

HERITAGE COUNTS

LONDON



Heritage Counts 2009 is the eighth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum. This year *Heritage Counts* has increased its online presence. Visitors to the *Heritage Counts* website will be able to download the full set of regional indicators as well as view maps detailing the historic environment in their region. This year we have also undertaken a ground-breaking study which shows that the historic environment has a positive impact on sense of place and social capital. Please see www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts for more information on the historic environment in London and our sense of place research.

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

LONDON	2009
WORLD HERITAGE SITES	4
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	152
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	582
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	1,336
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	16,609
LISTED BUILDINGS NOT YET GRADED	11
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	148
NUMBER OF CONSERVATION AREAS	975

CARING AND SHARING

HERITAGE AT RISK IN LONDON

Since the recording of buildings at risk in London commenced in 1991, over 90% of those on the original register have now been removed, although every year new entries are added – the register is only ever a snapshot of what is a dynamic situation.

- ▶ 4.0% of Grade I listed buildings are at risk in 2009 (4.7% in 1999).
- ▶ 4.6% of Grade II* listed buildings are at risk in 2009 (5.8% in 1999).
- ▶ 2.4% of Grade II listed buildings are at risk in 2009 (3.0% in 1999).
- ▶ 27.0% of scheduled monuments and 9.5% of registered parks and gardens are at risk in 2009.
- ▶ 16.7% of conservation areas are at risk in 2009.

CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

MANAGING POSITIVELY

In 2008/09 there were:

- ▶ 77,922 planning application consent decisions, a 15% decrease on the previous year and a 3% decrease on 2002/03.
- ▶ 4,321 listed building consent decisions, a 4% decrease on the previous year and a 12% increase on 2002/03.
- ▶ 686 conservation area consent decisions, a 13% fall on the previous year but a 25% increase on 2002/03.
- ▶ 71 scheduled monument consents, a 34% fall on the previous year and a 39% increase on 2002/03.

CAPACITY AND RESOURCES

Spending in the historic environment comes from a variety of resources, private owners, the voluntary sector, local and regional government and central government. It is not possible to collate all this data together to produce a total for spend in the historic environment. In most regions, key sources of funding for the historic environment are the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage.

In 2008/09 HLF funding dropped, partly due to the Olympics but also due to legislative changes in the way that Lottery is funded. In London, for the period April 1994 to March 2009, the HLF had made 3,044 awards totalling £857.6m. In 2008/09 English Heritage in London made grants to the value of £3.4m.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are central to the protection and management of the historic environment. Their role is set to be even greater under Heritage Protection Reform. An important piece of research this year looked at existing historic environment resources in local government. In London, between 2003 and 2008 the total number of historic environment staff rose from approximately 77 to 126.

As of 31 March 2009, 32 of 33 London authorities (plus the GLA) had a Heritage Champion at Member or senior officer level, compared to 15 in 2006.

USING AND BENEFITING

PARTICIPATION

In 2008, the final figures for measuring Public Service Agreement (PSA) 3 – increasing participation in culture and sport for priority groups was published. In London participation in the historic environment was 63%, this has not changed from the baseline in 2005/06. Similarly participation by priority groups (black and ethnic minorities, people with limiting illness or disabilities and lower socio-economic groups) has also remained unchanged at around 48%. In 2008/09 DCMS moved to new PSA and a different measure of participation in the historic environment, with the definition changing from one visit in the last 12 months to two visits. The baseline figure in London is 47%.

VISITORS

Visit Britain's Visitor Survey for visits to historic sites in London shows an increase of 13% in visitor numbers from 2007 to 2008 for sites that answered in both years. However, in 2008/09 both English Heritage and the National Trust witnessed a fall of 6% from 2007/08 in the numbers of visitors to their properties, whilst the Historic Houses Association also saw a decrease, with numbers dropping by 10% across their London member houses.

EDUCATION

Following an overall increase in education visits to English Heritage properties in London of 31% from 2001/02 to 2007/08, in 2008/09 there has been a sharp decrease of 29% on 2007/08 figures.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of English Heritage has risen from 77,140 in 2006/07 to 80,712 in 2008/09, an increase of 5%. For the same period, membership of the National Trust has risen by just over 3% from 1.12m to 1.16m.

For more information on the state of the historic environment in your region please visit <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritagecounts>

18 YEARS OF BUILDINGS AT RISK IN LONDON

In January 1991 English Heritage published the first annual *Register of Buildings at Risk in Greater London* identifying 939 listed buildings which were either vacant, underused or in disrepair – a daunting backlog of years of neglect across the capital. Since then, over 90% of all the buildings on the first Register have been saved and brought back into use, with total numbers now at risk having halved. Nevertheless, as buildings are repaired, others become at risk and are added to the Register, but despite this a total of over 2,000 historic buildings have been saved since 1991.

Building types have fared differently. For example, there has been a significant reduction in the number of terraced houses at risk since 1991, mainly due to a combination of direct action by local authorities and English Heritage to encourage owners to repair or sell, the sale of large stocks of Council-owned properties, a sustained rise in house prices and the reoccupation and regeneration of inner city neighbourhoods. On the



Image Lordship Lane, Southwark. Grade II listed house of 1873. Empty and neglected for many years and suffering from serious structural problems. Local authority is taking action against the owner.

other hand, the number of pubs, inns and hotels at risk has greatly increased since 1991 due to an increasing redundancy of many drinking establishments. Other building types that continue to give cause for concern include swimming baths and pools, "retirement" of older fire stations, police stations and other civic buildings and (particularly in outer areas of the capital) agricultural buildings (barns, mills, stables etc), reflecting changes to patterns of land use.

In 1991 75% of all cases were concentrated in seven boroughs (all but one being areas of high deprivation). By 2009 this had reduced to 39% indicating major successes in areas of greatest need. Local authorities have a pivotal role to play in tackling this situation, not only by encouraging schemes for innovative use, and (where necessary) taking direct statutory action but also as major owners of historic buildings themselves. The percentage owned by the public sector (government, local authority, quango) remained in the high 20s from 1999 to 2006, when a downward trend set in. In 2009 24% of buildings at risk were in public ownership, although an improvement on earlier years, this still gives cause for concern.

A more detailed analysis of London's Buildings at Risk since 1991 will be published by English Heritage in early 2010.

Heritage Counts 2009 is produced by English Heritage on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum, membership of which includes:

- British Waterways London
- CABE Space
- Council for British Archaeology (London)
- English Heritage
- Government Office for London
- Government Olympic Executive
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Institute for Historic Building Conservation
- London Councils
- London Development Agency
- London Diocesan Fund
- London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies
- London Parks & Gardens Trust
- Museum of London Docklands
- Museums Libraries and Archives Council London
- National Trust
- Royal Parks
- Transport for London.

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