



# HERITAGE COUNTS 2004

The State of the  
**EAST OF ENGLAND'S**  
Historic Environment

# Heritage Counts 2004 in the East of England

**Cover image:** The Time and Tide Museum of Great Yarmouth Life received a grant of £2.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the grade II-listed herring curing works. The Norfolk Museums Service maritime collections on the site tell the story of the town and its maritime heritage.

*Heritage Counts 2004* is the third annual state of the historic environment report. It provides new information and analysis on the condition of heritage assets, the pressures they face and the social and economic benefits that they provide. This report has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum and is one of nine separate regional documents. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2004* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk).

The historic environment is all around us. We find it in the layout of our towns and our field boundaries, in listed buildings and protected landscapes, in museums and archives and archaeology. Heritage matters because it's the story of who we are and how we come to live as we do. It tells us why the East of England looks as it does, and about the people who have shaped it.

The East of England is changing. We have a growing population and successful economy. Significant housing and infrastructure developments are planned. New agricultural policies introduced as a result of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy offer the prospect of improved land management. Together, these will generate new expectations of what the region's land should provide. There also remain significant pockets of deprivation, notably in our rural and coastal areas.

Heritage organisations have an important role to play in helping all communities to deal with change in the region, yet historic assets continue to be threatened by damage and loss. Understanding and investing in our heritage is vital to the region's quality of life, our environment and prosperity. Heritage underpins communities and informs their sense of place. It provides unparalleled educational resources. Thousands of people regularly volunteer for heritage organisations. It forms the backbone of the leisure industry, one of the region's biggest employers.

So, heritage counts. But how do we go about measuring it, and what do we learn when we've done so? East of England *Heritage Counts 2004* examines these questions. It is essential reading for policy makers in regional bodies and local authorities and for all who care about the historic environment. The region's historic environment is an irreplaceable asset; we need to understand what we have, manage change, minimise damage and exploit its potential to enrich our communities.

Greg Luton  
(Regional Director, English Heritage East of England)  
Chair, East of England Historic Environment Forum

# The regional context

Among the challenges and opportunities facing the region's historic environment, two priorities stand out – pressure from new development, and changes in agricultural policy.

## DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE

The East of England has a growing population and economy. Growth will accelerate over the next 15 years in line with projected development activity:

- Three of the four growth areas in the government's Communities Plan affect the East of England: Thames Gateway, Milton Keynes/ South Midlands and London-Stansted-Cambridge. Over 500,000 new homes will need to be built in the region by 2021, supported by substantial new infrastructure
- A second runway at Stansted Airport has been proposed in the government's White Paper, *A Future for Air Transport*
- There are proposals for port expansion at Bathside Bay, Harwich, London Gateway (Shell Haven) and Felixstowe.

The state of the historic environment will be one barometer of how successfully this change is managed. The East of England's historic environment contributes to the high quality of life, to a strong sense of place, to the vibrancy of communities, and to the region's leisure and tourism economy, all of which are integral to the region's future. Growth threatens some of our vulnerable heritage assets.

The protection and enhancement of the region's historic environment must be central to how change is managed. In particular;

- The scale of new infrastructure proposed in the region seriously risks undermining setting and sense of place, both important factors in quality of life. Development needs to be implemented in a manner that minimises the impact on the historic environment

- An understanding of heritage needs to be at the core of the development of new communities. New settlements must respect and enhance what already exists while avoiding past mistakes. If managed in the wrong way, population growth in the region risks creating sprawling faceless suburbs. The historic environment can provide a template for attractive, high-density development and inspire high-quality design such as the Abode development at Harlow

As well as providing places in which people like to live and work and inspiring good design, the historic environment helps build communities by motivating voluntary sector action and inspiring people's interest and involvement in their communities.

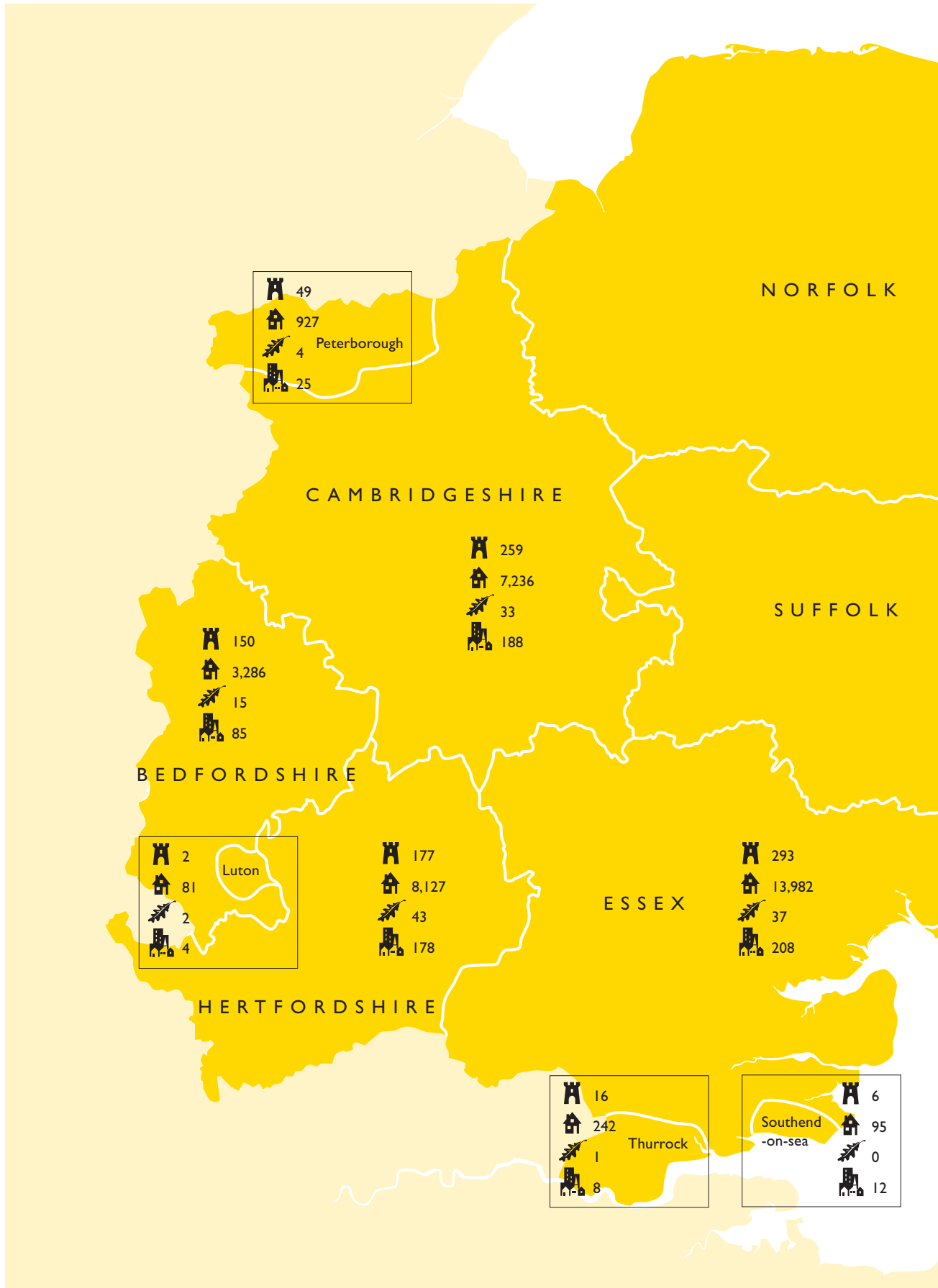
## 2 CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY

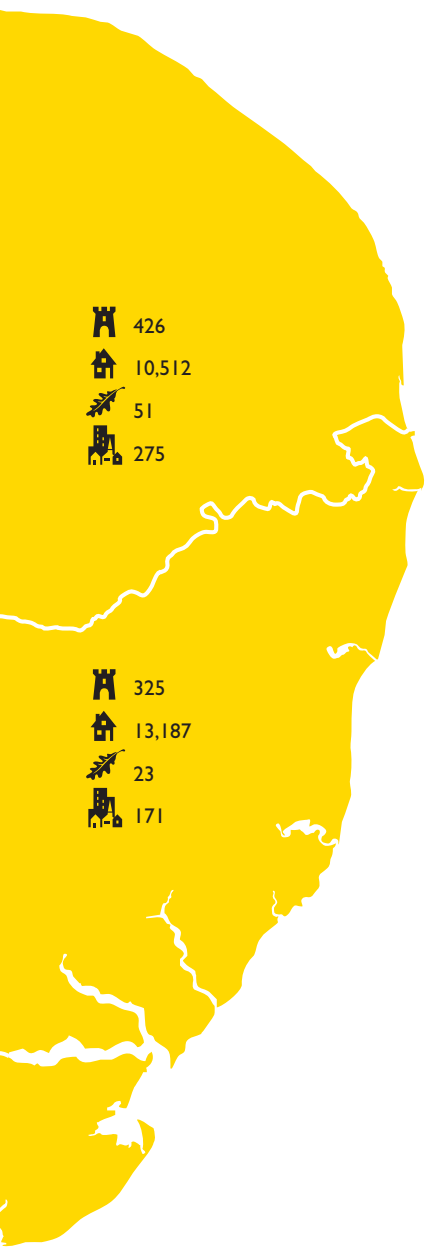
Intensive cultivation, encouraged by past agricultural policy, has damaged many archaeological sites. There is a need to find appropriate new uses for historic buildings that have been left redundant by changes in agricultural practice. These problems are particularly relevant to the East of England, the most intensively cropped region in England.

One of the aims of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) agreed in 2003 is to encourage environmentally friendly farming practices. The Single Farm Payment system combines many subsidies into a new single payment which is not linked to what farmers produce but is linked to meeting European Union environmental and welfare standards. There is an opportunity for improved land management to benefit the rural historic environment.

It is vital that the Common Agricultural Policy reforms are implemented in a way that benefits the historic as well as the natural environment. Among the steps that need to be taken are better protection of historical features and archaeology and the restoration of traditional habitats.

# East of England: key facts





<b>AREA</b>	9,120 square kilometres, the second largest of the nine English regions
<b>POPULATION</b>	5.4 million, one of the fastest growing of the English regions, it has increased by 11 per cent over the last 20 years.
<b>GDP</b>	£90 billion in 2002. Gross Value Added per head in 2002 was the third highest for an English region at £16,786.

**MAP KEY**

Scheduled Monuments	Listed Buildings	Parks & Gardens	Conservation Areas
Unitary authority			





# Understanding the Region's assets

## AI DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

The identification of existing historic environment assets underpins any assessment of their significance, their care and management, and knowledge of their vulnerability to loss and damage. This information is the basis for managing change, so this valuable resource can benefit present and future generations.

This section examines what is known about the state of the region's historic environment assets using a variety of methods from the designation of sites and areas to historic landscape characterisation

### AI.1 WORLD HERITAGE SITES

These are sites of natural and cultural heritage inscribed by UNESCO, and considered to be of outstanding universal value. Although the region is rich in historic environment assets, there are currently no world heritage sites in the East of England. The Wash and North Norfolk Coast is on the UK tentative list as a candidate for future world heritage status, in respect of its international nature conservation importance.

### AI.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has a duty to compile and maintain a schedule of nationally important monuments. Sites are designated on the advice of English Heritage and are defined as sites, structures and buildings of historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest.

In the East of England, sites recognised by scheduling include prehistoric settlements, the remains of Roman towns at Colchester and St Albans, defence structures from medieval castles to Second World War and Cold War sites, and examples of industrial heritage from Neolithic flint mines to gas works. There are 1,700 scheduled monuments in this region, an increase of 23 (1.4 per cent) on last year.

### AI.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

A 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. Buildings are listed at either grade I, II\* or II and can be included for either their architectural or historical interest, their value as part of a group or their association with nationally important people or events. A listed building may be almost any man-made structure that falls into the above criteria and in this region range from places of worship, country houses and civic buildings to mills, maltings and milestones. The East of England has 57,675 entries on the statutory list at April 2004, 15.5 per cent of the national total, a net increase of just one on last year.

Places of worship are perhaps one of the region's most visible and exceptional historic building types. The East of England has the highest number of grade I-listed places of worship of any English region, 1,165 (23 per cent of the national total), and 911 grade II\*-listed places of worship (18 per cent of the national total). Two thirds (67 per cent) of the region's grade I buildings are places of worship. Declining religious observance means that many places of worship in the region are under-used and some are threatened by redundancy. The Churches Conservation Trust cares for 77 redundant churches in the region, almost a quarter of the total number in its care (see [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk)).

## A1.4 HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

A register of parks and gardens of historic interest is compiled by English Heritage. National recognition of a site's historic interest depends on its age, rarity, and quality. The register includes public and institutional sites such as parks, cemeteries and hospitals as well as privately owned parks and gardens. The East of England has 209 entries on the register. This represents almost 13.2 per cent of the total number of register entries in England (1,584), but it is a net decrease of two since April 2003.

One site removed from the region's register was Harlow Water Gardens Harlow, Essex (formerly grade II\*), conceived by Sir Frederick Gibberd as part of the 1947 Master Plan for Harlow New Town. The Water Gardens were remodelled as part of the town centre redevelopment. Unfortunately, the changes have significantly altered their historic design and character.

## A1.5 BATTLEFIELDS

English Heritage also compiles a register of historic battlefields. Of the 43 registered historic battlefields in England one lies in the East of England, at Maldon in Essex.

## A1.6 PROTECTED WRECKS AND MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

The region has two of England's 39 designated wrecks, listed under the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973).

An increase in offshore activities, such as aggregate extraction and wind farms has raised concern about the impact on the marine historic environment. English Heritage is supporting research in this area and working with the British Marine Aggregates Producers Association on a protocol for recording finds.

## A2 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

### A2.1 CONSERVATION AREAS

Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. They are designated by local planning authorities, usually after a period of consultation with the local community.

There is no prescription as to which types of area can be designated a conservation area. In the East of England, they vary widely and include villages, town centres and garden cities. In this region there are 1,154 conservation areas (April 2004), an increase of ten (0.9 per cent) since April 2003. This is equivalent to 12.6 per cent of the national total (9,140).

### A2.2 URBAN OPEN SPACES

Public and open spaces such as parks provide places for people to relax and exercise in, and shape the character of an area. Improving public space can be a focus for community action and the regeneration of an area. The value of open and green spaces to communities is increasingly recognised. CABE Space is working for better public spaces in towns and cities. This year, English Heritage launched a major campaign, Save our Streets, to clear clutter and bring back character to our streets. The Heritage Lottery Fund has made a major contribution to regenerating urban parks, including parks all around the East of England, such as Wardown Park, Luton, Houghton Hall Park, Bedfordshire and Clacton Seafront and Marine Gardens.



**Play scheme at Bury Farm, Nuthampstead**  
© English Heritage, Steve Cole

## Bury Farm, Nuthampstead, Hertfordshire: heritage and diversification

Ian Welch runs Bury Farm, a mainly arable farm, using modern technology and farming methods. He has diversified his business finding profitable uses for redundant farm buildings, providing 24 local jobs.

Bury Farm Bakery was developed over 14 years ago and is housed in a converted stable block on the farm. Bury Farm Parlour opened on 20 May 2003 following its conversion from a disused milking parlour into an attractive meeting space. Essential repairs were undertaken with the help of a grant from Defra under their Rural Enterprise Scheme, which is aimed at aiding the regeneration of rural communities. The building is now used as a classroom for education visits to the farm for a holiday play scheme for children between the ages of 5 and 12 and as a training and meeting space.

Bury Farm is an excellent example of farm diversification which benefits the farmer, the local community and the historic environment.

## A2.3 HISTORIC COUNTRYSIDE

The character of the region's countryside and landscape has developed over centuries. The region's agricultural wealth has left a legacy of market towns, churches, farmsteads, agricultural buildings and landscapes shaped by cultivation methods such as field systems. But the region's countryside and its heritage assets are under pressure from the development of housing and infrastructure, intensive agricultural practices, and mineral extraction. New uses need to be found for some agricultural buildings made redundant through changes in farming methods

English Heritage has published a series of guidance leaflets for farmers, land managers and farm advisers on preventing or minimising damage to the historic environment. The introduction of the Single Farm Payment system as part of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy is an opportunity to improve standards of land management for the benefit of this historic environment.

Other sorts of environmental designation help to protect historic landscapes:

- 37 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), designated solely for their landscape qualities. In the East of England, four AONBs, the Norfolk Coast, Suffolk Coast and Heaths, Dedham Vale and part of the Chilterns, cover six per cent of the region's land area. AONB partnerships led by local authorities are dedicated to conserving and enhancing their natural beauty and historic character
- eight National Parks in England, and one, the Norfolk Broads, in the East of England. National Parks are extensive areas, each with their own managing authority to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities



- 121km of heritage coast in the East of England, in North Norfolk and Suffolk
- 21,510 hectares of ancient woodland in the East of England, covering just over one per cent of the region's land. Ancient woodland now covers just over 2.5 per cent of England

## A3 ACQUIRING INFORMATION

### A3.1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Historic environment records (HERs) are mostly managed by county, district or unitary authorities and record archaeological sites and historic buildings from prehistoric times to the twentieth century. HERs inform land use planning and are a resource for local archaeologists and historians, students and researchers and members of the public.

A 2004 English Heritage survey on HERs drew responses from eight of the 11 HER owners in the East of England. This showed that the East of England's HERs had 252,697 records, the second highest number after the South West and 21 per cent of the national total. One HER in the region, the Essex County can be accessed on line ([www.unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk)).

The East of England has the highest number of archaeological finds recorded on HERs (156,114 or 50 per cent of the national total of 311,071) and most of these finds, 113,806 are from the Norfolk sites and monuments record. This reflects Norfolk County Council's efforts to liaise with metal detectors over the last 25 years, the success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Norfolk, the rich archaeological resource and the high proportion of land which is regularly ploughed. Norfolk also had the highest number of treasure cases of any English county, 188 between 1997 and 2001.



Historic field systems, Hitcham, Suffolk  
© Suffolk County Council

### Historic field systems of East Anglia: management and protection

Fields and their boundaries are often the oldest features in the landscape. Historic fields in the East of England are vivid testimonies to the long history of the region's farming and settlement patterns, providing a key aspect of regional identity and sense of place. Effective conservation and management of field systems is a major aspect of good countryside planning. The Archaeological Service of Suffolk Council has recently completed an English Heritage-sponsored project on the historic field systems of East Anglia (Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk) as part of the Monuments Protection Programme. The project's aims were to research the origin, evolution and distribution of the field systems of East Anglia; collect evidence for traditional management methods; and identify and assess mechanisms for their management and protection. The project has revealed the antiquity of field patterns in East Anglia, and the results of the project will inform the future management of these field systems.

## Characterisation and the growth areas – Stansted Airport

London-Stansted-Cambridge was one of the three growth areas announced in the *Communities Plan*, published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in March 2003. Since then, the Government's Airports White Paper has announced a second runway for Stansted, and 'growth area' studies have been set up to consider the capacity of different parts of the region. The over-arching document to bring all this together will be the Regional Spatial Strategy, RSS14, due for public consultation in late 2004. An additional runway at Stansted would cause the loss of 28 sites containing listed buildings and two scheduled monuments, both moated sites; other buildings, settlements, ancient woodlands and landscape features of historical significance are also threatened.

Working with Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils, English Heritage is carrying out a pilot using Historic Landscape Characterisation data in an area covering Harlow/Standed/Great Dunmow, to provide an analysis of the historic evolution of the landscape and its settlements. The information can be used to suggest areas which are more or less suitable for development and to help developers plan for new sites in a way which respects their existing historic features.

## A3.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

Characterisation seeks to identify what gives places their special character and identity by mapping the historic dimension of rural and urban landscapes. Characterisation can help ensure that the historic environment is taken into account from the earliest stages of decision making on new developments.

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

Townscape characterisation is produced by local authorities funded by English Heritage. Surveys cover urban archaeology, topography and historic buildings, leading to strategies for the management of urban historic assets.

HLC has much to contribute to the early stages of planning for development in the three growth areas affecting the East of England. Characterisation-based assessments have been completed by English Heritage and its partners for Milton Keynes-South Midlands, London-Stansted-Cambridge and Thames Gateway. The aim is to ensure that the development in these areas takes account of historic environment constraints and opportunities.

## A3.3 NATIONAL MAPPING PROGRAMME AND COASTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The National Mapping Programme (NMP), carried out by county councils with English Heritage, identifies and records all archaeological sites and landscapes visible on aerial photographs. Current projects in this region concern coastal archaeology reflecting the vulnerability of historic assets to erosion and climate change. The Norfolk coastal mapping, now underway, and the completed Suffolk NMP project will feed into the Norfolk and Suffolk Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys the second phases of which involve field survey of the coast and intertidal zone. The results of the Suffolk project are being prepared for publication and will enhance the county HER and inform shoreline management plans. The Norfolk NMP project has almost doubled the number of archaeological sites recorded for each five square kilometre map sheet, demonstrating the richness of the resource and the effectiveness of this method of identification. Sites range from prehistoric barrows to Second World War prisoner-of-war camps.

## BI HERITAGE AT RISK

### BI.1 BUILDINGS AT RISK

English Heritage produces annually a national *Register of Buildings at Risk* which covers grade I- and II\*-listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments most at risk through neglect, decay or redundancy. The register is a tool for establishing the scale of the problem and for prioritising action by English Heritage, local authorities, building preservation trusts and others.

In 2004 there were 124 entries on the register in the East of England, 9.3 per cent of the national total. 11 entries had been removed since 2003, and seven added. Since 1999, which is now taken as the baseline year for the survey, 30 (27.8 per cent) of the original 108 entries have been given a secure future and have been removed from the list.

27 (1.5 per cent) of the region's 1,744 grade I-listed buildings and 77 (2.3 per cent) of the region's 3,483 grade II\*-listed buildings are identified as being at risk. This compares to national figures of three per cent grade I and 3.7 per cent grade II\* list entries. The majority of buildings on the register, 105 entries (84.6 per cent), are likely to require some subsidy to bring them back to use. The conservation deficit (the amount of public subsidy necessary to bring the buildings into a reasonable state of repair) is around £18 million in the East of England.

This region's buildings at risk register has the highest percentage of any English region of religious, ritual and funerary buildings (38 building items or 29 per cent of the region's register) and of agricultural and subsistence buildings (18 items, 13.7 per cent of the regional register). Defence structures (14, 10.4 per cent of the regional register) and domestic buildings (30, 22.2 per cent of the regional register) are other significant categories, regionally and nationally.



**Dovecote at High House Farm, Purfleet, Essex**  
© Thurrock Council

### High House Farm, Purfleet, Essex – developing a community resource in the Thames Gateway

The dovecote (grade II and a scheduled ancient monument) at High House Farm was added to the *English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk* in 2004. The dovecote forms part of a remarkably complete survival of a grade II-listed farmstead in a site surrounded by industry, the channel tunnel rail link and land due to be redeveloped. The whole site is on Thurrock Council's Buildings at Risk Register but ownership is due to transfer to a community group as part of a section 106 planning agreement. Repairs to the farmhouse have been completed with funding from Thames Gateway, South Essex and the current owners. A Heritage Lottery Fund project planning grant is being used to plan the redevelopment of the site for community use. The project is an excellent example of the potential of the historic environment to help build sustainable communities in the Thames Gateway.

## CARING AND SHARING

### BI HERITAGE AT RISK



Norfolk Monuments Management,  
Project Officer at burial mound, Harpley Common  
© English Heritage

## Norfolk Monuments Management Project – preservation of the past

Monuments contribute a sense and spirit of place in the landscape and provide an important part of Norfolk's archaeological heritage. The Norfolk Monuments Management Project works closely with farmers and landowners to encourage better management of the county's surviving archaeological heritage with the additional benefits of improved nature conservation and better countryside access. The scheme's Project Officer, Helen Paterson, has visited over 650 sites and offers detailed advice to landowners on the care and management of monuments and grant aid, often establishing formal or informal management agreements.

The project's success is founded on generating the interest and enthusiasm of farmers and landowners, illustrating the value placed upon knowledge and understanding of the landscape by the wider community. It is a combined initiative of Norfolk County Council and English Heritage, with the support of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the National Farmers' Union, and the Country Land and Business Association.

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. Grade II-listed buildings constitute 91 per cent of the East of England's listed building stock. A survey carried out for *Heritage Counts 2004* found that there were registers covering 39 out of the 48 local authorities in the region. Analysis of these registers revealed that 4.5 per cent of the listed buildings in the region were deemed to be at risk, and that 1.8 per cent of the total was in the highest category of risk. This equates to some 2,596 listed buildings of all grades at risk of some sort, 1,038 of which at the highest category of risk.

## BI.2 LANDSCAPE AT RISK

As originally reported in *Heritage Counts 2003*, English Heritage is continuing to develop a method for assessing vulnerability of designed landscapes at risk, and pilot surveys are being undertaken throughout 2004, looking at areas such as the impact of golf courses and the adequacy of the planning system in protecting historic parks and gardens.

## BI.3 MONUMENTS AT RISK

Following a successful pilot study in the East Midlands, systematic evidence of the condition of England's scheduled monuments will be provided by English Heritage's Scheduled Monument at Risk project which is being extended to other regions. Survey results for the East of England should be available by 2005. The East Midlands study found that agriculture, development, recreational uses and natural processes are the main pressures putting monuments at risk.

## B2 MANAGING POSITIVELY

### B2.1 PLANNING TRENDS AND LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS

The number of planning applications in the East of England continues to rise, with a 5.8 per cent increase in the number of applications in 2003 compared to the previous year.

Information on listed building consents gives some indication of the development pressure the region's listed buildings are under. In 2003/04, there were 4,666 listed building consent decisions made by local planning authorities in the region, an increase of 4.3 per cent compared to 2002/03. The national increase was 1.6 per cent. However, the proportion of all planning decisions concerning listed building consent changed little at 6.2 per cent in 2003/04 (compared to 6.1 per cent in 2002/03); the national figure for 2003/04 was 5.3 per cent. There was an average of one decision for every 12 listed buildings in the region in 2003/04 (compared to one decision for every 13 listed buildings in 2002/03). Only 11.3 per cent of all listed building consent applications were not granted.

Churches of many denominations are exempted from listed building control and are subject to alternative mechanisms. English Heritage advises on such ecclesiastical exemption applications for grade I and II\* churches. In 2003/04 the English Heritage East of England office received 539 Ecclesiastical Exemptions requests, one for every four of the 2,076 grade I and II\* churches in the region and an 18 per cent increase on 2002/03. This may indicate some pressure for change in churches. It may also indicate higher standards of maintenance for places of worship than for listed buildings as a whole; some applications referred to English Heritage concern major repair works.

English Heritage is running pilot projects to test the most innovative aspects of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) proposed new heritage protection system. In the East of England pilots are taking place at: Foulness Island, MOD Shoeburyness, Essex; Holkham Estate, Norfolk; and the University of East Anglia, Norwich.

### B2.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENTS

Works affecting scheduled monuments require consent from the DCMS advised by English Heritage. Some scheduled monument consent applications concern works which also need planning permission. In 2003/04, 106 scheduled monument consent cases were logged regionally, an increase of seven or 1.4 per cent on last year. The number of cases as a proportion of scheduled monuments remained at around six per cent.

### B2.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AT PARKS AND GARDENS

Inclusion of a landscape on the *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest* is a material consideration, which must be taken into account by local planning authorities when considering development proposals. In 2003/04 the Garden History Society was notified of 119 applications in the East of England, compared to 130 in 2002/03, a decrease of 9.2 per cent. The applications affected around 57 per cent of registered parks and gardens, compared to 62 per cent in 2002/03 (although there may be more than one application for some sites).



## Blakeney Chapel: understanding the coastal historic environment

Blakeney Chapel, on the North Norfolk Coast is a scheduled monument that will be lost to coastal erosion. As part of a managed realignment scheme, the Environment Agency has funded an excavation of the site, the remains of a medieval building which may not even be a chapel. This has revealed previously unsuspected activity from Neolithic times onwards; significant finds include a gold Anglo Saxon brooch. Although the site will be lost, the results of the excavation will enrich understanding of the coastal historic environment.

## B2.4 CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

In 2003/04, a total of 426 conservation area consent applications to demolish unlisted buildings within a conservation area were decided by local authorities in the East of England, compared to 468 in 2002/03, a decrease of nine per cent. There was a national increase of 4.8 per cent. However, the proportion of all planning decisions in the region concerning conservation area consent remained at 0.6 per cent in 2003/04, the same as 2002/03 and close to the national figure of 0.5 per cent.

English Heritage must be notified of certain categories of planning application affecting the setting of listed buildings or the character of conservation areas.

In 2003/04, English Heritage was notified of 631 planning applications, compared to 483 in 2002/03, an increase of 23 per cent. Although this seems like a large increase, it is too early to say whether there is a regional trend towards increased development in conservation areas.

Conservation area appraisals by local authorities guide management and development control decisions. A survey last year 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).

## B2.5 COASTAL DEFENCE AND COASTAL PLANNING AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Agency, following Defra guidance, is running three Pilot Shoreline Management Plans, one in this region, from Kelling to Lowestoft, and two in the South East. These pilots will be based on wider consultation than previous plans; English Heritage and other partners are working to ensure they take full account of the historic environment.

Estuary Strategies for the Wash and the Suffolk and Essex estuaries are also being drawn up by The Environment Agency, following Defra guidance. The Coastal Survey work outlined at A3.3 has been used when drawing up the Suffolk Estuary Strategy.

## B3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

### B3.1 INVESTING IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Heritage Lottery Fund is the largest source of funding for conservation of the historic environment in England. It distributes money to support all aspects of heritage in the UK, from historic buildings and museums to archives, nature conservation and oral history, with a principal aim to encourage involvement and access.

Since the Lottery was introduced in 1994, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded over £191.8 million to over 1,400 projects across various grant programmes in the East of England, 7.8 per cent of the total for England. Notable projects include a grant of £3.6 million to The National Trust for the development of the Sutton Hoo Estate, in order to improve access, interpretation and visitor facilities. Other examples include the restoration and interpretation of grade II-registered Wardown Park, Luton (£1 million), new visitor facilities and access at Welney Wildfowl and Wetlands Reserve, Wisbech, (£905,000), Cambridge and County Folk Museum (£850,000), RNIB Talking Books Sound Archive, Peterborough (£290,000), repairs and improved facilities at The Barrel Store, Purfleet, Essex, used as a community centre (£100,000), Just Looking – Memories of the Past, Halesworth, Suffolk (£14,200), and the King's Cross to King's Lynn Evacuation Special, King's Lynn, Norfolk (£17,100).

#### Other sources of investment in the historic environment include:

- grants of £3.1 million offered by English Heritage to secular buildings (£0.7 million), places of worship (£1.5 million) and area-based grants (£0.9 million). The Heritage Lottery Fund put £1.9 million into the Joint Places of Worship Scheme making the total offered by English Heritage under the scheme in this region £3.6 million

- £660,000 of funding from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in 2004/05 for projects with some historic environment content. This funding is given to projects which encourage environmental protection and community involvement in areas affected by aggregates extraction
- Funding was made available for distribution by Regional Development Agencies and the Countryside Agency through the three-year Market Towns Initiative which ended in March 2004. The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) invested £5 million under this scheme in 20 market towns, leveraging in £16 million from other funding sources. More than half of these towns also benefited from an English Heritage Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme. The East of England Market Town Advisory Forum was set up in January 2002 to provide a regional focus to market town regeneration. EEDA and other regional bodies will continue to fund work in this area.
- The rural historic environment benefits from Defra operated agri-environment schemes:

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) includes measures to enhance and restore targeted landscapes, including historical features, and to improve public access. Uptake since 2000/01 has increased dramatically, with another 323 schemes set up in this region in 2003/04

The Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme was introduced in 1987, with grants for agricultural practices which would safeguard and enhance areas of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value. There are now 22 ESAs in the East of England (ten per cent of agricultural land) including the Broads, Breckland, Suffolk River Valleys and the Essex coast

Both these schemes will be replaced by a new Environmental Stewardship Scheme in 2005. English Heritage is involved in the four pilot Entry Level Stewardship schemes that have been set up; maintaining landscape character and protection of the historic environment are key aims.



**Middlegate Community Garden,  
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk**  
© English Heritage, Steve Cole

## Middlegate Community Garden, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

Working with the local community, some derelict land next to two English Heritage properties in Great Yarmouth was turned into a new garden. The probationary service were involved in soft landscaping work. Young offenders worked with artists to design and produce garden furnishings. Maintenance will be carried out by the Youth Offending Team and young people from the local estate. A Heritage Youth Club is being established to continue to work with local young people. The scheme is part of the wider heritage and regeneration work in the town and was funded by the European Objective 2 programme, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Single Regeneration Budget and English Heritage.

## B3.2 EMPLOYMENT

A wide range of people are employed in caring for the historic environment in the East of England:

- Local authorities in the East of England spent a total of £2.3 million in 2003/04 on staff working in historic conservation posts. A study in 2003 found that in this region local authorities employed an average of 1.5 full-time conservation specialists (implying 73.5 posts), compared with a national average of 1.7. The survey found that these specialists were engaged with a very wide range of activities but their workloads were dominated by development control casework. Local authorities, usually at county level, also provide archaeological services employing staff to advise on the effect of development proposals, manage HERs and to work on the identification, recording, management and interpretation of archaeological sites and monuments.
- English Heritage employs 102 permanent staff in the region; 26 of these work at English Heritage sites. They provide expertise in a wide range of areas including architectural history, archaeology planning, and historic property management
- The Heritage Lottery Fund employs 14 people at its East of England office who promote and administrate funding schemes and work closely with local groups to develop project proposals
- The National Trust employs 220 full-time and 120 part-time staff at its regional office and 41 properties throughout the region. Staff are employed at the properties, sites and collections in its care, to work on education and outreach projects and promote the value of heritage through policy and campaign work.



## B4 SKILLS AND TRAINING

The Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) project was launched by English Heritage in March 2004 and is a comprehensive training programme aiming to raise awareness within local authorities and government agencies. A website, [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk) provides a range of expert guidance relating to historic buildings, archaeology and landscapes.

EEDA are setting up a Regional Centre of Excellence (RCE), with funding from the ODPM, to give greater access to information, advice and skills related to urban and rural regeneration. The Centre will help those in the region who are working to respond effectively to the challenges of the Communities Plan.

The National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) is carrying out a detailed skills mapping survey of traditional building crafts in the nine English regions. The results, to be published in 2005, will be used to develop a five-year training plan for the sector.

Heritage Open Days are an important means of attracting new audiences. Thetford Town and Ipswich Museums worked as part of the national Anglo-Sikh Heritage Trail project to display their Sikh collections as part of the Heritage Open Day programme ([www.asht.info](http://www.asht.info)). Pubs and football clubs were included in the list of Heritage Open Day events in this region for the first time, with the aim of attracting a younger audience.

### Disability Access

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 gave disabled people important rights of access to public buildings and services. English Heritage has published a revised version of its guidance, *Easy Access to Historic Properties* ([www.english-heritage.org.uk/easyaccess](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/easyaccess)). Examples of improved access to historic places in the East of England include the provision of an external lift at Norwich Castle to provide access to the Norman keep entrance and a new fully accessible boardwalk through the National Trust's Hatfield Forest.

## B5 ATTRACTING NEW AUDIENCES

Broadening access and inclusion so that a wide diversity of people engage with the historic environment is a priority for the sector. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has a Public Spending Agreement target (PSA2) to attract new users from ethnic minority and socially deprived groups to visit historic environment sites by the end of March 2006. To meet this target, all English Heritage regional offices now have an outreach worker who draws up a regional outreach strategy, delivers outreach projects and develops Heritage Open Days to broaden the diversity of properties opening and the audience that visits the event.



**Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth**  
© English Heritage, James Davies

## Regeneration in Great Yarmouth and Heritage Lottery funding

Heritage led regeneration in Great Yarmouth has been developed by a unique partnership of heritage organisations and local authorities. Heritage Lottery Funding has played a significant role in the social and economic regeneration of Great Yarmouth. A recent Townscape Heritage Initiative grant of £2 million has helped to ensure that the heritage of this important fishing port will be preserved and interpreted for current and future generations. The Time and Tide Museum of Great Yarmouth Life opened in July 2004 and is housed in the Grade II listed herring curing works, restored with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £2.5 million. An HLF grant of £23,000 was also awarded to the Seachange Trust, for their Changing Places project, which engaged young people in researching and celebrating the physical heritage and social history of Great Yarmouth.

## C1 HERITAGE AND REGENERATION

The historic environment can act as a catalyst for change and a focus for renewed economic confidence. Repairing and re-using buildings is a sustainable approach that conserves the materials, energy and skills that went into their design and construction. Conservation-led regeneration includes the repair and reuse of historic buildings and improvements to streetscapes and open spaces.

In the East of England, much conservation-led regeneration has taken the form of area-based schemes in cities, market towns and seaside resorts. The Market Towns Initiative (EEDA and the Countryside Agency), Heritage Economic Regeneration Schemes (English Heritage) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (Heritage Lottery Fund) have funded such schemes, working in partnership with local authorities. A study measuring the results of a sample of 12 schemes, *Heritage Dividend, East of England Region* was produced by EEDA, HLF and English Heritage in 2003. This found that, on average £10,000 of heritage investment levers in £45,000 of private and public sector funding and delivers 55 square metres of improved commercial floor space, one improved building, one new job, two safeguarded jobs and one improved dwelling.

## C2 HERITAGE TOURISM

Tourism makes a major contribution to the economic well-being of the East of England; it generates around £5 billion a year, about six per cent of regional GDP, employs at least 185,000 people and accounts for one in four of all new jobs created. In 2002, 14.5 million staying trips were made to the East of England by domestic visitors, spending £1.7 billion, and 1.6 million visits were made by overseas visitors, spending £616 million. Tourism, leisure and heritage is one of nine key business sectors that EEDA is working with. The region's historic environment plays a significant role in the tourism industry. Three of the top ten major

paid admission attractions in the East of England in 2003 were heritage attractions: Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire; Kings College Chapel, Cambridge; and Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire. Two cathedrals, St Albans, Hertfordshire and Norwich Church of England, Norfolk, were included in the region's top ten free attractions in 2003. Cambridge was in the top ten towns visited by overseas visitors in 2002. There were 3.7 million visits to historic properties in the East of England, which generated £10 million revenue, an average of £152,000 per attraction.

## C3 PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Membership of heritage organisations, visitor numbers to heritage sites and the popularity of heritage related books, magazines and television programmes demonstrate that people value the historic environment. The National Trust has 332,978 members in the East of England, English Heritage has 55,745 this region, and the Civic Trust 23,808. The region also has many local history societies covering villages, towns and counties and 23 Building Preservation Trusts.

Volunteers are involved in a wide range of activities including conservation work, serving on governing bodies, promotion and education, fundraising, monitoring planning applications and welcoming and guiding visitors to sites. VisitBritain's annual *Visits to Visitor Attractions Survey* found that there were 2,423 volunteers employed at the sites in the East of England. The National Trust have just under 4,000 active volunteers in the East of England, and other large organisations working in the region such as English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association also benefit from the work of volunteers. More research is needed to quantify the scale and impact of voluntary work in the region.



**Volunteers from the Wayland Church Tours Project**  
© Jan Godfrey, The Wayland Partnership Development Trust

### The Wayland Church Tours Project, Watton, Norfolk – developing sustainable rural tourism

Developing tourism is one way to combat the economic decline of areas such as the market town of Watton and the Breckland District of Norfolk. The Wayland Church Tours Project aims to encourage local people and tourists to visit 18 medieval churches in the region and so contribute to their future sustainability. Funding for the project included £19,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Local Heritage Initiative scheme, and in May 2004 the project won the East of England Best Market Town Project Award – Heritage category.



**School children receive a Victorian lesson,  
the British Schools' Museum, Hitchin**

© English Heritage, Pat Payne



**Rayleigh Mount, Essex**

© English Heritage

## The British Schools Museum, Hitchin: saved, managed and cared for by volunteers

A pair of nineteenth-century teacher's houses and a narrow-fronted school building in Queen Street, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, mark one of the most important architectural finds of recent years, a complete set of nineteenth-century elementary schools, dominated by a Lancasterian monitorial schoolroom of 1837, the only known complete survivor of a once worldwide system. The site was sold to a developer but, after a massive campaign, the Hitchin British Schools Trust took possession in 1994 with the aim of creating a national centre of education and social history in Hitchin. It is run by more than 80 volunteers who provide education and visitor programmes and are involved in all aspects of managing the Schools, including marketing, fundraising, repairs and maintenance. The buildings still need major conservation work and the Trust wants to expand and improve its visitor and education programmes as well as enabling greater use of the rooms by local organisations.

## Rayleigh Mount, Essex – caring for a community resource

Rayleigh Mount, a motte and bailey mound in the centre of Rayleigh, shows what can be achieved when the community is given the opportunity to care for its own public spaces. The site is all that remains of a castle erected by Sweyn of Essex in the period following the Norman invasion of 1066. It is owned by the National Trust, and is managed by a committee drawn from the local community of over 20 members. The Southend Shakespeare Company also hold annual performances on the site and close links with several local schools are supported by the National Trust's Guardianship scheme sponsored by Norwich Union.

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## C4 EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

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The historic environment has great potential as an educational resource whether through visits to historic sites, volunteering, or formal courses. In the East of England, 23,708 visits to English Heritage sites were for educational purposes. School children had the opportunity to learn about the everyday life of the Tudors at Framlingham Castle, Suffolk, the role of horses in the lives of people who have lived in and around Tilbury Fort, Essex and to go behind the scenes of a great country house in the kitchen and laundry of Audley End House, Essex. There was an innovative Language Day at Orford Castle, Suffolk devised by a local teacher with help from English Heritage's regional Education Officer: students dressed in costume and interpreted the castle in French for the benefit of visiting exchange students.

Throughout the region, those who own and manage historic places, whether individuals or large organisations, are working to realise their educational benefits for audiences of all ages.

# The East of England Historic Environment Forum (HEF)

The East of England HEF aims to become an influential and authoritative voice for the historic environment sector in the East of England. It has been established for two years, first meeting in 2002 at the instigation of English Heritage.

## Membership

The HEF membership includes organisations with a focus on heritage and historic environment issues, and those involved in the delivery of regional economic, planning, environmental and cultural policy and services. In 2003/04 membership included representatives from DCMS/Government Office for the East of England, East of England Regional Assembly, East of England Regional Development Agency, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, Campaign to Protect Rural England, the Civic Trust, Country Land and Business Association, East of England Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, East of England Tourist Board, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Houses Association, Institute for Historic Building Conservation and the National Trust.

## Key objectives

- To prepare and publish annually the East of England edition of *Heritage Counts*
- To foster relationships with key regional bodies and attempt to ensure that the historic environment is embedded in their relevant strategies and policy development
- To raise the profile of the historic environment with relevant organisations within the region, including local authorities

## Future work for the HEF

Members of the HEF are keen to develop the profile and influence of the Forum. The region's historic environment is under pressure from development proposals and other social and economic changes. The HEF is an opportunity for the historic environment sector to speak together at this crucial time, so that all those influencing and implementing regional policy understand the role the historic environment can play in helping communities deal with change. *Heritage Counts East of England 2004* demonstrates the contribution the historic environment makes to the social, economic and environmental well being of East of England. The historic environment has an invaluable role to play in this region's future. The Historic Environment Forum will be working to promote this message and to get it translated into action.





This document has been produced by the East of England Historic Environment Forum:

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Civic Trust
- Country Land and Business Association
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- East of England Development Agency
- East of England Museums, Libraries, and Archives Council
- East of England Regional Assembly
- East of England Tourist Board
- English Heritage
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute for Historic Building Conservation
- National Trust



ENGLISH HERITAGE