAN %	FORESTRY %	INDUSTRIAL %	TOTAL %
EARTHWORKS	75	18	3	3		99
BUILDINGS	30	5	14	1	50	100
BURIED ARCHAEOLOGY	46	29	9	13		97
ALL MONUMENTS	51	17.5	8.7	5.7	16.8	99.7

Source: Mars data

5 NB SHER 2002 published figures collected on a different basis and are not comparable. 31 March has been used here for both years.

2 Scheduled monuments

	2002 5	2003
BEDFORDSHIRE		49.5
CAMBRIDGESHIRE		257.5
ESSEX		291.0
HERTFORDSHIRE		168.0
LUTON		1.5
NORFOLK		417.5
PETERBOROUGH		48.5
SUFFOLK		323.5
SOUTHEND ON SEA		4.0
THURROCK		16.0
EAST OF ENGLAND	1,634	1,677
NATIONAL FIGURE	19,239	19,446

Source: English Heritage

3 Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreements

	2000-01	2001-02
BEDFORDSHIRE	18	23
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	24	48
ESSEX	31	38
HERTFORDSHIRE	22	22
NORFOLK	94	92
SUFFOLK	36	47
TOTAL	225	270
HECTARES	2,809	5,217

Source: Defra

4 Archaeology and planning

	PLANNING CONSULTATIONS		BRIEFS ISSUED		BRIEFS AS A % OF APPLICATIONS
	1999 ALGAO SURVEY (Q. 8)	2002-3	1999 ALGAO SURVEY (QS. 35 & 36)	2002-3	2002-3
BEDFORDSHIRE		206		57	27.6
ESSEX		1,217		85	7
CAMBRIDGESHIRE		650		91	7
HERTFORDSHIRE		Data not available		Data not available	Data not available
NORFOLK		1,638		212	13
SUFFOLK		1,461		117	8
REGIONAL TOTAL	62,006		638		
TOTAL 2002-3		5,172		562	9.2

Source: County archaeologist statistics

6 Planning and Land Use Statistics Division, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

7 English Heritage, Listed Building System database

8 www.visitchurches.org.uk

9 *Survey of Local Authority Conservation Provision in England*, Oxford Brookes University (2003)

TEACH at Waxham Barn

Waxham Barn dates from the 1580s and, at 180 feet, is the longest historic barn in the county. Norfolk County Council compulsorily purchased the barn in 1991 and initiated a major repair programme which has culminated in the TEACH at Waxham barn project. During these repair works, construction operatives will have the opportunity to be assessed for NVQ Level 3 units in Conservation and Restoration.

Once repairs are completed, the barn will house permanent exhibitions about the barn and its environment, provide a café, and host travelling exhibitions and events such as 'bat spotting' evenings and threshing. In addition, the barn will be at the centre of an education programme for local schools.

The largest category is domestic buildings at 30.4%. Finding an appropriate use for many of these buildings is not difficult; their fate depends more on finding an owner with the inclination and resources to do the necessary work.

Just over a quarter of entries fall into the agricultural and subsistence category; over half being barns indicating a strong regional need for research and guidance on how to best conserve barns, and other redundant agricultural buildings, and keep them in an appropriate use. Allied to this category are 46 mills, 6.2% of all entries.

Religious and ritual buildings are the third highest category, at 12.9%. Many of these are ruinous, and therefore not capable of beneficial use.

English Heritage, in partnership with the Countryside Agency, has conducted *The Historic Farmsteads: Audit and Evaluation project*. Historic Farmstead regional policy and characterisation leaflets will be produced; this guidance should be useful for all bodies, professionals and individuals concerned about the fate of agricultural buildings.

Listed building consent (LBC)

There was an average of one decision for every 13 listed buildings in the region in 2002/03 (Table 6). The majority of listed building consent applications are granted; in 2002/03 only 10.8% of applications in the East of England were not granted (same as the national percentage). **6**

Places of worship

Places of worship are perhaps the region's most visible and exceptional historic building type. The East of England has 1,161 Grade I churches, the highest of any English region, and 23% of the national total. It has 910 Grade II* churches, the second highest of all the regions, and 18% of the national total. **7**

Places used for worship are exempted from listed building control, provided the denomination has a recognised system of control. English Heritage is consulted on all proposals affecting Grade I and II* churches, and on some categories of work affecting Grade II churches. In 2002/03 the regional office received 456 Ecclesiastical Exemption notifications, representing nearly one in every five of the 2,071 Grade I and II* churches in the region. This indicates the pressure for change as congregations adapt their buildings to meet changing needs and expectations. Unlike the secular system, the faculty jurisdiction of the Church of England includes all repairs.

Declining religious observance means that many places of worship in the region are too little used, and some are threatened with redundancy. The Churches Conservation Trust looks after 77 redundant churches in the region, almost a quarter of the total in its care. **8**

2.7

CONSERVATION AREAS

In this region, conservation areas vary from a single building and some ancillary structures at Copped Hall, Essex; large parts of major regional centres such as Cambridge, Norwich and Colchester; and the twentieth century BATA factory model town at East Tilbury, Essex (Table 7).

Local authority conservation area appraisals guide management and development control decisions. The Local Authority Conservation Provision (LACP) survey found that local authorities in the East of England had adopted an average of six conservation area appraisals each (compared to eight per authority nationally) **9**. Small incremental changes over time, new buildings designed without reference to their context and new road systems and street furniture can easily erode the character of conservation areas.

5 Listed building entries in the East of England 2003 ¹⁰

COUNTY	LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES 2002	GRADE I	GRADE II*	GRADE II	LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES 2003
BEDFORDSHIRE		112	144	3,026	3,282
LUTON		1	0	81	82
CAMBRIDGESHIRE		230	441	6,565	7,236
PETERBOROUGH		68	43	816	927
ESSEX		261	751	12,967	13,979
SOUTHEND ON SEA		5	5	85	95
THURROCK		12	16	214	242
HERTFORDSHIRE		109	477	7,542	8,128
NORFOLK		538	824	9,146	10,508
SUFFOLK		410	793	11,992	13,195
EAST OF ENGLAND	57,643	1,746	3,494	52,434	57,674
NATIONAL FIGURE	376,094	9,132	20,799	340,680	371,591

Source: English Heritage National Monuments Record

¹⁰ Grade A, B are included with Grade I and II* entries respectively. Grade C and other entries are included with Grade II entries.

¹¹ www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_607063

¹² English Heritage, 2002, *State of the Historic Environment Report 2002*.

¹³ Planning and Land Use Statistics Division, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

6 Listed building consent decisions, East of England

LISTED BUILDING CONSENT APPLICATIONS	2001/02		2002/03		
	LOCAL AUTHORITY DECISIONS ¹¹ DECISIONS	NOTIFICATIONS LOGGED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE ¹²	LOCAL AUTHORITY DECISIONS ¹³	NOTIFICATIONS LOGGED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE	LOCAL AUTHORITY DECISIONS AS A % OF LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES
BEDFORDSHIRE	253		254		7.7%
LUTON	14		3		3.7%
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	624		597		8.3%
PETERBOROUGH	57		76		8.2%
ESSEX	1,073		984		7.0%
SOUTHEND ON SEA	16		24		25.3%
THURROCK	5		8		3.3%
HERTFORDSHIRE	660		736		9.1%
NORFOLK	756		750		7.1%
SUFFOLK	1,001		1041		7.9%
EAST OF ENGLAND	4,459	678	4,473	650	7.7%
NATIONAL FIGURE	31,160	8,058	32,587	7,485	8.7%

Source: English Heritage

14 The Hadleigh Society, 134 Benton Street, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 5AZ. Data provided by John Bloomfield.

15 Preface to *Moving towards excellence in urban design and conservation*, CABE English Heritage, Planning Officers Society (2003).

Hadleigh High Street: change in a conservation area

Hadleigh, Suffolk, is a flourishing market town, whose historic streets take their character from the large number of late medieval houses and additions of every subsequent century. Hadleigh's heritage is championed by the Hadleigh Society, a Civic Society (affiliated to the Civic Trust) with a formal role in commenting on planning applications. **14** They have provided three case studies, drawing on the Hadleigh Archive of Hadleigh Town Council.



Nos 39/41 High Street. Photographed c.1900, a probable seventeenth-century building, which burnt down in 1942. 2003: rebuilt as two shops. The new shop signs dominate the view of the neighbouring jettied building. The scale of the fascia and the strongly contrasting paint schemes break up the unified structure.

The Hadleigh Society is concerned to protect and enhance what John Betjemen called one of the finest high streets in the country, within a town nominated by the Council for British Archaeology as being of national importance. Generally, the buildings have suffered little adverse change, although the pressures of commercial development are always present. As the case studies show, twentieth-century change has affected buildings with statutory protection and within a conservation area. Hadleigh High Street is a complex historic environment vulnerable to piecemeal change. The leading professional bodies and agencies for built design and conservation are clear that the twin pillars of urban design and conservation are essential components of an effective planning system and need to reach across the spectrum of local government, to include the work of highway authorities. **15**



The Old Forge and No. 2, Bridge Street.

The forge, listed Grade II, and the neighbouring house in a photograph probably taken in the 1920s. Next to it was a fifteenth-century open hall house, also Grade II. This group terminated the northern view down the High Street.

2003: the old forge is now an office. This hall house was first replaced by a car showroom; the present buildings were erected by a housing association. The choice of slate for the roofs, the projecting gable and the diamond leaded glazing are not found in Hadleigh's late medieval houses. The prominent and strategic location is within the conservation area.



84 High Street. Photographed in 1950, this Grade II house was probably seventeenth-century, timber-framed and two-thirds its full extent. The rear roof is thatched, a unique survival in Hadleigh after thatch was outlawed in 1612 as a fire hazard. Recent investigation suggests that this house had fourteenth-century features, removed by a previous owner.

2003: the curved bay window was added in 1985. Now it is possible to walk to the rear: the new buildings use historic elements in their design.

7 Conservation areas, East of England, 2003

	NUMBER OF CONSERVATION AREAS	
	2002	2003
BEDFORDSHIRE		88
CAMBRIDGESHIRE		213
ESSEX		227
HERTFORDSHIRE		178
NORFOLK		268
SUFFOLK		170
EAST OF ENGLAND	1,141	1,144
REGIONAL AVERAGE	1,003	1,008
NATIONAL TOTAL	9,027	9,080

Source: English Heritage database

8 Conservation areas and planning decisions, East of England

	TOTAL PLANNING DECISIONS (INSIDE AND OUTSIDE CONSERVATION AREAS) RECEIVED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES		TOTAL CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT APPLICATIONS FOR DEMOLITION RECEIVED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES		PLANNING APPLICATIONS LOGGED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE	
	2001/02	2002/03	2001/02	2002/03	2001/02	2002/03
BEDFORDSHIRE	4,439	5,173	15	24		
LUTON	1,374	1,431	0	0		
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	7,797	8,332	54	54		
PETERBOROUGH	1,398	1,476	3	1		
ESSEX	16,555	17,434	114	152		
SOUTHEND ON SEA	1,275	1,400	2	10		
THURROCK	1,128	1,356	0	1		
HERTFORDSHIRE	12,818	14,390	89	109		
NORFOLK	10,913	11,988	62	64		
SUFFOLK	9,575	10,482	56	53		
EAST OF ENGLAND	67,272	73,462	395	468	423	483
% INCREASE 02/03		9.2%		18.5%		14.2%
NATIONAL	529,042	582,142	2,971	3,004	5,022	4,844
% INCREASE 02/03		10.0%		1.1%		-3.5%

Source: ODPM

16 *Towards a Country Parks Renaissance*, Countryside Agency 2003, www.countryside.gov.uk

17 *Park Life 2003*, Heritage Lottery Fund, includes East of England projects. www.hlf.org.uk



Holbrook Bay fish trap revealed

The Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of Suffolk

Since 1999 the survey has recorded 1,140 new sites, using field walking, archives and wartime RAF aerial photography. Many sites are Suffolk's Second World War coastal defences. New sites include oyster pits, fish traps and various wrecks and jetties, the majority of which are likely to be of medieval or post medieval date. The survey has also mapped a 1-2 km strip inland of the coast and estuaries, recording extensive prehistoric and Roman cropmark landscapes for the first time, a significant enhancement of the county SMR.

The most productive estuary was the Stour, where two fish traps and five timber circles were recorded. The fish traps were built as V-shaped structures, of paired posts infilled with brushwood, with walkways. Fish were funnelled down to be caught in baskets or nets as the tide went out.

Broadway Gardens, Letchworth Garden City

The Grade II Broadway Gardens in Letchworth's historic centre celebrate their 100th birthday this year. In 2002 they were restored and brought to life with a grant of £820,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Urban Parks Programme, in partnership with North Hertfordshire District Council, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and Morrison's Supermarkets. Visitors can now enjoy the refurbished Broadway walk, new planting that reflects the first proposals, (although the central gardens were never completed to the original design) a new fountain and a resurfaced path. Public access has also been considerably improved, with new road crossing points and traffic calming. Specially designed wooden play structures add to the gardens' role as a civic asset. As HLF research shows, children really do prefer to go to the park than watch TV on a sunny day. **17**

Only around 1% of planning decisions, both regionally and nationally, are for significant developments in conservation areas and are therefore notified to English Heritage (**Table 8**). We do not know how many of the other planning decisions that are made affect conservation areas.

2.8

HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

The resource

The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest is compiled by English Heritage (**Table 9**). Inclusion on the register does not bring any additional statutory controls. However local authorities are required to take account of Registered Parks and Gardens when determining planning applications.

The recent increase in the numbers of cemeteries, hospital sites and urban public parks that have been registered reflects English Heritage thematic surveys of sites thought to be particularly at risk (**Table 10**). The 2003 Buildings at Risk Register identifies 14 entries relating to East of England's Historic Parks and Gardens.

The Countryside Agency published a 'health check' report on country parks, noting their need for a shared identity, common goals and better links between town and countryside. **16** Country parks were created from the 1960s onwards as protected rural recreational resources, although there is no national scheme for designation or standards. There are currently 255 country parks nationally (37 in our region). Only 11% nationally have designated status as historic parks, our region is therefore in line with national trends.

2.9

THE MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The region has two designated wrecks, listed under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973; nationally there are 39 sites. Sites, from anchors, submerged landscapes to seabed emplacements, are recorded on the National Monuments Record. SHER 2002 Map 28 showed the finds spots concentrated along the region's Thames Estuary and eastern coast.

The Value of the Historic Environment

3

3.1

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AS A CATALYST FOR REGENERATION

This year a five-year report was published on English Heritage, East of England Development Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund investment in regeneration schemes in the region, aided by partners in the local authorities. **1** Twelve schemes were evaluated using the methodology developed for the first national reports (1999 and 2002). A powerful ratio of EH/HLF investment to private and public sector funding was identified: £10,000 of heritage investment levered in £45,000 of private and public sector money. The 12 schemes operated on a total investment of £17.4 million, to produce improved commercial floorspace, improved buildings, new jobs, safeguarded jobs and improved dwellings. The majority of schemes operate in market towns, but seaside towns such as Cromer, and ports such as Lowestoft, are included; Luton and Southend represent the high density urban locations in the region (see Regional Profile). The Market Town Initiative, funded by EEDA and the Countryside Agency, is reported on in 4.3.

3.2

TOURISM AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

SHER 2002 provided a full discussion of the data collection issues, particularly the reliance on respondents to the annual VisitBritain survey (c.50% response rate) and the exclusion of sites beyond the 'visitor attraction' definition, such as churches. The nature of the region's tourism is primarily domestic, overseas tourism accounted for only 6.8% of the total overseas visitor spend for 2002, compared to 15% for the South East for instance. Cambridge was the joint eighth city destination for overseas visitors (with Cardiff). **2**

Historically, inter-regional tourism has been important, through a tradition of East Midlands workers holidaying in Norfolk and East Londoners travelling to south Essex, stimulating the historic seaside towns. The more recent demographic changes to a relatively wealthy resident population, with high levels of second home ownership around the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, have important implications for certain categories of historic sites: repeat visits to historic gardens being an example (Table 11).



14-15 North Hill



The Minorities Art Gallery

Regeneration in Colchester

Britain's oldest recorded town, founded by the Romans, flourishes today although the Town Council identified some historic buildings within the conservation area as in need of repair, as part of a periodic condition survey. A Conservation Area Partnership Scheme offered owners of individual buildings a 40% grant towards eligible works. In total, heritage funding of £360,000 levered in £472,408 public sector and £1,070,061 private sector investment, for 46 buildings and 29 homes. Two examples of successful improvements are 14-15 North Hill, a Grade II building on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register, with a wall painting scheme of c.1600, that was under threat from water penetration, and the Minorities Art Gallery, occupying a fine Gothic summerhouse of c.1748. Essential structural repairs and the removal of harmful ivy growth ensured the continued success of one of Colchester's key cultural attractions in this location.

3.3

REGIONAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Grant schemes offered by local authorities are just one element of local authority spending on the historic environment (reported within planning and development statistics), such as staff costs for development control, and the provision of museums and galleries (Tables 12 and 13). However, the collection of historic environment spending as reported under the umbrella of leisure and recreation is poorly defined. Nationally, local authorities spent 20% of their leisure budgets on 'culture and heritage', but the bulk of this was towards arts development. The spend per head on museums and galleries within the region varied hugely between type of authority, from a few pence to over £5. **3**

1 *Heritage Dividend, East of England Region 2003, Measuring the Results of Heritage Regeneration*, English Heritage (2003).

2 *International Passenger Survey*, Office of National Statistics (2003).

3 *Planning and Development Statistics 2001*, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (2002).

9 Historic parks and gardens, by grade

EAST OF ENGLAND 2002/3	GRADE 1	GRADE II*	GRADE II	TOTAL
NORFOLK	2	15	34	51
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	2	13	23	38
SUFFOLK	2	7	14	23
ESSEX	1	7	31	39
BEDFORDSHIRE	2	3	12	17
HERTFORDSHIRE	2	9	32	43
EAST OF ENGLAND	11	54	146	211
NATIONAL FIGURE	130	393	1,040	1,563

Source: English Heritage

10 Historic parks and gardens by type

HISTORIC PARK AND GARDEN TYPE	EAST OF ENGLAND 2002/03
CEMETERY	5
URBAN PUBLIC PARK	14
COUNTRY PARK	4
OTHER PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	4
TOWN SQUARE	0
HOSPITAL	2
NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES	11
ENGLISH HERITAGE GUARDIANSHIP SITES	5
PRIVATELY-OWNED PARK OR GARDEN ROYAL PARK	16
TOTAL	211

Source: English Heritage

11 Regional visitor figures

PROPERTIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON A REGULAR BASIS		VISITOR FIGURES 2002-03
ENGLISH HERITAGE	50 (INCL FREE AND UNSTAFFED)	360,890
NATIONAL TRUST	48 (INCL FREE AND UNSTAFFED)	850,000

Source: English Heritage and Natural Trust

12 English Heritage East of England 2002-03 grant offers

SECULAR GRANTS		£999,000
PLACES OF WORSHIP GRANTS		£2,242,000
AREA GRANTS		£680,000
CATHEDRALS		£352,000
TOTAL		£4,273,000

Source: English Heritage

13 Local authority grants for conservation of the historic environment 2000-01

		OWN FUNDS	OTHER BODIES
UNITARY	LUTON	-	-
	PETERBOROUGH	10,000	12,000
	SOUTHEND ON SEA	32,000	49,000
	THURROCK	-	-
COUNTIES	BEDFORDSHIRE	-	-
	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	-	-
	ESSEX	260,000	-
	HERTFORDSHIRE	-	-
	NORFOLK	103,000	-
	SUFFOLK	-	-
DISTRICTS	BEDFORDSHIRE (2)	17,000	-
	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (2)	219,000	185,000
	ESSEX (4)	64,000	(3) 132,000
	HERTFORDSHIRE (1)	30,000	-
	NORFOLK (6)	430,000	-
	SUFFOLK (6)	102,000	-
TOTALS		1,267,000	378,000

Source: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

4 www.hlf.org.uk figures as at 4 August 2003.



Access for all to the canal path

Award-winning canal renovation, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

The Heritage award from the region's Market Town Awards, promoted by the Market Towns Initiative, went to the Berkhamsted canal renovation. The Berkhamsted Canal and Riverside Partnership (CARP) develops local community projects with the waterways. The town's waterway heritage, cultural and natural, was enhanced, interpretation panels were set up, and the CARP team worked hard to increase access by all groups including disabled people, the young and tourists. Funding came from partners including British Waterways, Dacorum and Berkhamsted councils, and the John Lewis Partnership. The judges were particularly impressed by the innovative methodology, especially brass interactive information desks. A high level of community involvement in this project included contributions made by the probation service, local schools and unemployed people. The judges believed that this was a project that any market town with waterways could look to for inspiration.

Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund has a broad approach to heritage, embracing many aspects of the historic environment. Funding committed in the region up to August 2003 is £173,780,763 for 1,206 grants. 4

Market Town Initiative

The Market Towns Partnership for the region delivers Market Town Initiative funding from Defra to towns within Rural Priority areas. £5million has been used to support regeneration and investment in twenty towns, leveraging in a further £16million for 200 projects. This phase of the scheme finishes this year; its success prompted EEDA to commit a further £3million over the coming two years. Projects must demonstrate social, environmental and financial sustainability.

The Social Importance of the Historic Environment

4

Education and Outreach

Access to education and training in the historic environment is a crucial means of recruiting the next generation of people able to protect and enhance it. Formal education is one indicator: we have counted degree modules available in the region. Of the 24 members of UCAS, only 10 institutions offer courses related to the historic environment at tertiary level, centred on APU, Cambridge; University of East Anglia, Norwich, and Writtle College.

The historic environment sector devotes time and resources to a great deal of public access work and receives huge benefits from volunteers. The organisations and private owners with historic sites and properties open to the public support education and outreach programmes, as do many local authority museums, galleries and archaeology units. Regional research to identify the scope of volunteering in the sector is desirable for future reporting. EEMLAC secured £100,000 of government funding for small grants to museum education projects in partnership with schools, with a support post. This scheme runs from January 2003 to March 2004.

Heritage Open Days 2002 offered 319 sites and properties open across the region for the weekend of events. In 2003, 376 properties were open. There are no regional visitor figures, but nationally c.10% of people who attended said they would not normally visit heritage properties as a leisure activity. HODs are therefore an important means of widening the audience for the historic environment.

This year, we have drawn attention to the rural, and particularly the agricultural, historic environment. A qualitative approach to understanding the landscape, through characterisation projects, is an essential measure of our regional assets. Equally, quantitative counts also provide crucial snapshots of the state of the resource.

- 3% of our field monuments are at risk of destruction within five years
- 3% of all planning applications have significant archaeological implications
- 109 of our Grade I and II* listed buildings are under significant threat
- We estimate that 1,000 of our Grade II buildings are at risk, the majority in rural areas

Conservation volunteers, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire: the cover story

The National Trust 'Tuesday Group' of conservation volunteers have been meeting for five years to carry out nature conservation work on sites owned by the Trust and by Bedfordshire County Council under The Bedfordshire Countryside Joint Management Project. Totternhoe Knolls is one of the latter, a 40 acre nature reserve in the Chiltern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The reserve includes the earthworks of the Norman castle. The castle mound and bailey, or enclosed yard, form a scheduled monument as well as being a Site of Special Scientific Interest. A range of chalkland wild flowers, and their associated insects such as butterflies, can only flourish here if more invasive plants are managed. The archaeology can also be damaged by invasive roots, and public access reduced by dense vegetation, hence the need for scrub clearance on the mound.



The accessible bus



Orford Ness

Physical access, NT Sutton Hoo Minibus Scheme

The National Trust has pioneered a community bus around the Suffolk coast and Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, supported by the Countryside Agency. The project offers access to Sutton Hoo, Orford Ness, Dunwich Heath, Flatford Mill and the wider countryside to sections of the community who are traditionally less likely or able to visit heritage sites. The National Trust recognises that barriers to enjoying the region's heritage are both physical and social. A measure of its success is that the bus has already been used by people ranging from those with disabilities to children with learning difficulties and community groups from the nearby urban centres such as Ipswich. The Trust is also encouraging local community and voluntary groups, together with its own volunteers, to make use of the community bus as an alternative to the car. More details from community.bus@nationaltrust.org.uk

■ *Survey of Local Authority Conservation Provision in England*, Oxford Brookes University (2003).

The ancients' appliance of science

Answers depend on questions: this particular path to learning being developed at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge encourages new lines of questioning to be asked of ancient objects. In the galleries children work directly from ancient Egyptian objects through activities that help them to unpick ancient technologies. This work is then extended into experiments which explore the science that underlies the technology. This approach to teaching science and technology that has been in development over the past ten years has now taken a leap forward. With Museums and Galleries Education Programme Phase 2 funding we are building an interactive problem solving children's web site that we hope will encapsulate this cross curricula approach to teaching with ancient objects.

Finally, *Heritage Counts* shows something of the varied pleasures and opportunities that come with living in a richly historic region. Getting out and about to engage with aspects of the past can come through volunteering, education and training, community renovation projects, and just wanting a good day out. We believe that *Heritage Counts* shows for the first time in detail just how much there is waiting for people to make their own discoveries.

- New discoveries added 1140 sites in the rapid Suffolk Coastal Zone survey

Our knowledge of the region's past is increasing every year, but so is the level of present-day activity that can lead to erosion or even destruction of our material past.

Managing change is the next step from understanding our assets. In the countryside, targeted agri-environment schemes are showing a dramatic increase in landowner's use of them to manage and enhance the historic landscape. The number of conservation areas is also increasing, although greater investment by local authorities in supporting their management of development control is still needed. ■ Our market towns have seen millions of pounds of targeted regeneration funding, with results showing the full value of the heritage pound.

Speaking out for our historic environment continues to be vital. Members of the East of England Historic Environment Forum come together to provide a focus for regional concerns. With their support, English Heritage has influenced regional policy makers to ensure that the historic environment is fully included in regional strategies. Regional initiatives for urban development, including the growth areas of Thames Gateway, Milton Keynes-South Midlands and London-Stansted-Cambridge, are huge challenges in themselves, but may present great opportunities for enhancing local historic environments.