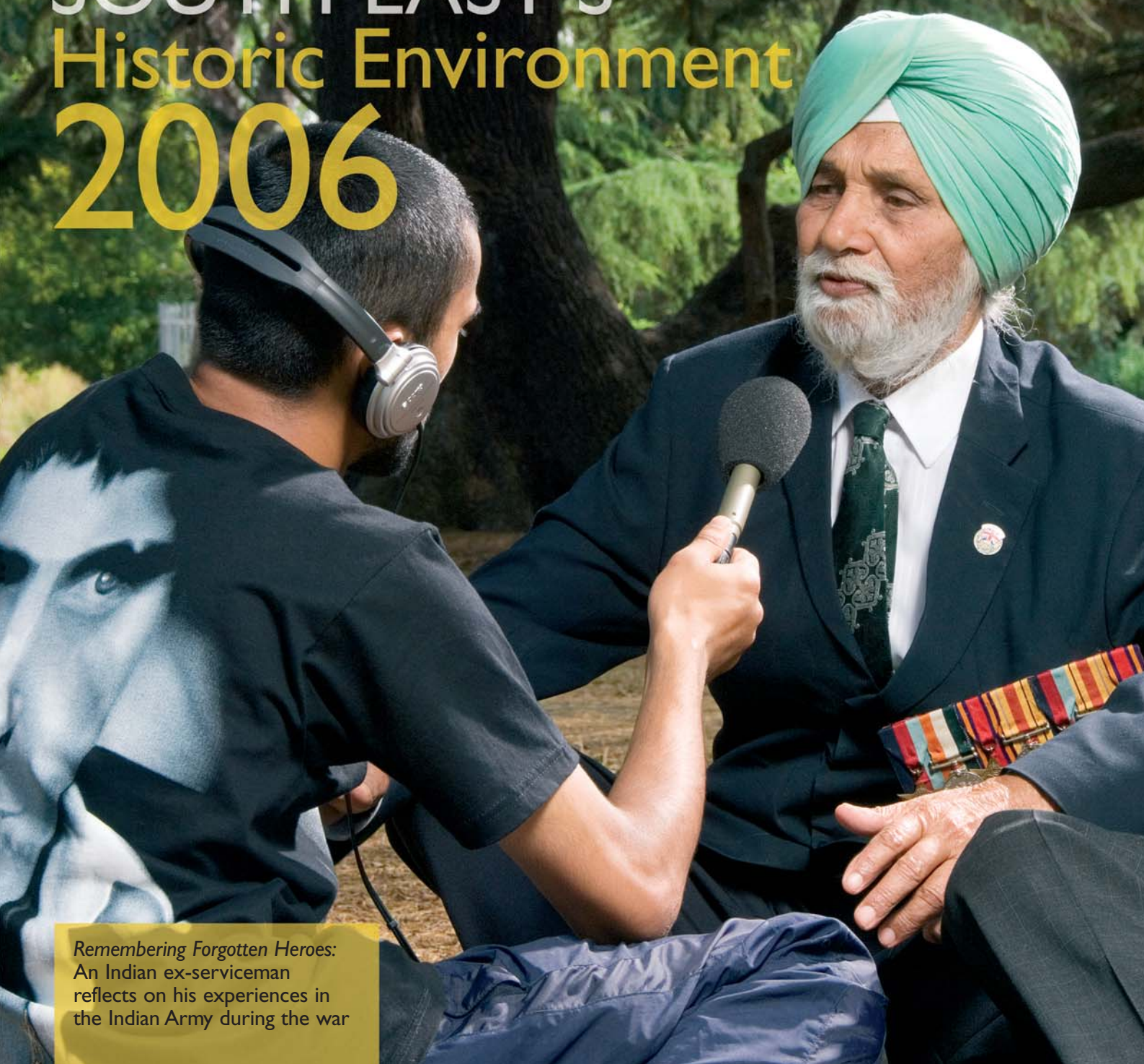


HERITAGE COUNTS

The State of the
SOUTH EAST'S
Historic Environment
2006



Remembering Forgotten Heroes:
An Indian ex-serviceman
reflects on his experiences in
the Indian Army during the war

HERITAGE COUNTS 2006

SOUTH EAST

Heritage Counts 2006 is the fifth annual survey of the state of the South East's historic environment. The report identifies the principal trends and challenges facing the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2006 on the role that *communities* play by valuing and engaging in the region's heritage. This document is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the South East Historic Environment Forum. It is supplemented by an in-depth edition, offering more detailed information on the regional context, case studies and initiatives featured here, alongside a full set of indicators for the historic environment. This is available on the www.heritagecounts.org.uk website and the two should be read in conjunction. Copies of the other regional and national Heritage Counts reports are also available at this site.

Heritage Counts 2006 is about people and places. Yes, Heritage Counts has an important role to play in capturing key trends and the vital statistics of the historic environment. But *Heritage Counts 2006* goes further than that. It captures, through a series of diverse case studies, the growing appreciation of the connection between the places that we count, monitor or celebrate and the people to whom they matter. In four crucial words, *Heritage Counts 2006* begins to convey how people and places are coming together to create more cohesive, sustainable communities. Innovative approaches to exploring what communities' **value** are illustrated on page 5. Moving up the ladder of involvement our centre-spread on community **participation** shows just some of the ways that communities use the historic environment for enjoyment or for skills and personal development. A third rung on the ladder,

engagement, sees communities giving back to the historic environment, often as volunteers. Finally, on the top rung, we have case studies showing how the historic environment is **regenerating** not only localities but also whole communities.

In 2001, the sector's publication *Power of Place* began a shift in the tectonic plates of historic environment management. *Heritage Counts 2006* shows for the first time how fundamental that shift has been. The historic environment community is learning how to harness the power of place to transform communities throughout the South East. We are still at the beginning of the journey, but the evidence is clear that, working in concert with local communities, the historic environment has a great deal to offer.

DR ANDY BROWN
CHAIR, SOUTH EAST HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM



IMAGES OF ENGLAND

Chris Tresise, from Kidlington in Oxfordshire, is one of many volunteers who have participated in English Heritage's *Images of England* Project. Begun in 1999 and involving more than 4,000 volunteers, the project aims to create a 'point in time' photographic record of England's listed buildings. Funded by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), there are over

280,000 images in the database. Chris has taken over 1,000 of these images since joining the project in 2001, including this one of St Michael and All Angels Church in Great Tew, Oxfordshire. www.imagesofengland.org.uk



COVER STORY Indian ex-servicemen and young people living in Slough worked with English Heritage Outreach to create the *Remembering Forgotten Heroes* touring exhibition in 2005. The project involved reflecting upon the significance of memorials in the South East of England, which commemorate the contribution of the Indian Army to both world wars. Members of Aik Saath young people's organisation interviewed the ex-servicemen about their lives and were subsequently inspired to apply to the HLF Young Roots programme to work with older people in oral history collection on the theme of Partition sixty years on.

DEFINING COMMUNITIES

'Community' means different things to different people. For some people their immediate local surroundings define their inclusion in a local community; for others, ethnic or religious beliefs define their membership of a given community. Equally, communities such as those formed around shared interests, class or nationality define people's perceptions or sense of belonging. The types of shared identity that can and do exist are numerous and varied and a single definition of the word community is therefore problematic.

Belonging to a certain community should not make it exclusive. Part of what the historic environment can achieve for communities is not just a greater appreciation of a shared past for those who already actively belong to a community, but also the wider dissemination of understanding about that group to those who are on the margins of it or outside of it, ensuring it is more inclusive and accessible.

The case studies featured in this section begin to highlight the powerful role the historic environment can have at the centre of community life and its impact not just within a given community, but in bringing differing communities together through appreciation of their varying cultures, histories and ways of life.

Local Authorities play a vital role in community life. They are the legitimate democratic body by which the different interests of various communities within a specific area can be reconciled and they have a vital role in 'place-shaping' by improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of an area and its communities.

There is currently a great focus in national and regional policy on building local communities. In the South East this is particularly prevalent with three major growth areas in the region and several other 'growth points' having been offered to government for consideration in 2006. There is sector-wide commitment to maximising the benefits of incorporating local history into the building of new communities in these areas. It helps create a sense of pride in the community and a shared sense of belonging, helping people identify with the place they live and with their neighbours. Equally, the historic environment has the power to alert a community to what is inspiring about its past and to enthuse them to cherish their local environment and feel engaged with it.

The sector is working both regionally and nationally with other cultural agencies to ensure appropriate levels of cultural provision are developed where new homes and



WORKING WITH YOUNG ROMANY GYPSIES

'Kushti Atchin Tan' means "good stopping place" in the Romany language. It is the name given to a short film created by young Romany Gypsy students, who are settled in Kent and attend Angley School in Cranbrook. This English Heritage Outreach project was inspired by a group of young Romanies, who wanted to share what they knew about their culture and to find out more about how it has evolved through time. From January to July 2006, eleven students took part in a variety of linked activities, including filming, oral history recording and craft workshops. At the same time they developed some of the technical skills involved in making a film, working alongside local film company 'Open Productions'. As one participant explained "they're better than normal lessons... 'cos you're getting to talk about your own things and get to talk about your own culture and people understand... feels proud for what I am". The project aims to raise awareness of Romany Gypsy culture in schools through developing teaching resources to accompany the film, in partnership with the Minority Communities Achievement Service at Kent County Council. These resources will be launched early in 2007 and will be given free to every school in Kent.

More information on other projects exploring the cultural identity of the Romany Gypsy communities in the South East, such as *The Living Album* in Hampshire, *Roads to your Past* in Surrey, and *Romani Roots* in West Sussex can be found in the web report at www.heritagecounts.org.uk

communities are built, and that culture is seen to be as vital as any other infrastructure requirements. The national *Where we live!* initiative is seeing the cultural sector work with a wide range of partners, including local authorities, planners and developers, to provide and support cultural provision that can change lives and communities for the better.

A CULTURE FRAMEWORK FOR THAMES GATEWAY NORTH KENT

English Heritage South East, other regional cultural bodies, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the South East England Development Agency, and several other partners, have been working together in the region on a groundbreaking initiative to help those responsible for planning the new communities to integrate culture into the regeneration and growth of the Thames Gateway North Kent. Launched in July 2006, *Sustainable Culture, Sustainable Communities* provides a rationale for investment in culture and a vision to guide future cultural development. The documentation can be accessed at www.seco.org.uk



Time Team investigations at Queenborough Castle



REGENERATION IN QUEENBOROUGH AND RUSHENDEN

Queenborough and Rushenden, on the Isle of Sheppey, are part of the Thames Gateway regeneration and growth area. In economic decline since the 1960s the area became run-down, deprivation levels increased and it suffered from a relative geographical isolation from mainstream services. Plans for regeneration and renewal have been established so that the new housing to be built will complement the existing and will build on the town's rich seafaring past.

The Masterplanning process has been exemplary. Through the dedicated work of the consultants undertaking the planning process (principally through the employment of a Community Development Project Officer), through new research by English Heritage and a Channel 4's *Time Team* programme at Queenborough Castle, and through various outreach projects by different agencies, this very deprived community has been able to discover its roots for the first time and has been encouraged to learn about and appreciate its rich history. The community has had the opportunity, through participation in *Planning for Real* seminars to discuss what is special about their community, what should be preserved, and what should be improved. Through engagement like this, the needs of both existing and new communities can be met, increasing pride in their environment and rich cultural heritage and delivering well-designed new homes that complement this rather than ignore it, thus providing a more cohesive and sustainable quality of life for all.

WHAT COMMUNITIES VALUE

The work of the historic environment sector is increasingly more varied, reflecting the ever expanding and evolving definition of what heritage really means and what we value about our past. The term *historic environment* itself recognises that the notion of heritage is broad and inclusive and embraces all forms of history and all cherished places. This can be seen through the diversifying work of the sector's partners: English Heritage and its outreach projects; the National Trust promoting local food; the HLF and its Local Heritage Initiative projects; Museums, Libraries and Archives South East (MLA South East) supporting and promoting community archives, and many more.

The sector has a responsibility to nurture and increase public interest in heritage. Very visible public interest can be seen in numerous ways, such as the popularity of television series like *Restoration*, *Who do you think you are?* and *TimeTeam*, through campaigns like *History Matters* and *Inspired!* and through the high numbers of visitors to historic attractions and sites in the region. They are highlighting just how passionate and enthused people can be about their past and the historic environment, as well as raising awareness that old buildings, particularly those that are at risk or have become functionally redundant, need to find viable uses in order to sustain them for the future.

These case studies highlight just some of the many forms of heritage that communities value and look at some of the ways in which heritage assets have reinvented themselves in order to play a key role at the heart of their communities in the twenty-first century. In addition, the text box on the work of the Heritage Lottery Fund begins to explore the concept of the 'public value' of heritage. Many other initiatives contributing to understanding the community value of heritage are further developed in the web report.

SLOUGH CITIZENS' JURY

The Heritage Lottery Fund has engaged in a series of Citizens' Juries to explore public views on heritage, identity and HLF funded projects. In the South East a Jury was held in Slough in which Jurors concluded that mutual understanding could be promoted through sharing and understanding heritage. The outcomes of the Juries are helping to shape and develop future priorities for the organisation and the sector and are explored in more depth in the web report at www.heritagecounts.org.uk



CREATING COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

There is currently great interest in bringing together collections of historic records based around communities and making them more widely available, often through very informative websites. Three excellent and varied examples in the South East are the *Living Archive* in Milton Keynes (pictured), *My Brighton and Hove* and *Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past*. Online use of archives is increasing significantly and all these projects are helping to broaden participation and use of archives by enabling communities to record, share and own their heritage. At the same time, the more local community archiving projects help to preserve unique heritage material created in the normal course of life of an individual, group or organisation. The collections can range from photographs, letters, documents and maps to oral history, film and sound recordings. Community archives also promote community identity, pride and ownership, with the process of creating the archive just as important as the end result – fostering understanding, tolerance and respect between different people in the community.

All the above projects are explored in the web report at www.heritagecounts.org.uk



ST GEORGE KEMP TOWN CHURCH, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX

The *Inspired!* campaign was launched in May 2006 and aims to focus attention on the future of historic places of worship, valued by so many local people. For many communities, the parish church or other place of worship is often both the most important and most easily visited of historic buildings and also a hub for community activities and services. Such places are often vulnerable and require additional funding to secure their future viability. Many churches have increased their outreach work and diversified the uses made of their church building in order to remain at the centre of their community and be financially viable. One example is Brighton St George Kemp Town, in the Diocese of Chichester. This Grade II listed church has converted almost the whole of their crypt to make a community centre, which is used by a variety of local groups, including MP's surgeries, dance classes, Weight Watchers, Yoga and various support groups including Alcoholics Anonymous and Sussex Refugee Anonymous. It has full disabled access and welcomes all faiths and all members of the community to participate in its activities. This broad and liberal attitude that embraces all of modern society has helped the church regain its position at the centre of the community.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



Participation in the historic environment can be taken as one of the principal outputs of an expression of interest in and the placing of value on heritage. English Heritage and MLA South East have been charged, through their Public Service Agreements with central government, to increase participation in heritage and museums by those people who have traditionally been under-represented. This means increasing the number of people from black and minority ethnic groups, from lower socio-economic groups and from those with a limiting disability, who visit historic environment sites and museums. To measure performance against these targets the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has commissioned a major national survey called Taking Part to measure public participation in all forms of cultural activity. The baseline targets, against which progress will be judged, will be established in late 2006, after a first full year of results are available.

Most agencies operating in the sector also undertake specific projects to increase participation in heritage by various groups in the community, particularly those who have traditionally not participated. For example, in museums, this is through the *Renaissance in the Regions* programme. At the National Trust it is through the work of the Community Learning and Volunteering Team.

OUTREACH AT THE VYNE, HAMPSHIRE

Thrive is a national charity, founded in 1978, that makes use of gardening to change the lives of disabled people. About three years ago, Thrive started working with the National Trust at The Wyne in Hampshire, sending two volunteers, Karen and Ryan, to work in the garden to gain experience for their NVQ Level 1 in Horticulture.

After completing their course, Karen and Ryan have now moved on. Stephen and Colin are now volunteering in their place. However, it is a testament to the success of the scheme that Karen continues to work at The Wyne as a volunteer in her own right.

The volunteers from Thrive gain confidence and social skills whilst at The Wyne. They are able to use their time there as a stepping-stone to employment and greater participation in community life. The gardening team at The Wyne also benefit. They were given training by Thrive and feel a sense of achievement – that they have given something back to the community by helping the volunteers to increase their life skills.

THE TAKING PART SURVEY

Heritage Counts 2006 is the first edition to be able to report on initial findings from this new DCMS continuous annual survey, designed to measure participation in cultural and sporting activities. Most of the data available are on a national basis and are reported fully in the national *Heritage Counts 2006* report, alongside any caveats on how the data should be interpreted. Some of the most important results for the region are:

- Based on the first three quarters of data from the Taking Part survey, **the participation rate in the South East is the highest of any region with about 76% of adults attending at least one historic environment site during the last 12 months.** This is significantly higher than the national average participation rate of about 69%. These higher participation rates could be explained at least in part by population characteristics, such as a higher proportion of adults from higher socio-economic groups living in the generally more affluent South East.
- **Attendance at historic environment sites by priority groups (as defined by DCMS) is significantly lower:** 48% of adults from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, 58% of adults with a limiting disability, and 56% of adults from lower socio-economic groups attended a site.
- In addition, the first three quarters of data indicate that about **44% of the South East adult population visited at least one museum or gallery in the last twelve months**, a higher percentage than any other region outside London. 7% of adults in the South East use archives at least once a year, a higher percentage than in any other region.
- The national data suggest that for those who do not attend historic environment sites at all, the three main reasons are that they are not really interested (30%), it is hard to find the time (29%), and their health is not good enough (15%).

The **English Heritage Outreach Department** was established in 2003 to run community-based projects that would encourage new audiences to actively explore their local heritage. Projects foster a sense of pride and identity and help to build stronger communities. They help people to learn about, care for and enjoy the history that surrounds them. The projects are run in partnership with other local organisations and they aim to increase the skills and confidence of those who take part. Of vital importance to each project is its sustainability, ensuring that work begun through the project can be sustained once English Heritage involvement has ended. In the South East, 5 projects have been run since 2003, involving 130 people directly and 2,200 people as visitors to exhibitions and events.

The **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** has numerous grant schemes that promote the care of various different elements of the historic environment. They currently have two different schemes particularly aimed at community-based projects to increase participation in local heritage, *Your Heritage* and *Young Roots*. For the last seven years, the HLF has also run the Local Heritage Initiative scheme which has seen hundreds of small community group projects investigate and explain their local heritage, landscapes, traditions and cultures, galvanising the local people into cooperative action.

Through various innovations and projects involving other agencies, such as *Heritage Open Days*, the *History Matters* campaign, *National Archaeology Week*, and *Museums and Galleries Month*, the sector is reaching out and broadening participation in heritage. The case studies provide just a small example of the wealth of initiatives that help to show the impact of the sector's work; some others are highlighted in the Heritage Counts web report.



TIDE MILLS, EAST SUSSEX

Tide Mills between Newhaven and Seaford in East Sussex, was the largest tidal mill in the county in the 19th century and as such represents an important part of local history. However, it had been sadly neglected since it was effectively destroyed by the Royal Artillery, at

the beginning of World War Two as part of the coastal defence strategy. Sussex Probation's Community Punishment Unit brought this site to the attention of English Heritage Outreach in 2003 and since then they have been working in partnership to reveal and interpret the site for the public, involving over 50 ex-offenders in the process.

Community Punishment, now called Unpaid Work, aims to develop community service, by involving offenders in projects that have a focus on increasing their personal skills and employability. To work in and care for the historic environment has proved to be an excellent way to offer a more meaningful experience for ex-offenders. Developing graphic interpretation panels for the site has provided opportunities for some participants to find out more about the historic environment and develop useful research skills, basic ICT and presentation skills, invaluable for future employment. In spring 2006 a new phase to the project began with the Sussex Archaeological Society involving local people and ex-offenders in an in-depth archaeological survey of the site.



Residents of the Pan Estate in Newport participate in the Heritage Champions project, designing the 2005 HODs leaflet for the Isle of Wight

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days (HODs) is England's largest voluntary cultural event. On four days every September, properties, activities and sites, that are often closed to the public or charge admission, can be accessed free of charge. The event is co-ordinated nationally by the Civic Trust, in partnership with English Heritage, who core fund it.

In the South East, English Heritage has run a total of 5 Heritage Open Days special projects since 2003, involving 120 people directly and 5,000 people as new visitors. The team work towards expanding the cultural offer of HODs, through widening access, understanding and enjoyment of all aspects of England's Heritage, principally in areas where there has previously been little activity.

In 2006, English Heritage South East focussed on increasing the profile and participation in HODs on the Isle of Wight and in Milton Keynes. In 2005, over 20 sites opened on the Isle of Wight for the first time and English

Heritage has continued its support to ensure this involvement was ongoing in 2006. In addition, the team also started to develop the profile of HODs in Milton Keynes, to offer access to its diverse heritage. Working in partnership with Milton Keynes Council and Milton Keynes Heritage Association a gradual process of raising awareness began, which resulted in the registration of 15 sites and events taking part in HODs 2006. The total number of visitors involved in HODs in the region increases each year with 200,000 people visiting Heritage Open Days events in the South East in 2005.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A community's engagement with its historic environment is often about much more than visiting a heritage site. In fact, the role that communities play in helping the sector to manage the historic environment is immense, in particular the contribution made by the many thousands of volunteers working in the region. The exact number of volunteers supporting the sector is difficult to ascertain. However, this year the *Taking Part Survey* has attempted to measure the number of volunteers engaged in the historic environment nationally. In addition, we know that the National Trust, the largest heritage charity in the country to benefit from the work of volunteers, had a workforce of over 47,000 volunteers nationally in 2005-06, 7,500 of which are in the South East alone.

Volunteer engagement with the sector takes many forms, from specific projects designed by larger organisations like the National Trust, right through to small, local groups engaging with the planning process on behalf of their community. The capacity of both the voluntary sector and the public authorities they seek to engage with is limited, however, and worthwhile engagement relies on establishing effective working relationships between them.

Historic Environment Champions are local authority elected members that play a vital role in bridging communication between the two. Their contribution to increasing the capacity of local authorities and promoting popular public support for heritage within local authorities is explored in the web report and through a case study provided by Councillor Chantal Wilson of Wealden District Council. The case studies identified here showcase some other best practice in community volunteers engaging with the effective management of their local historic environment.

YATELEY PARISH PLAN

The local community of Yateley, Hampshire, is creating a parish plan to articulate its own aspirations for the town's future. The community is exploring its local history and what is of value to them, and ensuring that this is translated into the plan and informs any future development or change there. It is just one of many being created across the region but is a particularly good example of a community passionately engaged with its history and working to ensure its value is properly articulated within the planning system.



CHIP: A COMMUNITY HERITAGE INITIATIVE PROJECT

This two-year project aimed to encourage the local community to engage with

its built heritage through carrying out conservation area studies and appraisals. Using funds from its Capacity Building funding, English Heritage South East worked in partnership with Elmbridge Borough Council (Surrey) and consultants The Conservation Studio, to design a programme that would allow local volunteers direct input into strategic planning within their local community. Workshop events took place in which members of the community undertook study tours to assess the special qualities within four conservation areas under demonstrable development pressure. The heritage consultants consolidated all the findings into conservation area appraisal documents, which were explored and refined further in subsequent workshops, through public consultation and through a public exhibition.

The four completed Conservation Area Appraisals were reported to the council cabinet and are now being used by planners and councillors as a basis for understanding and managing the areas. In addition feedback from local participants has fed into the development of a methodology framework that will allow other communities across the region to undertake conservation area appraisals in the same way. English Heritage South East will also be publishing guidance on the project in autumn 2006.



WESTERN HEIGHTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY, DOVER

The Western Heights Preservation Society is just one example of the numerous voluntary groups

that exist to protect vital parts of local heritage in the region that would otherwise fall into dereliction and greater decay. Western Heights consists of some of the finest military architecture in the country – remnants of the strategic role that Dover has played in the country's long defensive history. The society is vital to its preservation and was set up to help combat anti-social behaviour issues associated with the site and improve its general condition. The society regularly runs work days to help clear and maintain the site and holds open days and 'fort' days so that members of the local community can learn about the site and have a rare opportunity to visit inside the fort buildings.

COMMUNITY REGENERATION

The historic environment's contribution to the regeneration of communities and places has long been advocated and significant sums of funding available to the sector have been awarded for this very purpose. English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have operated area-based enhancement schemes to kick-start the regeneration process in priority areas, such as Gravesend. Similarly, grants to individual buildings have inspired renewed vigour and prosperity in some communities, such as the restoration of the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill. Projects on a more local level can also have a significant impact on a given community as the case study here exemplifies.

Central to the regeneration and renewal of local places has been the need to promote the benefits of finding viable economic uses for historic buildings. In the South East this has been particularly important due to the high demand for housing. Successful schemes incorporating substantial historic buildings have been seen in places such as Royal Clarence Yard in Gosport. In parallel to this, however, it has also been important to recognise that there will always be a demand for new buildings – the architecture of today leaving its own legacy as the heritage of tomorrow. The sector has worked hard to promote *building in context* so that new buildings are designed to complement the old. In 2006, a new book called *Shared Interest* was published that celebrated constructive conservation and heritage-led regeneration in places such as Oxford Castle. The Pallant House example explored here is another example of the sector embracing innovative new design in an historic area to strengthen the viability of an existing asset and secure its long-term future.



THE SPIKE, GUILDFORD

The Spike in Guildford, originally a workhouse hostel for the poor, was built at the turn of the 20th Century, one of over five hundred erected as a result of the Poor Laws introduced in 1834. The building was designed to provide extremely basic hostel accommodation, thereby stopping vagrants from sleeping rough. Following the repeal of the Poor Laws in the 1930s, it continued as a hostel for the homeless until the end of the 1960s when it was adopted as part of St Luke's Hospital, which itself closed in 1996. The former hospital's setting, located close to Guildford town centre, has been the site of extensive new housing development in the last decade. The Spike was saved before demolition could take place, however, having been recognised as the only remaining workhouse hostel in the country to retain original stone-breaking cells in situ – one of the many grim tasks the inhabitants could be expected to undertake.

Thanks to the dedication of the Charlotteville Jubilee Trust, who now own the site, a grant of almost £1.2 million from the HLF, and contributions from SITA Trust, Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council, the Spike is being fully renovated and restored, creating a combined community and heritage centre for local people and visitors alike. The project is demonstrating not only the viable economic uses that can be achieved with heritage assets but also the numerous benefits they can bring to the local people who use them.

DESIGNING NEW BUILDINGS IN HISTORIC AREAS, WEST SUSSEX

English Heritage promotes constructive conservation, heritage-led regeneration and building in context. With imagination and skill, old buildings can be given positive futures appropriate to their history and setting and new buildings can be designed in historic areas to complement the existing assets, uniting the finest of old and new architecture to leave an inspiring legacy for future generations.

The historic core of Chichester has some 350 listed buildings, one of which is the Grade I Pallant House. In order to secure the future viability of the Pallant House Gallery and to accommodate its expanding activities the trustees commissioned a new extension. The resultant building unites the new wing with the old house in a scheme that preserves the setting and architectural quality of the old house. It provides the gallery with fully accessible facilities, increased revenue opportunities and a dedicated learning space that permits the expansion of the gallery's outreach programme, engaging more people from the local community. Historic places need to be used and adapting them to modern uses and adding a further layer of heritage for the future is one of the best ways to secure the future of an important building and to sustain its use in the longer term.

More information on both case studies is available in the web report at www.heritagecounts.org.uk.

COMMUNITY PROSPERITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

The historic environment has a key role to play in enhancing the prosperity of communities and places. This is recognised in a variety of regional strategies such as the Regional Economic Strategy and the South East Plan. Investment in the historic environment can contribute directly to economic prosperity through the provision of jobs and through bringing about increased tourism activity. It can also contribute indirectly by giving a place local distinctiveness and character, thereby increasing the quality of life it offers and its attractiveness to businesses and the highly skilled workforce they need. The South East is considered an affluent area and the key challenge for the region is to maintain this relative prosperity, in the face of pressures to accommodate population growth, whilst also minimising environmental impact. The sector welcomed the emphasis that the new Regional Economic Strategy placed on the contribution of the historic environment as a key component to quality of life and that this in turn is fundamental to the region's continued success.

Local authorities have a major role to play in enhancing the economic, social and environmental well-being of the communities they serve. One way in which they are expected to do this is through the on-going development of their Local Area Agreement and the work of the Local Strategic Partnership. The sector needs to ensure that the benefits of the historic environment are recognised within these forums in order to play its full role in the development of local place making. West Sussex is one example of an area that has recognised and embraced the rich contribution heritage makes to its quality of life. The county has included outcomes to maximise its potential in their Local Area Agreement and through research into the sector's economic contribution to the county – this is explored in the web report at www.heritagecounts.org.uk. The case studies here examine the impact of local projects on communities' economic, social and environmental well being and quality of life.



'A CELEBRATION OF YARMOUTH'S HISTORY, ISLE OF WIGHT

The local community of Yarmouth, led by the Yarmouth and Thorley Community Partnership, is transforming the fortunes of

its town through a heritage and tourism inspired initiative. This community group have secured almost £25,000 in funding from the HLF Local Heritage Initiative programme with further contributions from English Heritage and other local partners. The project focuses on improving the appearance of the town and in particular the castle. The community investigated, then constructed a chronological history of the town and used this in workshops with almost 200 people to translate the history into a mural. These were complemented by a series of smaller ones depicting individual events in the town's past, created by local school children. They will feature in a recently re-surfaced lane leading up to the castle and will culminate in a wrought-iron ornamental arch installed at the castle entrance. Other aspects of the project include the creation of a heritage trail of ceramic plaques around the town highlighting major historic buildings and the creation of a small guidebook. The castle itself will also undergo some renovation and improved interpretation. An exhibition charting the history of the castle will be created and this will even include reference to a little-known historic shipwreck site off the coast of the town. The project is helping to put Yarmouth Castle back on the map, boost visitor numbers and increase the town's prosperity by adding fun, informative touches to local history.

FORBURY GARDENS, READING

The prosperity of a place is not determined purely by economics; wider social and environmental factors also contribute to an overall sense of well being and quality of life. The regeneration of an historic urban park in Reading has brought about major benefits to a whole community and opened up a previously neglected green space. The Grade II registered Forbury Gardens have had a long and rich history as part of the Reading Abbey complex and the pleasure gardens, originally laid out in the 1850s, were awarded a grant of £2.13million by the HLF in 2004 for their complete restoration. Work has seen the historic features of the park, which include an ornamental fountain, a Maiwand Lion, and a quintessentially English bandstand, returned to their former glory, alongside landscaping improvements and conservation of the abbey ruins. The wider Forbury Square Quarter has undergone extensive change and regeneration at the same time. The overall scheme placed a focus on improvements to the public realm and enhanced safety and access to the area as a whole. The gardens themselves are now used by a wider sector of the community and quality of life issues that had affected the area, such as anti-social behaviour, have been alleviated.

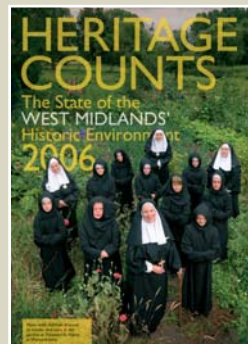
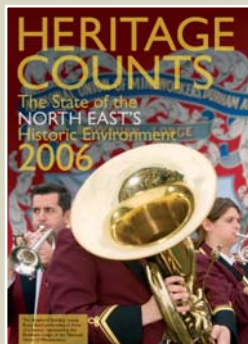
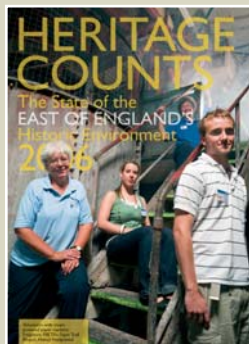
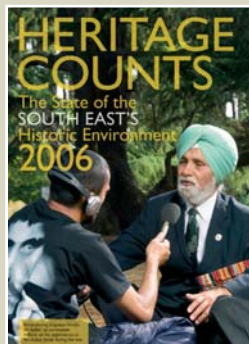
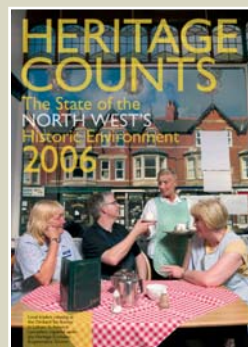
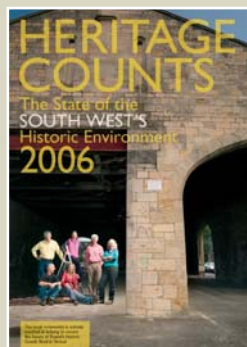
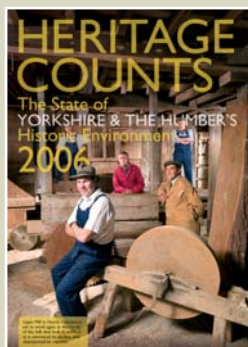
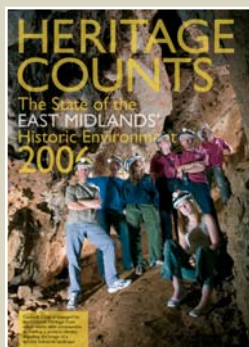
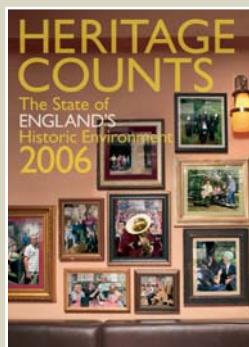
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT KEY INDICATORS

An in-depth analysis of all indicator data, often at local authority level, and trends over the last twelve months is available in the online web report which accompanies this executive summary at www.heritagecounts.org.uk
Some of the key headlines in 2006 include:

- Numbers of designated heritage assets remain constant with modest increases in the numbers of listed buildings.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES	2	CONSERVATION AREAS	2,097
LISTED BUILDINGS TOTAL	76,350	REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS	6
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	1,762	PROTECTED WRECK SITES	17
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	3,877	AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY	9
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	70,678	NATIONAL PARKS	1
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	2,647	DESIGNATED HERITAGE COASTLINE	5 areas or 72km
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	369	ANCIENT WOODLAND	123,600ha approx

- A total of 26 entries were removed from the English Heritage Buildings at Risk register in 2006, the highest number ever to be removed in any region in a single year. The South East now has the second highest number of entries of all the regions; in every previous year the region had the highest. The South East has removed more entries from the 1999 baseline register than any other region. The region still has by far the greatest conservation deficit remaining, indicating that in excess of £91 million would be required to remove all entries from the register.
- Following on from an East Midlands pilot study, the scheduled monuments of the South East region have been surveyed in 2006 to examine their vulnerability and determine priorities for their management in the future. Initial data reveal that problems ranging from extensive to minor were noted at a total of 82% of sites, with extensive problems at 9% of these and a further 9% in a currently unsatisfactory condition. Just 17% were deemed to be in optimal condition.
- Calculating the overall levels of employment the historic environment sector provides in the region is difficult, though some statistics are available to give a good indication. In May/June 2006, figures indicate that English Heritage, the National Trust, the Historic Houses Association and the museums and archives sector together directly provided over 9,000 jobs in the region. In addition the sector benefits from employees working in traditional construction and craft skills, in local authority historic environment services, in tourism (national figures indicate an average of 46 staff per attraction) and many more.
- The HLF has awarded a total of 2,263 grants since 1995, the highest number of any region. This represents funding of £313,565,827. This sum includes over £6 million towards 'intangible' heritage projects including the Local Heritage Initiative scheme that has benefited so many local communities across the region and over £8million to the Your Heritage grant programme.
- English Heritage offered £2,860,000 of grant in 2005/06 in the region, approximately 34% of which was awarded for repairs to Places of Worship.
- The South East has 13 more Historic Environment Champions than in 2005, a new total of 38, which means 51% of all local authorities in the region now have a champion.
- The South East had the highest level of attendance at historic environment sites during the last twelve months of any region, with about 76% of adults attending in the region compared to about 69% of adults nationally. 44% of the South East adult population visited at least one museum or gallery in the last twelve months, the second highest proportion of any region behind London, and 7% of the South East adult population visited at least one archive, a higher proportion than any other region.
- In 2005, the National Trust benefited from the work of 7,494 volunteers in the South East, who contributed a total of 412,000 man-hours and saved the NT approximately £2.56 million. MLA South East estimates that at least 7,000 volunteers contributed to the running of the region's museums.
- In 2005-06, English Heritage welcomed 186,923 free educational visitors to its South East properties, an increase of 3,000 since the previous year. The National Trust hosted 48,704 individual educational visitors. The Historic Houses Association had 30 formal educational programmes running at its properties in the South East. MLA South East calculated that at least 400,000 South East school children used museums between 2002 and 2004.



South East Historic Environment Forum Partners:

Association of Gardens Trusts
 Association of Preservation Trusts (APT)
 Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO)
 Civic Trust South East
 Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)
 Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
 Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
 Countryside Agency/Rural Development Service – now Natural England
 English Heritage (EH)
 Government Office for the South East (GOSE)
 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)
 Historic Houses Association (HHA)
 Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC)
 Museums, Libraries and Archives South East (MLA South East)
 National Trust (NT)
 Regional Action and Involvement South East (RAISE)
 South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
 South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA)
 Tourism South East (TSE)

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