

HERITAGE COUNTS 2008

SOUTH WEST

1 MANAGING RISK IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ▲

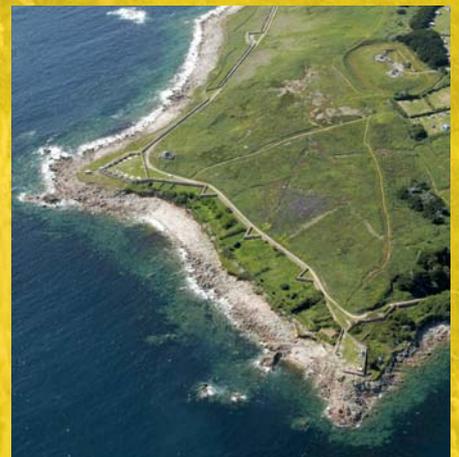
Maiden Castle, Dorset, part of a pilot project to assess the impacts of climate change on protected landscapes and their historic assets. Details can be found in the supplement to this report, *Climate Change and the Historic Environment in the South West*.

2 TAKING ACTION ►

Repairs under way at a Cotswold hillfort.

3 FUTURE CHALLENGES ►

Garrison Walls, Isles of Scilly, at risk from coastal erosion and rising sea level.



Heritage Counts 2008 is the seventh annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. This year's report looks at the principal trends in the historic environment since 2002. It also includes a focus on climate change and the historic environment as a separate publication. This report is one of nine separate regional reports and has been prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the South West Historic Environment Forum. It should be read in conjunction with the national *Heritage Counts 2008* report, available at www.heritagecounts.org.uk



UNDERSTANDING THE ASSETS

The South West has a significant proportion of England's historic assets, particularly scheduled monuments, highly graded listed buildings and designated wreck sites. ▼ **Table 4**

For breakdown of assets by local authority area go to www.heritagecounts.org.uk and access the South West data report.

Acquiring Information

Historic Environment Records (HER) (or Sites and Monuments Records) are local authority maintained sources of information about the historic environment. In the South West three HER are available online, one through the Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk)

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) mapping has been carried out for over 90% of the region (up from 50% in 2002). This is the second highest rate of

coverage of all regions. HLC is a tool for describing the historic character of places to inform sympathetic future change.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AT RISK

Assessing the overall condition of historic environment assets and identifying those facing the greatest pressures and threats is of critical importance to understanding the state of England's heritage.

In July 2008, English Heritage published its first *Heritage at Risk* (HAR) Register including condition data on Grade I and II* listed buildings, and data for scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, designated wreck sites and registered battlefields. Over the next two years analysis of conservation areas and places of worship at risk will be added. However, the main gap to fill will be a systematic analysis of the 81,000 Grade II listed building entries in the South West, although 50% of the region's local authorities had an up to date buildings at risk register in 2008. ► **Table 5**

Buildings at Risk

- There are 162 entries on the South West Register of Buildings at Risk, an increase of seven on 2006/07.
- The current regional conservation deficit is £30.1m.
- Only two entries were removed in 2007/08, indicating a slowdown in the rate of removals echoed across all regions.
- 50% of the entries on the South West 1999 baseline Register have been removed as their futures have been secured.

Landscapes at Risk

The majority of the region's registered parks and gardens are at low risk. The number at medium risk is higher than the national average. Only 7% are at high risk, exactly in line with the national average

Monuments at Risk

Approximately 4,000 individual monuments in the South West are at high or medium risk, 37% of the national total

The main threats to South West monuments are ploughing for arable crops (particularly in the east of the region), and invasive plant growth, which affects the western part of the region and moorlands.

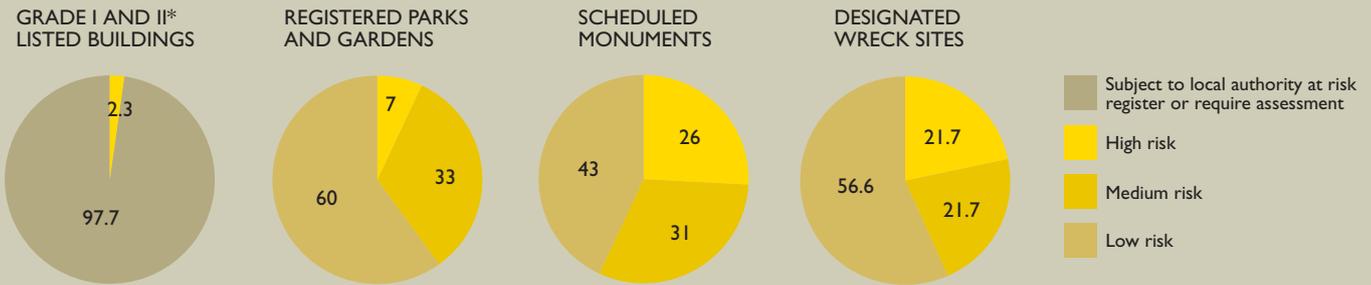
Battlefields at Risk

The majority of the region's registered battlefields are at low risk, with only two being identified at medium risk due to incremental development pressure.

4 SOUTH WEST HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSETS

ASSETS	TOTAL 2008	CHANGE ON 2002	PROPORTION OF ENGLAND TOTAL
WORLD HERITAGE SITES (WHS)	4	▲ 1	23.5% (4 OF 17 ENGLISH WHS)
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	6,982	▲ 6.5%	35.4%
LISTED BUILDINGS (ALL GRADES)	88,518	▲ 0.4% (NATIONAL INCREASE OF 0.7%)	23.7%
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE I	1,995	NO CHANGE	21.8%
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II*	5,080	▲ 0.5%	23.7%
LISTED BUILDINGS GRADE II	81,443	▲ 0.4%	23.8%
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	292	▲ 5.8% (NATIONAL INCREASE OF 7%)	18.3%
REGISTERED HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS	8	NO CHANGE	18.6%
DESIGNATED WRECK SITES	23	▲ 2	50%

5 PROPORTION OF SOUTH WEST HERITAGE ASSETS AT RISK %



Designated Wrecks at Risk

The region has a significant proportion of designated wrecks at high or medium risk.

Wrecks are vulnerable to human and environmental impacts and their locations pose management challenges.

MANAGING POSITIVELY

- In 2007/08 there were **79,600 planning applications** in the region, just over 13% of all planning applications.
- Of all planning applications in the region, 7,259 (9.1%) were **Listed Building Consent (LBC)** applications, slightly down on 2006/07, against a slight rise in the national trend.
- In the region the proportion of all planning applications which are for LBC is consistently just over 9% (5.7% nationally), probably a reflection of the high number of listed buildings in the region.
- Just 0.6% of the region's planning applications (a total of 480) were for **Conservation Area Consent**, in line with the England profile.
- In 2007/08, the number of **Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC)** decisions in the South West was 145. This is the lowest number in seven years and accounted for 15% of the England total.
- In 2007/08, there were 157 planning applications received by the **Garden History Society**.

Capacity and Resources

- According to the Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation, there are 129.95 full-time equivalent (FTE) conservation staff in the South West. This equates to 2.5 FTE per authority.

- Between April 1994 and March 2008, HLF made 3,210 awards in the South West region, totalling £395,426,532, 11% of the England total.
- The proportion of the UK HLF funding awarded to the South West varies greatly by grant programme. The region has attracted almost 19% of the Landscape Partnership and Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage funding, possibly reflecting the large number of protected landscapes which are eligible for such schemes. **▼ Table 6**
- There was a 60% drop in value of awards offered in 2007/08 in the South West compared to the previous year; compared to an average drop of 11% UK-wide over the same period.
- English Heritage grant expenditure in the region was £1.9m in 2007/08, a drop in 43% on 2006/07. £2.02m was offered in new grants.

DEVELOPING TRAINING AND SKILLS

- The publication of *Traditional Building Craft Skills* in England in April 2008 updated the first national survey undertaken in 2004/05. It suggests that at a regional level, the skills shortage is easing, with only 7% of contractors reporting long term outstanding vacancies as opposed to 23% in 2004/05.
- Numbers of apprentices in traditional construction trades are higher in the South West than any other region, with 41 over-25s enrolled, and 111 under-25s enrolled.
- The South West region has at least one Heritage Champion in 38 of its 50 local authorities. This equates to 76% coverage (70% nationally).
- The region offered training in New Design in Historic Places for heritage specialists, elected members and non-specialist local authority staff in 2007/08 as part of English Heritage's Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) programme. Events for 2008/09 include workshops on Finding a Future for Traditional Farm buildings **► Case 9** and Heritage Partnership Agreements. **► Case 10**

6 DISTRIBUTION OF HLF AWARDS IN THE SOUTH WEST 1994/2008

HERITAGE AREA	TOTAL AWARDED 1994/2008 (£MILLION)
HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS	134,739,435
INDUSTRIAL MARITIME AND TRANSPORT	60,484,928
INTANGIBLE HERITAGE	19,070,085
LAND AND BIODIVERSITY	85,525,277
MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES ARCHIVES AND COLLECTIONS	95,606,807
TOTAL	395,426,532

7 PARTICIPATION RATES IN THE SOUTH WEST

96% of adults agree heritage should be saved

75% of people have an interest in the history of the place where they live

72.6% of adults attended at least one historic site environment during the last 12 months

65.8% participation rate for BME groups – above the national average

1.4% of the region's adult population are heritage volunteers (10,700 alone for the National Trust)

PARTICIPATION

- Participation rates in the South West's historic environment remain above the national average, according to the DCMS *Taking Part* survey.
- People in the region have a strong interest in the history of the place where they live.
- Heritage volunteering is popular in the South West with numbers rising again in 2007/08. The National Trust report increases in employer-led and group volunteering activity.

Table 7 ▲

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- 11.8m visits were made to the region's historic properties in 2006, nearly 20% of all visits in England. Although only a 1% increase on 2005, gross revenue went up by 6%.
- Half of all visitors to South West historic properties are local/day trip visitors, 31% are domestic visitors from outside the local/day trip area.
- Total visitors to English Heritage properties in the region in 2007/08 was 1,594,006 (30% of all English Heritage visits). Visits to Stonehenge alone account for over half the regional total.
- There were 3,899,688 visitors to National Trust properties in the South West in 2007/08, a 4.5% increase on 2006/07.
- In 2006 there were 5,746 people employed full- or part-time in museum and heritage activities in the region, 16% of the national total.
- The Historic Houses Association employs 609 full time staff, 340 part time staff and 1,096 seasonal staff in the South West.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

- Whilst the national trend in education visits to English Heritage properties showed a 6.5% reduction in 2007/08 on the previous year, the South West figures show a 1.8% increase.
- The National Trust in the South West region accounted for 28% of all the Trust's education visits in 2007/08, similar to previous years.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION

Heritage Protection Reform

At the time of writing the draft Heritage Protection Bill, designed to be a more effective, efficient and inclusive way of protecting and managing the historic environment, is undergoing pre-legislative scrutiny. Updates are available from www.dcms.gov.uk

► Case 10

Sea Change

Sea Change is a programme that will provide £45 million to coastal resorts for cultural regeneration projects from 2008/2011. It is being led by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) with English Heritage and the other DCMS agencies.

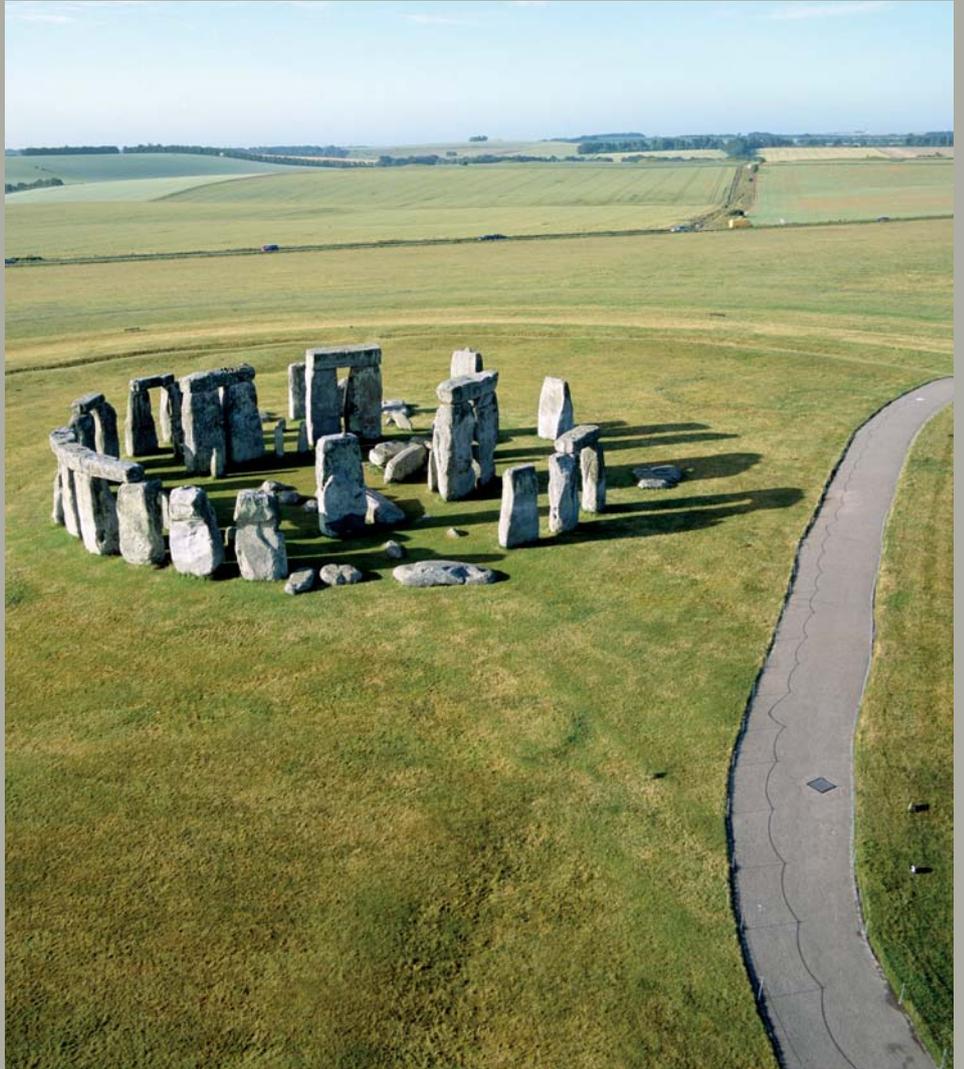
In July 2008 Torbay was awarded a major grant which will promote cultural regeneration within the Torbay GeoPark scheme, including improvements to the historic buildings and monuments on Berry Head and the development of an arts facility at Cockington Manor, a Grade II* listed building.

- Proposed Changes to South West's draft **Regional Spatial Strategy** (RSS) were published on 22 July 2008, marking the start of a 12 week consultation. After considering views received, the final RSS will be published before the end of 2008. The RSS will try to ensure that the region will meet its development needs in terms of housing, jobs and transport within environmental limits. The draft contains a policy to preserve and enhance the region's historic environment and to encourage local authorities to identify assets and their vulnerability to change through local characterisation studies.
- *People, Places and Spaces: The Joint Cultural Infrastructure Strategy*, which links closely to the Regional Economic Strategy and draft Regional Spatial Strategy was launched in September 2008, the first of its kind in the English regions. The document can be downloaded from www.culturesouthwest.org.uk/downloads

8 WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLANS ►

All four of the South West's World Heritage Sites (WHS) have Management Plans in place. Management Plans are UK government policy and whilst they are not statutory, they have weight in the planning system. They aim to balance conservation, access and interpretation, local community interests, and sustainable uses of the Site, and should be reviewed periodically.

Stonehenge and Avebury's 2000 Management Plan included key objectives to provide a high quality visitor centre and to remove roads from the core of the WHS. In December 2007 government cancelled the scheme to upgrade the A303 which meant that English Heritage's proposal for a new visitor centre could not be taken forward, making it necessary to revise the Management Plan. In July 2008, a revised draft Management Plan with new proposals for environmental improvements, road improvements near Stonehenge and options for the location of new visitor facilities, was put forward for public consultation. This will inform decisions about the key future developments, which are to be complete in time for the London Olympics in 2012.



9 HELM IN THE SOUTH WEST ►

As part of the national Historic Environment Local Management (HELM, www.helm.org.uk) training programme, English Heritage South West Region offered two workshops on *Finding a Future for Traditional Farm Buildings* to meet public demand in 2008.

Delegates discussing converted farm buildings, Dillington, July 2008.



10 HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (HPA) ▶

During 2008, a Heritage Partnership Agreement pilot project with Bath and North East Somerset Council at The Guildhall, Bath, has focused on the component parts of the historic asset and the way they are used. The aim is to develop a management agreement to minimise repeated consent applications. Training on HPAs will take place in January 2009 in Bristol (see www.helm.org.uk).

The Guildhall, Bath.



The South West Historic Environment Forum includes the following agencies and organisations:

- ALGAO
- Country Land and Business Association
- Culture South West
- English Heritage
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Historic Houses Association
- IHBC
- National Trust
- Natural England
- South West Regional Assembly
- South West Regional Development Agency
- South West Tourism
- UK Association of Preservation Trusts
- University of West of England

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