

HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of the
EAST OF ENGLAND'S
Historic Environment

2005



Heritage Counts 2005 in the East of England

Cover image: A member of Elsenham Guides bug hunting at Hatfield Forest, Essex, an ancient woodland of great historical and ecological importance managed by the National Trust. In a densely populated and fast-growing part of the region close to Stansted Airport, Hatfield Forest is a green space where people can relax, learn and volunteer. Accessible open spaces are often historic landscapes managed by historic environment bodies or individuals and are vital for our region's quality of life.

Heritage Counts is the annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. The report identifies the principal trends and challenges affecting the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2005 on the state of England's rural heritage. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2005* report, available at www.heritagecounts.org.uk.

Our countryside and coasts have been shaped by centuries of interaction between man and nature. They are part of the historic environment. *Heritage Counts 2005* focuses on the condition of our rural and coastal heritage and the benefits it brings to our region.

The East of England's fertile land and long coastline have for centuries been the source of the region's wealth. Now, there are significant pockets of deprivation in our rural and coastal areas; heritage draws visitors to parts of the region where tourism has become the economic lifeblood.

Our region is under pressure with a growing population, a successful economy, and significant new housing and infrastructure developments planned. Accessible open spaces, many of them historic landscapes managed by heritage bodies or individual landowners, are a vital outlet for residents and visitors. They enhance people's quality of life with opportunities to relax and learn. They give places character and identity.

Understanding the use people have made of our land in the past helps us to make decisions about how to use it in the future. The introduction of the new planning system presents a major opportunity to achieve benefits for the historic environment at this crucial time in the region's development. The historic environment sector is working to influence the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks.

The East of England Development Agency in the *Regional Economic Strategy* (2004), and the East of England Regional Assembly in the *Regional Environment Strategy* (2003), acknowledge the crucial role played by our rural environment and heritage in the region's successful economic and social development. Whether from the public, private or voluntary sectors, whether at regional or local level, regional partners need to work together to prevent damage and loss to our heritage and to exploit its potential to enrich our future.

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

THE EAST OF ENGLAND'S RURAL HERITAGE:

- The majority (62 per cent) of the region's 57,713 listed buildings are in rural areas. An even greater majority (85 per cent) of the region's 1,735 scheduled monuments are found in rural areas.
- The East of England has the highest number of Grade I places of worship of any English region, 1,166, 23 per cent of the national total. Most of these are Church of England churches in rural areas.
- From 2000 to 2004, around £4.2 million of agri-environment grant was spent in the East of England on protecting and enhancing the historic environment.

BENEFITS FROM THE EAST OF ENGLAND'S HERITAGE:

- **Tourism:** There were at least 3.8 million visits to historic properties in the East of England in 2004; almost two thirds of these were made to sites in areas classified as significantly or predominantly rural.
- **Construction industry:** Around £305 million was spent on the conservation and restoration of historic buildings in the East of England in 2004/05.
- **Regeneration:** In 2005, Aylsham, a historic market town in Norfolk, became the second town in England to gain admission to the international Cittaslow network.
- **Voluntary work:** Two-thirds of staff working at historic properties in the East of England in 2004 were unpaid volunteers according to a Visit Britain survey.
- **Research and knowledge:** The East of England is set to be the first English region to be fully covered by Historic Landscape Characterisation.

HERITAGE AT RISK IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND:

- Almost two-thirds (63.6 per cent) of the entries in the East of England on English Heritage's *Register of Buildings at Risk 2005* are in rural areas.
- An estimated £61.9 million needs to be spent in the near future on the backlog of repairs to listed church buildings.
- Historic farm buildings are under threat: a Hertfordshire County Council research project has found that all of the county's stock of historic timber farm buildings may be converted or lost due to poor maintenance or demolition in the next 12 to 20 years.
- New research has revealed that, since 1919, the East of England has lost nearly half of its historic parkland.
- There is a shortage of some traditional building craft skills in the region. There is an average wait of over three months for cabinet makers, joiners and thatchers in the region and a lack of other crafts skills.

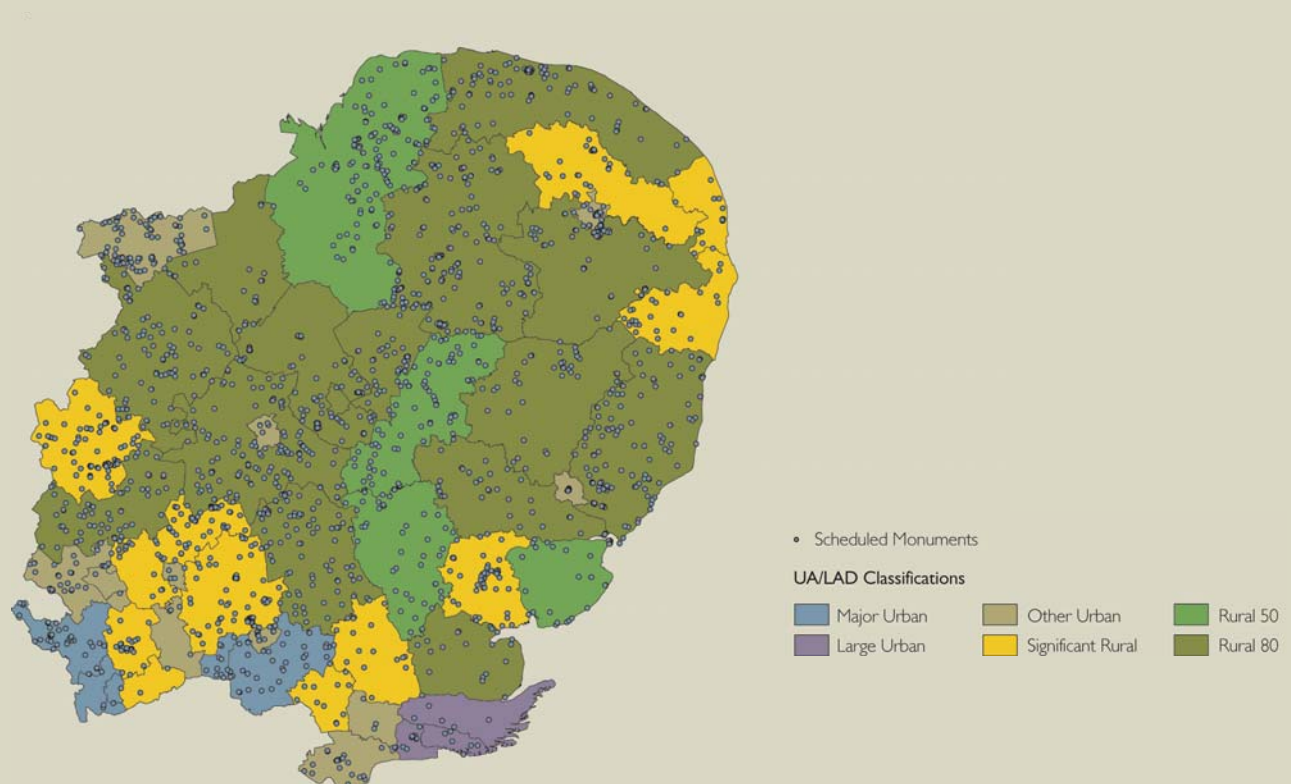
The historic environment in the East of England: distribution of assets

East of England – Regional Data

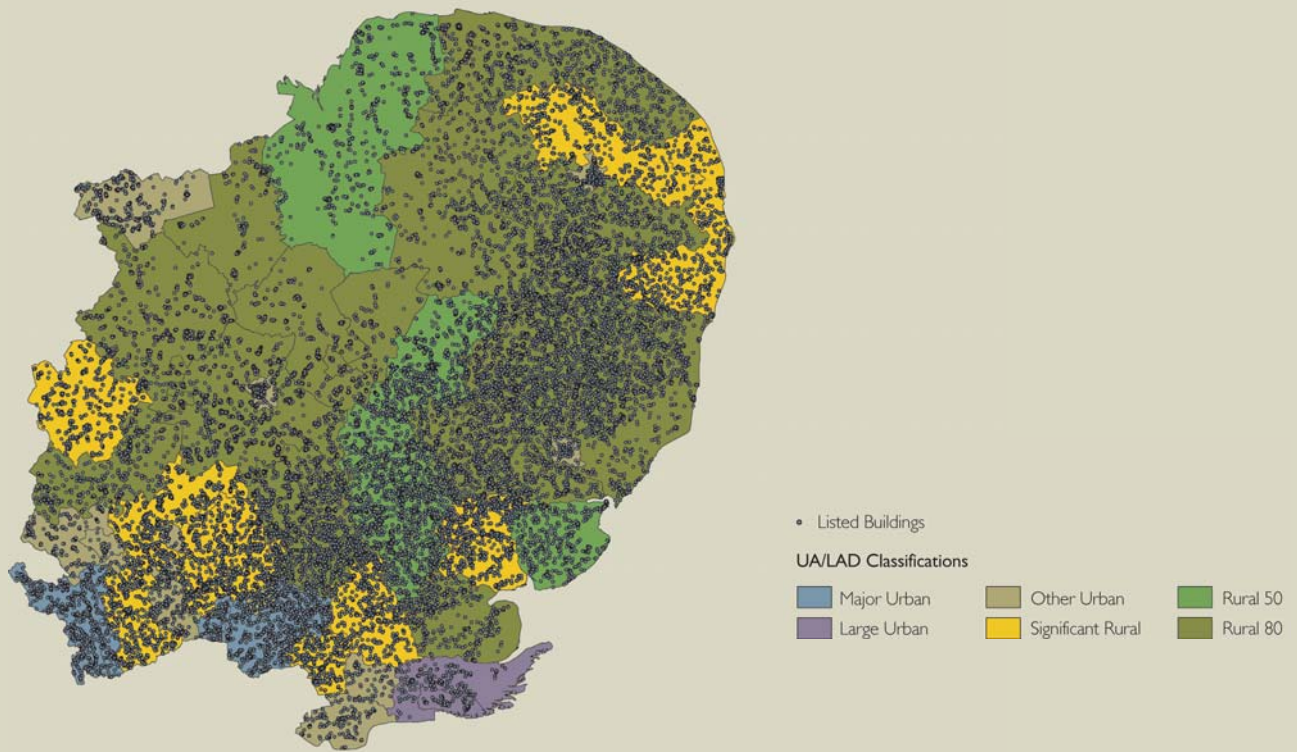
COUNTY COUNCIL/ UNITARY AUTHORITY	DISTRIBUTION OF LISTED BUILDINGS	DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	REGISTERED PARKS & GARDENS AND BATTLEFIELDS	DISTRIBUTION OF CONSERVATION AREAS
BEDFORDSHIRE	3,290	152	15	85
LUTON	84	2	2	4
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	7,238	259	33	188
PETERBOROUGH	927	65	4	25
ESSEX	13,992	297	37	209
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	95	6	0	12
THURROCK	242	16	1	8
HERTFORDSHIRE	8,135	178	43	178
NORFOLK	10,520	432	51	275
SUFFOLK	13,190	328	23	173

Source: English Heritage

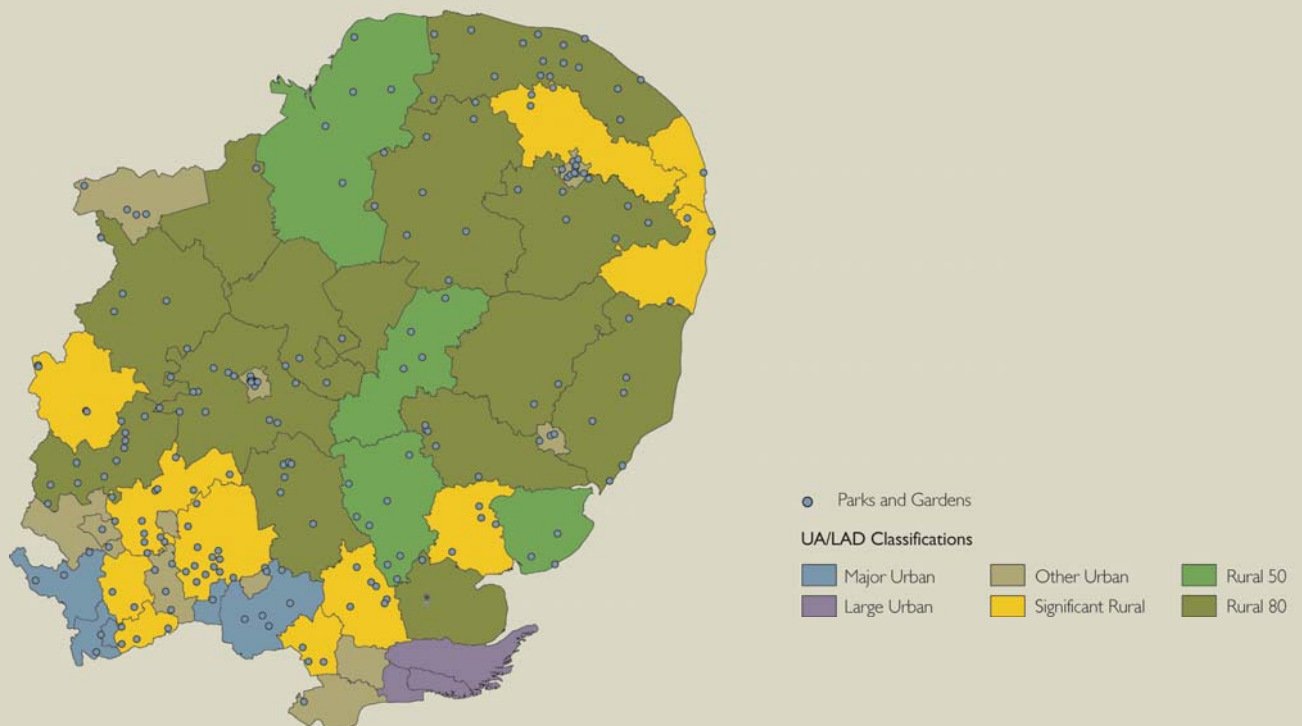
Scheduled Monuments in the East of England Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



Listed Buildings in the East of England Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



Battlefields and Parks & Gardens in the East of England Region against the Rural/Urban Classification of Local Authorities



The policy context in the East of England

RURAL POLICY

In our highly rural and intensively cultivated region, developments in rural and agricultural policy have a strong impact on our historic environment. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms, including the introduction of the Single Farm Payment system, are an opportunity for improved land management to benefit the rural historic environment, as are the new Environmental Stewardship schemes. Changes at a regional level as a result of the Government's Rural Strategy, 2004, will include the setting up of the new integrated agency, Natural England, and the development of a Regional Rural Delivery Framework. Results from a pilot project, the Fens Rural Pathfinder, will help inform the Framework.

PLANNING POLICIES AND DEMANDS FOR GROWTH

Growth in our region will accelerate over the next 15 years, with significant housing and infrastructure developments planned. 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-Peterborough. A second runway at Stansted Airport has been proposed and major port expansions are planned. The scale of this development threatens some of our vulnerable heritage assets. The historic environment sector believes that growth must be managed in a way that takes account of the vital contribution the historic environment makes to the region's quality of life, sense of place and prosperity. The draft East of England Plan, or Regional Spatial Strategy, the overarching regional strategy for planning and development to the year 2021, and draft Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) represent an important opportunity to ensure that the interests of the historic environment are well represented within regional planning policies.

OTHER REGIONAL POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

The historic environment sector is contributing to the delivery of two significant regional strategies, the *Regional Economic Strategy* (East of England Development Agency, 2004) and the *Regional Environment Strategy* (East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum, 2003). English Heritage and the Historic Environment Forum are supporting the current project on improving the implementation and monitoring of the Regional Environment Strategy.

English Heritage is a member of the advisory group for Inspire East, the Regional Centre of Excellence for sustainable communities, the built environment and regeneration, recently established by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA).

The historic environment sector is working with a wide range of bodies at this critical time in our region's development to ensure that the potential of the region's heritage to enrich our communities is fully realised.

DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND: KEY FACTS

- No World Heritage Sites; one site, the Wash and North Norfolk Coast is on the UK tentative list as a candidate for future World Heritage Site status.
- 1,735 scheduled monuments, an increase of 35 more sites compared to 2004. The majority (1,470 or 85 per cent) are in rural areas.
- 57,713 listed buildings, an increase of 38 more sites compared to 2004. The majority (35,577 or 63 per cent) are in rural areas.
- 209 registered parks and gardens, no change since 2004.
- One of England's 43 registered historic battlefields, at Maldon in Essex.
- One of England's 39 protected wrecks sites.
- Eight vessels in the Core Collection of the National Register of Historic Vessels.

A.1 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS IN RURAL AREAS

A.1.1 PLACES OF WORSHIP IN RURAL AREAS

The East of England has the highest number of Grade I places of worship of any English region, 1,166 or 23 per cent of the national total. Two-thirds of the region's Grade I buildings are places of worship. Most of these are Church of England churches in rural areas. As well as being beautiful and characteristic features in the landscape, churches are often the only communal building in more isolated areas. They are used for social, community and cultural activities as well as for worship.

Planning, funding and arranging repairs and maintenance are demanding tasks for parishes. Respondents completing the Church of England's 2003 Parish Finance Returns reported that parishes in the East of England spent £15.7 million on church repairs in 2002/03 and estimated that a further £61.9 million needed to be spent in the near future on the backlog of repairs to listed church buildings. The latter figure does not include the annual cost of maintaining a listed church building to prevent deterioration in condition.

Some places of worship are under-used and threatened with redundancy. The Churches Conservation Trust cares for 77 redundant Church of England churches in the region, almost a quarter of the total number in its care (see www.visitchurches.org.uk).

A.1.2 HISTORIC FARM BUILDINGS

Historic farm buildings are part of England's agricultural landscape and an important cultural and economic resource. They are under pressure from the threats of redundancy, neglect and poorly executed conversion. English Heritage and the Countryside Agency commissioned research into historic farm buildings to better understand the state of the resource and the pressures upon it.

A.2 MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY
A.3 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES



Historic farm buildings of Hertfordshire: understanding the resource

A research project commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council, *Historic Timber Farm Buildings of Hertfordshire* (Sallianne Wilcox, Hertfordshire County Council, 2005) found that, if current conversion rates continue, all of the county's stock of historic timber farm buildings might be converted or lost due to poor maintenance or demolition in the next 12 to 20 years. The research, part-funded by the Countryside Agency, revealed that, in line with the national picture, over a quarter of the timber farm buildings had been converted, mostly to residential use, and eight per cent were in a poor state of repair. A desk-based survey found 40 per cent of an estimated total of 1,815 timber farm buildings had no statutory status. A field survey identified additional timber farm buildings. Further work is needed to identify fully the national and regional resource of historic farm buildings and to update the statutory list. Hertfordshire County Council will be working with local authority partners to develop appropriate policies regarding farm buildings for Local Development Frameworks.

Listed Grade II* and dating from around 1400, Croxley Great Barn (illustrated above) is one of many examples of agricultural buildings on the English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk. Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust has commissioned a feasibility study for re-use of the building. English Heritage has offered funding towards a condition survey.

Croxley Great Barn, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
© Richard Threlfall

Farm buildings are the most numerous type of historic structure in the countryside. Three regions – the South West, the South East and the East of England – contain two-thirds of all agricultural list entries. In the East of England, the majority (77 per cent) of listed farmstead buildings are timber framed. Just over half of agricultural list entries in the East of England were subject to listed building consent applications between 1980 and 2001. Working buildings of farmsteads were most affected by consents for change of use and the majority of these consents, 71 per cent were for conversion to permanent dwellings.

English Heritage will be producing regional policy statements on the condition of farm buildings and a best practice guide on conversion of agricultural buildings.

A.2 MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

The Government's heritage protection review covers England's rich marine historic environment from shipwrecks to submerged archaeological landscapes.

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 and developing guidance in this area.

A.3 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

Designated historic areas and open spaces in the East of England include:

- 1,157 conservation areas, an increase of three compared to 2004.
- One National Park, the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, covering 30,000 hectares, four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Norfolk Coast, Suffolk Coast and Heaths, Dedham Vale and part of the Chilterns, covering 110,000 hectares, 121 kilometres of Heritage Coast.

A.3 HISTORIC AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

Our region's landscapes have been shaped by thousands of years of human activity. Some features, such as prehistoric earthworks and landscaped parks, stand out in the landscape. However, the whole countryside has been moulded by intensive agricultural activity which has left behind an ancient pattern of villages, market towns, green lanes, field systems and hedgerows. One of the region's most distinctive landscapes, the Broads, Britain's largest nationally protected wetland, was man-made: intensive peat digging left huge pits which filled with river water.

Agricultural wealth is reflected in some outstanding buildings. Locally distinctive building materials include bricks from Bedfordshire, flint, characteristic of Norfolk and Suffolk, oak, used for timber framed buildings particularly in Essex, Hertfordshire and Suffolk, and various kinds of thatch.

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 and religious buildings threatened by redundancy. The original functions of some of the region's many market towns have been undermined by economic and social changes.

Accessible open spaces are often historic landscapes managed by historic environment bodies or by private landowners for the mutual benefit of the natural and historic environment. They provide opportunities for learning, leisure and volunteering as well as contributing to local distinctiveness. They are a particularly precious resource as the East of England faces major development and growth pressure. The National Trust owns 4,950 hectares of land in the East of England that is always open to public access, including sites in densely populated areas or close to areas where intensive development is likely to take place. For example, at Wicken Fen, the National Trust is working to expand the traditional fen and provide a green lung for Cambridge.

An East of England finest landscapes regional partnership was formed in 2004, supported by the EEDA and the Countryside Agency. The partnership is producing a prospectus, *Stars of the East* (EEDA, Countryside Agency, 2005) to demonstrate the contribution that protected landscapes make to the region's prosperity and sustainable development.



RSPB Environment and Education Centre, Rainham Marshes Nature Reserve, Thurrock, Essex: conserving a historic landscape in the Thames Gateway

Precious green places like Rainham Marshes, with its ancient landscape and marshland wildlife, are vital to the sustainable development of the Thames Gateway area. The nature reserve will give local people, whether from existing or new communities, an understanding of this area's distinctive natural, agricultural and military heritage as well as opportunities to relax and learn. Rainham Marshes is the largest remnant in the Greater London area of the coastal and floodplain medieval grazing marsh which was once abundant along the banks of the Thames.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation are contributing around £3.25 million to the development of the reserve. Together with almost a million pounds from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the money will fund the construction of the Environment and Education Centre and improve access and interpretation. The project will help to secure the long-term future of this UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat and historically important landscape.

Children from Purfleet Primary School at the launch of the construction of a new Environment and Education Centre, Rainham Marshes, Essex. © Kate Grinter/RSPB

A.4 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE



Cromer, Norfolk: erosion of character and managing change in a Victorian seaside resort

Cromer, Norfolk, is a seaside resort with Victorian and Edwardian built heritage that provides a rich architectural setting for tourism, jobs and economic investment as well as being worthy of protection for its own sake. In 2005, North Norfolk District Council, Cromer Preservation Society and Norfolk County Council undertook a ground-breaking survey of the changes that have taken place in Cromer Conservation Area. The research found clear and alarming evidence of gradual erosion of the conservation area's character over several decades. In some streets, up to 86 per cent of original windows had been replaced, invariably with plastic (uPVC) material. Cromer's built heritage has been damaged, despite the efforts of the Local Planning Authority and its dedicated conservation team through a successful Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme and the application of national planning controls.

The District's conservation officers are working to stop this loss of character. The survey results will inform a new conservation area character appraisal and a review of planning policies and conservation area management in Cromer. Using exhibitions, events and new guidance, conservation staff are helping people understand that every change that every household or business makes to their building can have an impact on Cromer's heritage.

Repairs to 10a Jetty Street, Cromer: works funded under the Cromer Townscape Heritage Initiative. © Conservation and Design, North Norfolk District Council

A.4

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE

Historic Environment Records (HERs, formerly sites and monuments records), record archaeological sites and historic buildings from prehistoric times to the 20th century. HERs are used for planning and development control work and as a research resource. One HER in the region, Essex County Council's, can be accessed on-line (unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk). Norfolk County Council is developing an on-line HER, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), due to be ready by 2007.

English Heritage's Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) programme in partnership with local government creates countywide overviews of landscapes. The East of England is set to be the first English region fully covered by HLC with work complete in Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Suffolk and in progress in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

HLC can give information on what is locally distinctive and important and help guide the location, scale and types of development. It is therefore an important tool for informing spatial planning policies in both the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks. Characterisation-based assessments have been completed by English Heritage and its partners for parts of the Milton Keynes-South Midlands and London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough growth areas and for the Thames Gateway.

As our region's coastline is vulnerable to erosion and climate change, English Heritage continues to prioritise Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments to provide information on the historic environment in coastal areas. English Heritage also works with partners, including the Environment Agency, to ensure that pilot Shoreline Management Plans and Estuary Management Plans and Strategies take account of the historic environment and to devise appropriate mitigation strategies where loss or damage to heritage assets is inevitable. Heritage data from Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments is vital to this work and also enhances local authority HERs.

B. I

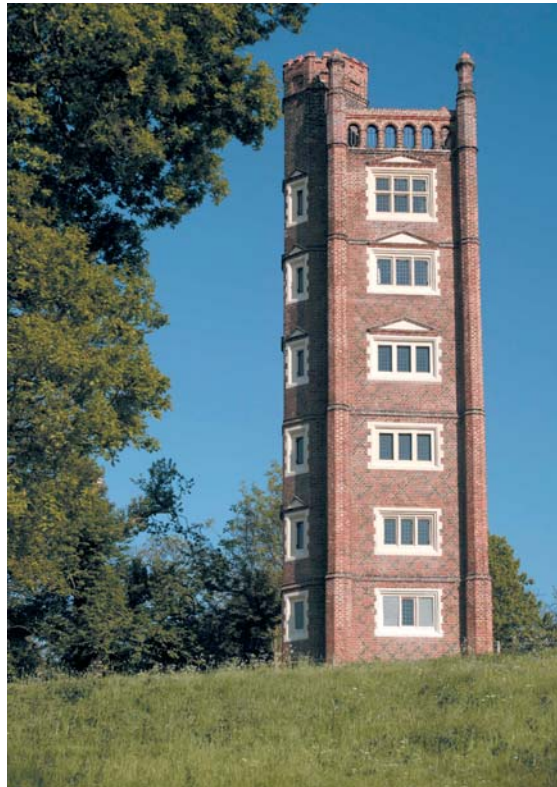
HERITAGE AT RISK

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, delay or redundancy. In the East of England in 2005, there were 118 entries on the register; 9.1 per cent of the national total. In 2004/05, ten entries were removed from the register and four entries added. Most entries (99) on the Register have a conservation deficit and require a total of £17.5 million to breach the gap between the cost of repair and their eventual market value. The majority of entries fall into the religious, ritual and funerary, domestic, agricultural and subsistence or defence and maritime categories. Almost two-thirds (63.6 per cent) of entries are in rural areas.

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. Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council have re-launched their registers this year.

New research commissioned by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency has found that, by 1995, the East of England had lost nearly half (45.4 per cent) of the historic parkland mapped on the 1918 Ordnance Survey edition. The region has lost the largest percentage of its parkland of any English region to conversion to arable agriculture. The greatest loss, in both absolute and relative terms, was in the south of the region: in the Northern Thames Basin, the Chilterns and the South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland, a total of over 17,000 hectares of parkland has been lost. Suffolk Coast and Heaths, the Fens, the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands, Mid-Norfolk and Breckland have all lost a high percentage of their parkland.

English Heritage will be carrying out a Scheduled Monuments at Risk survey in the East of England in 2006. The survey will provide an overview of the condition and significance of the region's scheduled monuments and establish priorities for action. Results should be available in 2007. The East Midlands pilot study found that agriculture, development, recreational uses and natural processes are the main pressures putting monuments at risk.



Freston Tower, Suffolk: an exceptional historic building restored for use as a holiday home

Freston Tower is an imposing six-storey 16th-century brick building set in historic parkland and overlooking the estuary of the River Orwell. The future of this unusual building has been secured by its conversion into a holiday home. The Grade II* listed building had fallen into disrepair and was included on English Heritage's *Register of Buildings at Risk*. The Landmark Trust carried out careful conservation partly funded by a £35,000 grant from English Heritage and £270,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Freston Tower now attracts visitors to a beautiful part of the Suffolk countryside. In 2005, the conservation work by Richard Griffiths Architects was awarded a RIBA Conservation Commendation.

Freston Tower, Freston, Suffolk. © John Miller/Landmark Trust

B.2 MANAGING CHANGE POSITIVELY



Crossing the Lines: European project on the conservation and use of Napoleonic and post-Napoleonic coastal fortifications: Tilbury Fort, Essex

The Crossing the Lines project aims to preserve, restore and promote the sustainable use of coastal fortifications, mainly of 19th-century date. This is a partnership project involving four sites and three partners, City of Utrecht, Holland, City of Mortsel, Belgium, and Essex County Council, UK. The two UK sites are Tilbury Fort and Martello Tower C at Jaywick. The project, which uses funds from Europe and matched funding from English Heritage, will develop and implement knowledge on restoration techniques and sustainable energy. The partners will invest in opening sites to the public, including new presentation techniques on the history and current use of 19th-century fortifications. A touring exhibition, booklets and a website have been produced; the former opened at Tilbury Fort in August 2005. All of these draw upon the social history of the forts and explain why they were constructed and their role in the defence of North West Europe. The exhibition will tour venues in the three partner countries. An oral history project and new interpretation panels will be launched at Tilbury in 2006. Tower C at Jaywick has already opened as an arts facility and coastal watchtower for the community, having been restored with an innovative heating and ventilation system.

Tilbury Fort, Essex. © English Heritage Photo Library

B.2

MANAGING CHANGE POSITIVELY

B.2.1

PLANNING TRENDS

- 77,210 planning applications were decided in 2004/05, an increase of 2.9 per cent on 2003/04.
- 4,827 applications for listed building consent were decided in 2004/05, an increase of 3.5 per cent on 2003/04 and the third highest level of decision making in the country. Only 13 per cent of all listed building consent applications in the region were not granted.
- 101 scheduled monument consent decisions were made in 2004/05, a decrease of 4.7 per cent on 2003/04.
- 95 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens were received by Garden History Society in 2004/05, a decrease of 24 on 2003/04.
- 433 conservation area consent applications to demolish unlisted buildings within a conservation area were determined in 2004/05, an increase of 1.6 per cent on 2003/04.

English Heritage is testing different approaches to managing development at designated heritage sites as part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's review of the heritage protection system. In the East of England pilots are currently taking place at the Holkham Estate, Norfolk, and the University of East Anglia, Norwich.

Planning authorities play a vital role in protecting England's heritage. The new national structure for spatial planning is a major opportunity to influence policies and proposals in order to achieve high standards of environmental quality and benefits for the historic environment. English Heritage has worked alongside other agencies to produce guidance which will help planning authorities to prepare plans and strategies, *Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning* (English Heritage, Countryside Agency, English Nature, Environment Agency, 2005). Recommendations include: that policies should have clear objectives stating what needs to be replaced, conserved or restored in the natural, built and historic environment; and that historic landscape characterisation can be used to inform policies about what is locally distinctive and important.

B.3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

B.3**CAPACITY AND RESOURCES**

Investment in the historic environment comes from a wide range of sources across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Private owners, who own an estimated two-thirds of the historic environment in England, are not eligible for many heritage related grants, including HLF funds. The majority of expenditure on the historic environment is derived from private sources. For owners of larger historic houses, diversification into venue provision for events such as conferences and weddings has become an important source of income. Entrance fees alone do not cover the cost of maintaining such properties.

Since the Lottery was introduced in 1994, the HLF has awarded £204.5 million to 1,548 projects across various grant programmes in the East of England. The HLF is the largest source of funding for the conservation of the historic environment in England and the East of England.

English Heritage offered a total of £3.9 million in grants in 2004/05, of which £2.7 million was for places of worship, £0.6 million was for secular buildings, £0.5 million was for area based regeneration schemes and £5,000 was for regional capacity building grants.

The region's rural historic environment has benefited from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) operated agri-environment schemes and will continue to do so under the new Environmental Stewardship scheme introduced in 2005. Defra has recently appointed historic environment advisers for each region who advise both landowners and Defra staff regarding historic environment aspects of agri-environment schemes.

From 2000 to 2004, around £4.2 million of agri-environment grant was spent in the East of England on protecting and enhancing the historic environment. There were 3,285 agri environment schemes in the region in 2005; almost half (1,470) of these included land within a designated asset such as a scheduled monument, AONB or registered park and garden.



Broads Landscape Character: The Halvergate Marshes

The Halvergate Marshes with its ancient drainage pattern is a landscape under pressure; the marshes on one side of the River Bure are almost all ploughed up; the Acle Straight shown is subject to proposals for dualling.

The Broads Authority is currently producing a detailed Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) for the Broads Area as part of the Local Development Framework activity. The finished assessment will be used in the production of detailed planning and design guidance.

This work is examining a range of attributes, which combine to create the various landscapes found within the Broads. Norfolk's countywide Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) started in the Broads in order to contribute to this project. For the Broads Area, the HLC has been supplemented by additional research carried out for the Authority by Dr Tom Williamson of the University of East Anglia, based on data supplied by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation data quantifies survivals in the modern landscape and demonstrates how the landscape has evolved to the present day. In the Broads, the work has already been used to establish the extent of rare landscape types, such as the remnants of the fen 'doling' system, a method of dividing the land up between those with common rights to ensure a fair distribution of the fen products such as peat, reed, sedge and grazing. It has also emphasised the exceptionally strong survival of older boundaries, formed by drainage dykes, in the Halvergate Marshes area, in stark contrast to extensive boundary loss on the adjacent arable uplands.

The Halvergate Marshes, Norfolk; a landscape under pressure.
© Mike Page



Denham Castle, Denham, Suffolk: scrub clearance and interpretation supported by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme

Denham Castle, a scheduled motte and bailey, managed by Michael Gliksten, owner of the Denham Estates, Bury St. Edmunds, was heavily scrubbed and overgrown. A detailed and enthusiastic study by PhD student Duncan McAndrew provided the impetus to undertake scrub clearance and interpretation of the site. The restoration proposal was drawn up in consultation with English Heritage with contributory funding support from Defra's Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The estate undertook the clearance largely by hand to avoid damaging the earthworks, with John MacFarlane spending many back-breaking hours. Denham Castle, an Anglo-Saxon 'burgate' and then Norman Castle, was thus protected from further decline and the full extent of the earthwork revealed. Educational groups can now use the site for study, and children from Cherry Trees School in Risby regularly visit. An interpretation board detailing the Castle's war-torn history helps bring the castle to life as it includes an artistic reconstruction, by Jenny Stripe, of the castle in 1142.

Michael Gliksten, owner of the Denham Estates, John MacFarlane, estate worker, and Chris Hainsworth of Defra standing on the motte of Denham Castle after scrub clearance. © Defra



Hanson Aggregates Lower Ouse Sites and Needingworth Quarry, Cambridgeshire: Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) funding benefits a scheduled monument

The ALSF funded a joint project by Cambridge Archaeological Unit and Hanson Aggregates to increase public awareness of archaeological knowledge arising from investigations associated with mineral extraction. Educational packages for schools, including handling materials, were developed. The condition of Southern Over round barrow cemetery, an impressive prehistoric scheduled monument close to Needingworth Quarry, was enhanced and access improved. This initiative ensured the long-term survival of this crucial monument group and made it accessible to a broad spectrum of society.

The reinstated ditched enclosure and barrow at Southern Over round barrow cemetery, Needingworth Quarry, Cambridgeshire © Cambridge Archaeological Unit

In 2003, data from the Office of National Statistics's Annual Business Inquiry demonstrated there were 1,930 people employed in the museum and heritage sector in the East of England.

Local authorities employ staff in a range of historic environment related fields. They are likely to need to employ more specialist staff to implement proposals in the heritage protection review for a local section of a single register of historic sites and buildings and statutory status for HERs.

B.3 CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

B.3.1
SKILLS

Historic buildings are at risk, not just from neglect but from the lack of people with traditional building crafts skills. These crafts can also be inspiration for excellent new design. In June 2005, the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) published the first major piece of research on the labour and skills needs in the built heritage sector; *Traditional Building Craft Skills: Assessing the Need, Meeting the Challenge* (NHTG, 2005). Approximately £3.5 billion was spent on the conservation and restoration of historic buildings in England in 2004/05, with £305 million spent in the East of England. The report estimated that the region had 3,463 traditional building craftspeople. However, 17 per cent of contractors had outstanding vacancies and 349 of these are long-term. Research suggests that the region needs more bricklayers, cabinet makers, carpenters, decorators, joiners, lead workers, roofers (slate and tile), thatchers and wheelwrights. Those in the skills, economic development and heritage sectors need to take action at national and regional levels.

The Historic Environment – Local Management (HELM) programme (www.helm.org.uk) is a source of information and training about the historic environment aimed at local authority members and officers. One initiative has been to encourage local authorities to appoint a member or senior officer as a Historic Environment Champion. There are now 15 Historic Environment Champions in the East of England.



shape Cambridge Heritage Crafts project: training in traditional heritage crafts skills for farmers and builders

In the winter of 2004/05, shape Cambridge, the region's architecture and built environment centre, ran an innovative, short, high quality training programme in traditional crafts aimed at farmers looking to diversify and construction professionals. Heritage Crafts was part of the Regional Adult Skills Pilot supported by the Learning and Skills Council, the East of England Development Agency and Jobcentre Plus.

Devised by Essex County Council conservation officers Anne Holden and Pauline Turner; restoration carpenter Richard Green and shape, the course brought together twelve farmers from the East of England for a three-week introduction to traditional timber framing in workshops at Cressing Temple Barns, near Braintree. For the fourth and fifth week of the training, the farmers were joined by nine carpenters from local firms to put their new skills to the test on the Grade II listed Powers Hall Barn on the Rayleigh Estate in Essex. All trainees completed the course and were awarded a Certificate and Portfolio of Achievement approved by the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) and the National Construction College.

With its partners at English Heritage, the NHTG, Agricultural Development in the Eastern Region and Essex County Council, shape will build on the pilot project's success to develop regional heritage craft skills training opportunities.

Trainees working on Powers Hall Barn, Essex.
© 2005 Simon Rawles / shape Cambridge



Developing a community-based public art project inspired by the De Grey Mausoleum and Dunstable Downs, Bedfordshire

In 2005, the National Trust, English Heritage and Commissions East worked together on an exciting new arts programme for the East of England, Contemporary Art for Historic Places, supported by the Arts Council at three outstanding historic sites – Felbrigg Hall in Norfolk, Orford Ness in Suffolk, and De Grey Mausoleum and Dunstable Downs in Bedfordshire. The programme aimed to engage local communities in the historic environment through creative arts projects which would also help interpret the sites for all visitors.

Imogen Stidworthy worked closely with taxi drivers from Luton. De Grey Mausoleum and Dunstable Downs were the inspiration for conversations between Stidworthy and the taxi drivers, which in turn revealed associations with the sites and unearthed memories of Pakistan, India and, most often, Kashmir. Recordings of the conversations could later be listened to by weekend visitors in special stationary cabs at Dunstable Downs and by users of cabs from participating firms.

Imogen Stidworthy 'Audio Cab' picnic on Dunstable Downs, 2005.
© Richard Davies

B4

ATTRACTING NEW AUDIENCES

Broadening access and inclusion, so that a wide range of people engage with the historic environment, is a priority for the sector:

All English Heritage regional offices now have an outreach worker who delivers outreach projects with a wide range of partners and develops Heritage Open Days. In 2004/05, in the East of England, 14,678 people were involved in English Heritage outreach projects, such as the community play at Tilbury Fort, part of the Thurrock Arts Generate festival, August 2005, and the Viewpoint poetry and art project exploring sense of place and history in Fenland.

Many HLF-funded projects open up heritage to people of all ages and backgrounds. Many organisations including the Historic Houses Association and the National Trust work to encourage wider access to heritage; the East of England Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (EEMLAC), for example, have recently appointed a Thames Gateway South Essex Heritage Development Officer.

This year, the national launch of Heritage Open Days, a national programme run by the Civic Trust in partnership with English Heritage, took place at Norwich Cathedral. The launch was supported by Norwich HEART (Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust). The wide range of properties and sites in the region opened to the public in 2005 included mosques, temples, gurdwaras and churches in Peterborough and Ipswich. More football grounds and historic pubs, successfully included for the first time in 2004, took part this year.

English Heritage has extended the blue plaques scheme to the East of England and is inviting nominations. The scheme celebrates great figures of the past and the buildings that they inhabited.

C.I

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Tourism generates around £5 billion a year in the East of England, employs at least 185,000 people and accounts for one in four of all new jobs created in the region. Heritage attractions, the region's distinctive cities, towns and villages and historic countryside are a major draw for visitors and underpin the tourist industry.

Tourism is particularly important to rural communities and businesses. Research commissioned by the National Trust and other partners, Valuing our Environment, found that 40 per cent of employment in tourism, rising to 60-70 per cent in rural areas, depends directly on a high quality environment. The annual Visit Britain survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions found that there were 3.8 million visits to historic properties in the East of England in 2004, and almost two-thirds of these were made to sites in areas classified as significantly or predominantly rural. These figures are a major underestimate as they do not cover all historic sites or, for example, visitors to special events or to free sites. The region's historic houses and places of worship each attracted a third of all visitors to historic properties with 1.2 million visits each.

The region's places of worship have developed imaginative ways of attracting and informing visitors, such as the Ely Church Trails project and the work of dedicated volunteers at individual or small groups of churches.

The conservation and enhancement of the historic environment is integral to successful regeneration, contributing to local distinctiveness and boosting economic confidence as well as being a sustainable approach. The Market Towns Initiative (EEDA and the Countryside Agency), English Heritage and the HLF have funded successful area-based schemes in cities, market towns and seaside resorts, working in partnership with local authorities.

Two market towns in the region, Aylsham and Diss, both in Norfolk, took part in a pilot project to work towards Cittaslow status. The Cittaslow approach, which began in Italy, can help regenerate places by encouraging a high quality environment, local produce and hospitality. Aylsham has now become the second English town, after Ludlow, Shropshire, to gain admission to the international Cittaslow network and Diss has applied.



Sheringham Park, National Trust, Norfolk: sustainable tourism in rural areas

Sheringham Park in North Norfolk is a large woodland garden. Its growth in popularity over recent years shows the importance of the historic environment in supporting the local economy, particularly in deprived and isolated rural areas. It also highlights the need to protect such resources when harnessing economic growth.

Designed in 1812 by Humphry Repton, Sheringham Park has always been popular, but in the last five years, there has been a threefold increase in visitors from 48,000 to 163,000 a year. However, it is situated in an area that falls into the bottom third most deprived local authority areas in the East of England.

Locally, tourism and related industries are second only to agriculture as employers. The challenge is to develop such tourism in a manner that does not undermine the area's greatest resource – its historic and natural beauty. The National Trust has carefully converted existing farm buildings into a visitors centre. In line with good environmental practice, a wood-fired boiler uses local thinnings to provide heat, WCs flush with rainwater, the insulation in the buildings is sheep's wool, a new car park was made using crushed concrete rather than new aggregates, and the car park ticket machine is solar powered.

Sheringham Park, Norfolk. © NTPL



The *Pioneer*, Brightlingsea, Essex: an historic boat restored to help young people learn about coastal heritage

The *Pioneer* is the only existing 1st Class Essex Oyster smack. Built in 1864 at Rowhedge, Essex, the *Pioneer* spent her working life dredging oysters off the Dutch coast. Following a major restoration project initiated and led by local volunteers, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), she is now helping a new generation to learn about the heritage of the River Colne and the coastal region of Essex. Young people have the opportunity to develop team and leadership skills on sailing trips as well as to learn about the history, geography and biology of the Essex coast. Learning resources are also being produced for use by secondary schools. The *Pioneer* was awarded the Transport Trust's coveted Restoration Award Certificate for 2003 in recognition of the high quality and authenticity of the restoration. She was restored in Brightlingsea, which was her original port.

The restored *Pioneer*'s maiden voyage on 2 August 2005, with members of a youth group from the Rowhedge Heritage Trust.
© Mervyn Maggs

C.2 SOCIAL BENEFITS

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 350,828 members in the East of England, English Heritage has 57,481 in this region, and the Civic Trust has 21,000. There are many local history societies covering villages, towns and counties, and 23 Building Preservation Trusts in the East of England.

Volunteers are involved in a wide range of activities including conservation work, fundraising and welcoming and guiding visitors to sites. The Visit Britain annual survey of historic properties in England reported in 2004 that there were 2,245 volunteers employed at the sites in the East of England responding to the survey, demonstrating the contribution volunteers make to keeping historic visitor attractions open. The National Trust has around 4,000 volunteers in the East of England.

The historic environment has great value as an educational resource for learners of all ages. In the East of England, 24,115 free educational visits were made to English Heritage sites, an increase of nearly two per cent over last year. Educational visits are made by schools, and also by higher education institutions and groups of young and adult informal learners. There were 45,230 formal learning visits to National Trust properties in the East of England.

A well cared for historic environment enhances people's well-being and their sense of pride in their surroundings. Access to countryside and green open space provides leisure and educational opportunities.

The East of England Historic Environment Forum

The East of England Historic Environment Forum (HEF) was founded in 2002 to provide an authoritative voice for the historic environment sector in the East of England. The HEF aims to inform and influence decision makers by promoting understanding and appreciation of the region's historic environment and its importance to the region's social, economic and environmental well-being. Our members come from a wide range of organisations. The HEF has one environmental stakeholder seat on the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA).

By April 2006, the East of England HEF intends to:

- Achieve HEF contributions to most of the major regional policy documents, such as the East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), and other documents.
- Gain more influence with key regional organisations such as EERA and EEDA.
- Identify key regional decision makers and improve their understanding of the HEF by the production of *Heritage Counts*.
- Use the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy to promote the importance of the historic environment.
- Produce some regional guidelines regarding Local Development Frameworks and the historic environment aimed at members of local authorities.



Heritage Counts 2005 is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the East of England Historic Environment Forum:

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Civic Trust
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- East of England Development Agency
- East of England Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
- East of England Tourist Board
- English Heritage
- Government Office for the East of England
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- Institute for Historic Building Conservation
- National Trust



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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