

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2008

SOUTH  
EAST

## 1 THE VYNE, HAMPSHIRE ▲

In July of 2007, the Vyne in Hampshire was just one of numerous historic properties that suffered from severe flood damage. Precipitation levels for the period were the highest since records began in 1766 and large areas of Oxfordshire and Berkshire were affected. The South East Historic Environment Forum has produced a new publication looking at the impacts of climate change on our heritage as an adjunct to this *Heritage Counts 2008* South East report. It can be downloaded at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

*Heritage Counts 2008* is the seventh annual survey offering headline information on the state of the South East's historic environment. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the South East Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2008* report, available at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) where further detailed statistics relating to the South East region can also be found.



## REGIONAL INDICATORS FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

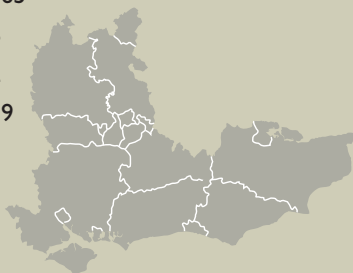
### HERITAGE ASSETS

Regionally, numbers of designated historic assets in April 2008 were:

ASSETS	TOTAL 2008
WORLD HERITAGE SITES	2
LISTED BUILDINGS TOTAL	75,945
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	1,710
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	3,839
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	70,396
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	2,642
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	365
REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS	6
CONSERVATION AREAS	2,102
PROTECTED WRECK SITES	19
AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY	9
NATIONAL PARKS	1
DESIGNATED HERITAGE COASTLINE	5 AREAS OF 72KM
ANCIENT WOODLAND	123,6000HA APPROX

English Heritage has cleared up outstanding listing cases over 2007/08, many of them dating from 2002 onwards. As a result the figures presented here for 2008 are not directly comparable with the figures presented in *Heritage Counts 2007*. Full breakdown of assets by local authority area is available in the web report at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

- 75,945
- 2,642
- 365
- 6
- 2
- 19



The draft Heritage Protection Bill will require local authorities to maintain or have access to a Historic Environment Record (HER), formerly a Sites and Monuments Record. HERs are information services that provide access to resources relating to the historic environment of a particular administrative area and are normally at unitary or county level. The draft Bill states that HERs should be accessible and the key means of doing this is by having it online. As of summer 2008, only **three** areas in the South East had a HER online, some way short of the target to have 50% of HERs online by 2010.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) was a tool developed in the mid-1990s to help describe the historic character of places as they are today and how past changes have shaped their present-day appearance. It is used to help in spatial planning, informing appropriate levels of change that will not destroy a place's distinctive character. In 2002 the mapping stage of HLC projects had been completed in local authorities covering about 52% of the land area of the South East region. By 2008, characterisation projects had been completed in local authorities covering about 86% of the land area of the South East.

### Planning

Planning data can be used as an indicator of the development pressures that might be affecting the historic environment. Data from the CLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) indicates that the South East region consistently registers the highest number of applications. In the South East, the numbers of applications for Listed Building Consent in 2007/08 rose by 4.1% on 2006/07. Scheduled Monument Consent decisions in the South East are still the highest number of any region and account for almost a fifth of applications in England. Between 2006/07 and 2007/08 the number of Conservation Area Consent decisions rose by 13% from 530 to 601. There were 188 planning applications affecting Registered Parks and Gardens in the South East in 2007/08, down by nearly 13% on the previous year.

### Funding

Despite significant reductions in its funding resource, the Heritage Lottery Fund remains the largest source of funding to the sector. Since 1994 it has made a total of **3,296** awards in the South East totalling **£416,371,981**.

**2** THE MARY ROSE, PORTSMOUTH ▶  
The Mary Rose, Henry VIII's favourite ship, is one of 60 vessels of national significance that form the core collection of *The National Register of Historic Vessels* (NRHV), 18 of which are located in the South East region. In January 2008, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded £21 million to the creation of a purpose built museum at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to properly house the old warship.



### 3 COBHAM MAUSOLEUM ▶

Cobham Mausoleum reopened to the public in September 2008 during an open day organised by the Cobham and Ashenbank Management Scheme <http://www.cobhampark.org.uk/> after a £4.9 million restoration project supported by many partners, including Gravesham Borough Council, the HLF and English Heritage. The day provided an opportunity for people to see the project before the site is handed over to the National Trust and Cobham Hall and received well over one thousand visitors.



Although nationally the total grant awarded in 2007/08 was the lowest in value since 1995/96, this was not the case for the South East region, probably because of large grants awarded to the *Mary Rose* (Portsmouth), *Great Dixter* (East Sussex) and *Tudor House* (Southampton). In every region, however, including the South East, the number of awards actually made dropped dramatically over the last two years from peak numbers in 2005/06.

English Heritage grant expenditure in 2007/08 in the region was £2,468,000, a reduction of £169,000 in actual spend since 2006/07 (although this takes no account of inflation increases in the period).

#### Skills

The *Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme* was established in 2006 through HLF funding to award bursaries for work-based training placements in traditional building craft skills until 2010. **Seven** such placements have now been facilitated in the South East region, out of a national total of 31 placements, with **£108,750** awarded to placements in carpentry, stonemasonry, plastering and painting and decorating.

#### Participation

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) *Taking Part* Survey 2006/07 indicates that about **75%** of all adults in the region attended at least one historic environment site in the last twelve months. This is significantly higher than the national participation rate of about 69% and is higher than the level in any other region. The higher participation in the South East is probably due in part to the socio-economic demographics of the region and the concentration of historic sites. The study also reports that over the two years of the survey **93.4%** of people in the South East agreed or strongly agreed that it is important to save historic features and **72.1%** responded that they had an interest or a strong interest in the local history of the place where they live.

The *Taking Part* Survey 2006/07 also indicates that **45.1%** of the regional adult population visited at least one museum in the twelve month period 2006/07 and **4.9%** visited at least one archive.

See table below ▼

#### Volunteering

The National Trust had **10,759** volunteers across the South East and London in 2007/08. This number of volunteers has increased by 27% since last year and by 59.5% since 2002/03 and equates to 20.4% of all National Trust volunteers in England.

#### Education

The National Trust received **49,089** educational visitors to its properties in the South East and Thames and Solent regions in 2007/08 (which includes London properties). English Heritage received **163,522** educational visitors to its South East properties in 2007/08. The Historic Houses Association estimates that it received **158,858** educational visitors to its open properties in 2007.

Museums, Libraries and Archives South East have undertaken research to record the number of schools using museums in the academic year 2006/07. It revealed that: **11,400** groups of students visited the 265 Registered or Accredited museums in the South East; over **790** museum staff carried out visits to schools; over **1,800** collections were loaned to schools; **1,820** primary schools took part in some form of museum learning in the region (**66.7%** of all primary schools in the region) and **275** secondary schools (**57%** of all secondary schools in the region).

	REGIONAL VISITOR NUMBERS	REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP
HISTORIC HOUSES REGION ASSOCIATION	4,111,228 (TO 102 REGULARLY OPENED PROPERTIES IN 2007)	241 MEMBER HOUSES AND 5,392 FRIENDS
NATIONAL TRUST	4,259,830 (ACROSS SOUTH EAST AND THAMES & SOLENT IN FEBRUARY 2007 – FEBRUARY 2008, 31.7% OF ALL VISITORS IN ENGLAND)	1,170,268 (ACROSS SOUTH EAST AND THAMES & SOLENT IN JUNE 2008, A 4.6% INCREASE SINCE FEB 2007 AND 33.9% OF ALL NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS IN ENGLAND)
ENGLISH HERITAGE	1,037,700 (TO STAFFED PROPERTIES IN 2007/08, 20% OF ALL VISITORS NATIONALLY)	168,000 IN 2008 (UP 7.7% FROM 2007 AND ABOUT A QUARTER OF ALL ENGLISH HERITAGE MEMBERS)

## 4 WRECKS AT RISK: SUBMARINE, HMS / MAI ▶

An audit of England's protected wreck sites was carried out in 2007 in order to understand better their current condition and vulnerability as part of the *Heritage at Risk* project. The survey found that of the 19 protected wreck sites off the coast of South East England, six are considered to be at high risk and four at medium risk from damage, decay or loss, unless action is taken. The Submarine, HMS/MAI is one of the wrecks at high risk. Built by Vickers in 1903 and sitting in the Eastern Solent, the MAI was the first British-designed and built submarine used by the Royal Navy. She sank for the second time in 1911 while operating under automatic pilot as a submerged target. The site has been subject to damaging unauthorised dives. The new register of *Protected Wreck Sites at Risk* will draw attention to those most at risk and help prioritise resource towards solutions that ensure their value and significance is maintained for future generations.



## THE HERITAGE AT RISK PROGRAMME

The first edition of the new *Heritage at Risk* register was published in July 2008. It is intended to be a Domesday Book style inventory of the threatened parts of our cities, towns and countryside. It includes specific data on Grade I and II\* buildings at risk, registered battlefields and protected wreck sites at risk. Initial research into other asset types, such as scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens, has also been carried out and it is intended that over the course of the next few years the register will be expanded as sites are assessed in more detail. The register's primary purpose will be to analyse the sites most at risk and help to prioritise the resources needed to bring them back into good repair and beneficial use.

Grade I and II\* buildings and structural scheduled monuments at risk have been monitored annually since 1999 through the *Buildings at Risk Register*. In 2008, there were 169 entries on the register, five fewer than in 2007. Of the region's 5,549 Grade I and II\* buildings, 104 or 1.9% are considered to be at risk, the second lowest percentage of all the

regions. In 1999, the South East had 233 entries on the register. Overall, the region has succeeded in finding solutions for 101 entries, with some new sites having been added to the register in that time. Those that remain from the original register are often the most intractable to solve and are most commonly former defence sites.

At the time of survey there were 2,629 scheduled monuments in the South East and of these 1,353 or 51% were classified as at risk. Of these, 16% were at high risk and 36% at medium risk. This compares with the national figure of 21% at high risk. Of the medium risk monuments, however, 40% are classified as in decline and are therefore likely to become high risk if no management action is taken in the near future.

Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, eight are considered to be at high risk and ten at moderate risk. Of these, there is one at high risk in the South East, the site of the first Battle of Newbury in West Berkshire. It is at risk principally from renewed development pressures for housing. The five other battlefield sites in the region are deemed to be at low risk.

The at risk register for registered parks and gardens draws on a suite of indicators that were selected to describe change (whether beneficial or detrimental), active conservation planning and neglect. Of the 365 registered parks and gardens in the South East region, 8% are considered to be at high risk and 28% at medium risk. Development and neglect are the two major challenges for most at risk sites, particularly where ownership of sites is fragmented.

## 5 THE HAMMERHEAD CRANE, COWES ▶

The Cowes crane, which dates from 1911, is now the only surviving hammerhead crane in England and, after the Titan crane on Clydeside, is the second oldest worldwide. It was added to the *Buildings at Risk Register* in 2008 because of its unique history as a witness to major local industry. It is now disused and surrounded by a potential development site. Discussions between English Heritage, the owners, the local council and the newly created Cowes Hammerhead Crane Trust are now well underway to agree a sustainable future for the crane.



## 6 COASTAL TOWNS ▶

*Heritage Counts South East 2007* reported on the importance of regenerating the region's many coastal towns, and highlighted the new English Heritage policy for coastal towns and the South East Coastal Framework, developed by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and partners. The momentum has continued in 2008 with the announcement of a new grant programme called Sea Change. Sea Change, administered by CABE, is a three year programme funded by government to drive cultural and creative regeneration and economic development in seaside resorts, by investing in arts, public space, cultural assets and heritage projects. Dover was awarded £3.8 million in the first year of the large grants scheme. In order to improve visitor access and to foster a mutually more productive relationship between the town and the castle, plans for a possible cable car between the town and the castle will be developed. Other resort towns across the South East have also applied for smaller scale funding for cultural projects in this first year.



## KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Key policy developments particularly relevant to the heritage sector in the South East over the last twelve months include:

### Climate change

Climate change is now widely regarded as one of the biggest challenges facing the world in the 21st century and action is needed at global, national, regional and local level. Globally, the UK is pledged under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-12. Nationally, domestic goals have also been set and the UK will be the first country to establish in legislation its goal of becoming a low-carbon economy.

At the regional level, a key partnership of public, private and voluntary organisations work together through the **Climate South East** partnership and the South East England Regional Assembly has worked with partners to produce the **Regional Sustainability Framework**, which sets out an overall vision for how the region can achieve sustainable development. A key part of delivering this will be to stabilise

and reduce the region's ecological footprint, which is the highest in the UK. The heritage sector and the historic environment are acknowledged as playing a role in this.

At a local level it is fully recognised that individual actions can have a cumulative impact on meeting regional and national targets, particularly through modifications to personal behaviour.

For the historic environment, issues of how to adapt to the predicted changes and how to mitigate contributions to emissions are the key challenges, and of particular interest is the energy-efficiency of the built environment. The sector is keen to express caution against costly and harmful alterations to historic buildings that make little economic sense and would not be consistent with the character of a historic property.

The South East Historic Environment Forum has produced an adjunct to this report, **Our Heritage in a Changing Climate – South East**. It explores the issue of climate change on the historic environment of the South East, and is aimed at owners and managers of historic sites and properties. It explores the threats posed by climate

change, explains some of the ways in which we can appropriately respond to them, and signposts the most relevant policy, guidance and resources that will inspire owners and managers to develop their own appropriate solutions. It is available to download at [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

### Draft Heritage Protection Bill

In April 2008 the draft Bill for Heritage Protection Reform was published. The Bill will replace the provisions of four Acts of Parliament relating to the historic environment with the aim of clarifying the system and making it more efficient and inclusive. The principal provisions of the draft Bill include creating a unified register of all heritage assets; a unified consents process for assets; introducing Heritage Partnership Agreements; and, making Historic Environment Records statutory. Other provisions will ensure the processes for designating heritage assets are also more open and participatory. If the Bill is enacted on schedule in the 2008/09 legislative session, reforms would be implemented incrementally from 2010 onwards. [http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/5075.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5075.aspx)

## 7 HARVEYS BREWERY, LEWES ▶

The floods of October 2000 in Lewes damaged over 800 properties in the town centre, many of them listed and within the conservation area, causing over £80m worth of damage.



## Local Government improvement

The government published its strategy a *Passion for Excellence* in March 2008. The strategy is designed to support Local Government in their work to deliver better cultural and sports services to local people. It sets out a framework for improvement in the culture and sport sector and includes the mechanisms and tools to support self-improvement. It also clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of all the major stakeholders in the culture and sport sector in terms of delivering the strategy. English Heritage is representing the sector in delivering the strategy. Soon afterwards the Hodge Review also announced plans to change the way the DCMS's four key Non-Departmental Public Bodies work in the region and the replacement of regional cultural consortiums. The new structure will improve collaboration between agencies and increase their ability to influence and work with local authorities, and support them in their efforts to encourage participation and higher satisfaction with cultural activities. English Heritage will be a key partner in the renewed cultural partnership from 2009 onwards.

## The Heritage Lottery Fund Third Strategic Plan

In April 2008 the Heritage Lottery Fund published its third strategic plan *Valuing our heritage; investing in our future*, which set out its strategy for the next five years. The strategy confirmed that partly in light of the impact of Lottery funding for the 2012 Olympics, the value of HLF awards in 2012/13 will be 43% less than in 2007/08 (at 2007/08 prices). The main reductions will occur in the general grants programme. A key aim of the strategy is a simpler application and assessment process, with application forms available on-line and, where appropriate, HLF offering a mentoring service. This service, provided by specialist advisors, will reduce the risks involved in project development and improve the overall quality of projects and applications. Applications will now be asked to green their projects, which means minimising environmental impacts and developing innovative thinking and practice on sustainable use of resources.

## The Planning Bill

The Planning Bill, currently before Parliament and expected to receive Royal Assent in November 2008, proposes to:

- Create a new system of development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects, with national policy statements drawn up by Ministers setting the framework for decisions by an Infrastructure Planning Commission.
- Make various alterations to town and country planning to speed it up and make it more efficient, including changes to the process for local development plan documents and furthering the reform of the appeals system and the development control process.
- Provide powers to introduce a new charge known as the Community Infrastructure Levy to be levied on owners or developers of land.

The heritage sector will expect to be involved in the development of national policy statements and English Heritage specifically will expect to be a statutory consultee on applications considered by the Commission.

## South East Historic Environment Forum Partners:

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

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ENGLISH HERITAGE



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