

# HERITAGE COUNTS 2014 LONDON

*Heritage Counts 2014* is the thirteenth annual survey of the state of London's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum. This year the theme for Heritage Counts is the value of the historic environment. Visitors to the Heritage Counts website can download the

complete research projects commissioned to support this year's report and access the full set of local statistics and maps detailing the historic environment for the London, including asset data, funding information, employment numbers and visitor figures. Please see [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) #heritagecounts

## SHOREDITCH CHURCH

Shoreditch Church (or the Church of St Leonard as it is also known) is at the centre of an area of London experiencing huge growth. It has been an important place of worship, and focus for the local community, for thousands of years.

The Grade I church, seen today (built between 1736 and 1740 by George Dance the Elder) has faced many challenges. Numbers attending church services have declined, and the fabric of the building has deteriorated over the years (it is currently on the Heritage at Risk Register). In the 1980s, the church was no longer seen as viable and faced the real threat of closure. A concerted effort by the congregation, the local authority, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund has seen major improvements to the fabric of the building helping it find new uses alongside continuing regular church services.

The church now has nearly ten thousand users a year, and hosts a number of music, drama and art shows, including the Spitalfields Music Festival, a community festival with an astonishing educational programme.

St Leonard's also provides space for community groups and charities, such as the Crypt Trust, who use St Leonard's as a base to administer their rehab and training centre. Without St Leonard's, such groups would not be able to provide care and support at the heart of the community, and the help these groups provide cannot be underestimated.

St Leonard's is also a popular film location, providing the backdrop for the fictional church of 'St Saviour's' for the BBC comedy series 'Rev'.



Image: Shoreditch Church is a vital community hub, providing a place for worship, a space for a number of community groups as well as acting as a film location for the popular BBC TV series 'Rev'.  
Chris Redgrave©English Heritage.

The profile of St Leonard's has grown over the last decade, because of the variety of uses the church provides for the community, from worship to festivals. With a waiting list for new occupants and further restoration planned, St Leonard's will continue to be a place of immeasurable value to the local community for many years to come.

## UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

### Using and Benefiting

Participation in heritage increased in 2013/14, with 66% of adults in London visiting a heritage site in the past year. The number of visits to English Heritage properties in London in the year ending April 2014 increased by nearly a third (28%) compared to the previous year, with just over 275,000 visits. This may be in part due to the re-opening of Kenwood House in north London, closed for refurbishment for much of 2012/13.

Visits to National Trust properties in London and the South East have also increased by 1%, with just over 5 million visits.

Membership of both organisations has continued to grow over the last 12 months, with membership of English Heritage increasing by 6% from 2012/13 to 104,000 members. The National Trust in London and South East has seen its membership increase to 1.3m.

### Caring and Sharing

#### Heritage at Risk in London

A total of 41 sites have been removed from the 2013 Register, however a further 54 sites have been added to the Register in 2014. For more information on Heritage at Risk in London, please visit: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/har](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/har)

## UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

Summary of historic environment indicators for 2014	
London Assets	2014 totals
World Heritage Sites	4
Scheduled Monuments	156
Listed Buildings Grade I	590
Listed Buildings Grade II*	1,390
Listed Buildings Grade II	16,916
Registered Parks and Gardens	150
Registered Battlefields	1
Protected Ship Wrecks	0
Conservation Areas	1017
Accredited Museums♦	137

♦ Data provided by Arts Council England

London continues to handle second highest number of planning applications in the country with almost 83,000 applications in the 2013/14 financial year. This is 19% of all national planning applications.

London also has the second highest number of listed building consent applications in the country, with a 9% increase in decisions in 2013/14. London handles the highest number of conservation area consent decisions in the country, equating to 26% of all conservation area consent decisions nationally. Although London has the smallest number of scheduled monuments in the country, there has been an increase in the number of scheduled monument consent applications dealt with in the past 12 months to 52.

Development also affects undesignated heritage assets, especially archaeological remains. English Heritage's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service provides a service to all London Boroughs\*\*. Its Greater London Historic Environment Record has 36,642 undesignated heritage asset records, an increase of 1,485 from the previous year and undertook 634 information searches in 2013/14. Archaeological advice was also provided on 2,065 planning applications.

London is the only region that has seen a slight increase (3%) in the number of full time equivalent (fte) historic environment staff working in local authorities over the past 12 months. However, since 2006, London has seen an overall decline of fte historic environment staff of 35%.

The number of grants given by English Heritage in London continued to see a decrease, with £1.2 million allocated to various projects and sites in 2013/14, a further decrease of 23% from the previous year. Whilst English Heritage has seen a decline in its grant-giving capacity,



**Image:** Local people enjoy a guided tour of the Salisbury Manor excavation given by Archaeology South East as part of a developer-funded investigation and outreach programme secured by GLAAS © English Heritage (Jane Sidell).

the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has continued to support a number of projects in London, with just over £91.5 million granted to heritage related projects in the past year.

### Policy Developments in London

Growth continues to be the main theme affecting policy development in London, with housing and infrastructure being two of the key topics under discussion. English Heritage has focused on the Further Alterations to the London Plan and is working with partners on how more residential development might best be integrated into London's historic town centres. Allied to this, the Skyline Commission has again focused attention on the impact of tall buildings on London's appearance and character.

The Thames Tideway Tunnel Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project gained its Development Consent Order in September and there have been consultations on HS2, Crossrail 2, London Overground and Underground extensions as well as the Mayor's proposed Super Cycle Highway. In addition, the Mayor of London published his Cultural Strategy in 2014, in which he committed to championing heritage in London, and followed this up with an Infrastructure Plan for London in the late summer, bringing together the overall theme of growth for the year.

### Archaeological Priority Areas

English Heritage takes an interest in policies affecting the historic environment at a regional and local level. London's Local Plans include Archaeological Priority Areas (APA), used to identify where developments are likely to affect archaeological remains. The APA system is about 25 years old and in need of updating to make it more accessible, consistent and compliant with modern planning policy and best practice. New guidelines and a review program are being prepared. Reviews of Bexley, Newham and Hillingdon were progressed in 2013 with Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Merton planned for 2014.

**Heritage Counts 2014** is edited by Rachael McMillan and produced by English Heritage on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum (London HEF).

London HEF comprises the following organisations: Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers; Council for British Archaeology; Canal & River Trust; Diocese of London; Greater London Authority; Heritage Lottery Fund; Heritage of London Trust; Institute of Historic Building Conservation; London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies; London Parks and Gardens Trust; Museum of London Archaeology; The National Trust; Transport for London; University of Westminster.

\*\* The City of London and Southwark have their own archaeological advice

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