

A large, detailed model of the Moon hangs from the ceiling of a Gothic cathedral. The model is illuminated with blue light, and the surrounding architecture is also lit with blue light. The text "HERITAGE INDICATORS 2021" is overlaid in white at the top.

HERITAGE INDICATORS 2021

HERITAGE COUNTS



Harrison is pictured by a freshly restored shopfront in the Coventry Heritage Action Zone. Historic England works with local partners in Heritage Action Zones to breathe new life into old places that are rich in heritage and full of promise. © Historic England Archive

HERITAGE INDICATORS 2021

Since 2002, Heritage Counts has collected and presented indicators about the state of the historic environment using data from government and leading heritage sector bodies. This document presents a summary of the main indicators for the year 2020-21. The detailed heritage indicator datasets can be found on the [Heritage Counts website](#). Many of these datasets have been enhanced with [ONS geography codes](#), making them compatible with a range of official data sources. The Heritage Counts website also has online Local Authority Profiles, allowing users to compare indicators across local authorities.

The vantage point of 2021 reveals the impacts of the exceptional challenges endured by the heritage sector in 2020. In its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sector has demonstrated exceptional resilience in its capacity to adapt to the changing situation with the support of national bodies who have served as funders and sources of advice and guidance. To document these efforts, Heritage Indicators 2021 begins with an update of the year's key developments in response to COVID-19, including references to recent research, highlighting new projects and linking to relevant datasets ([p.4](#)).

The Heritage Indicators continue to follow the five strategic priorities of [Heritage 2020](#), pending the results of the ongoing Heritage Counts review.

- **Discovery, identification and understanding** – provides indicators on the scale and scope of the historic environment, England's protected heritage assets and the natural environment ([p.16](#));
- **Constructive conservation and sustainable management** – outlines the overall condition of the historic environment with indicators from the Heritage at Risk programme and data on managing the historic environment, including planning statistics ([p.20](#));
- **Public engagement** – presents data on participation in heritage, heritage membership and volunteering in the sector ([p.26](#));
- **Capacity building** – includes indicators of heritage investments from private, public and voluntary sectors, as well as the skills and capacity of the sector ([p.36](#));
- **Helping things to happen** – provides data from Building Preservation Trusts and the local authority Heritage Champions initiative ([p.40](#)).

Heritage Indicators 2021 and COVID-19

In 2020 and into 2021, the heritage sector endured lockdowns and a changeable legislative landscape that has damaged incomes and livelihoods. But the sector has also demonstrated its capacity to adapt. For example, many heritage attractions were able to safely reopen once public health restrictions were lifted.

Entering winter 2021, the UK's vaccination campaign appears to have significantly improved the public health situation, and the prospects of the heritage sector appear to have much improved. However, like the rest of the economy, the short-term future of the heritage sector is uncertain. This editorial explores some of the key evidence describing the impact of COVID-19 on the heritage sector, and the sector's response to it, using the evidence available in late October 2021.

The Omicron variant of COVID-19 emerged in late November 2021, and its impact on the reopening of the heritage sector remains to be seen. Heritage Counts will continue to gather evidence and document the sector's response to the evolving situation.

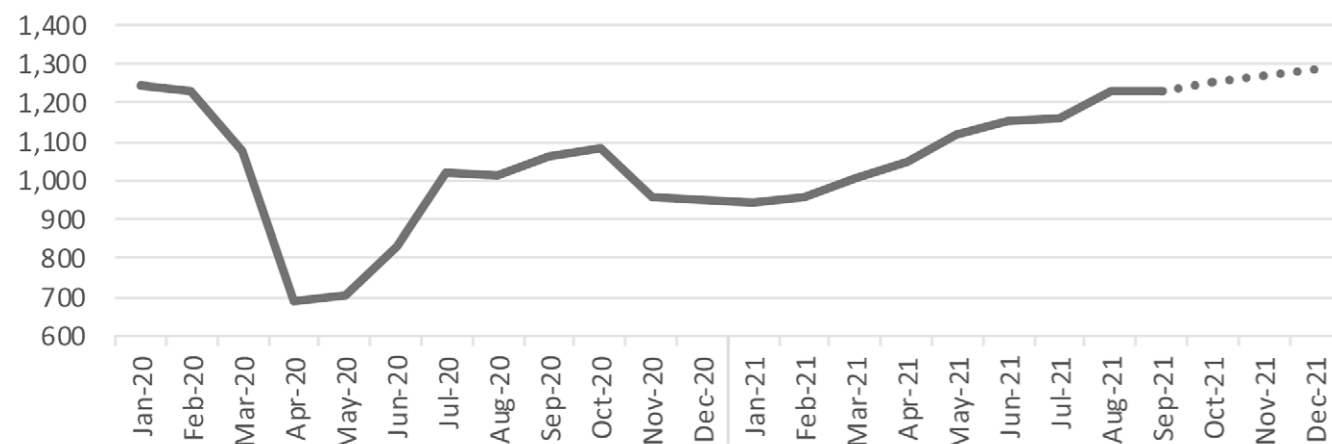
Economic impacts

- In June 2020, the OECD estimated that each month of stringent public health restrictions cost the economy two percentage points of annual GDP growth (OECD). The effects of these restrictions are now clearly visible in the Office for National Statistics' GDP monthly estimates, which show that in March 2020, GDP fell to 75% of the index established in 2019. The latest estimates indicate that by August 2021 GDP had recovered to just 0.8% below its pre-pandemic level (ONS).

The outlook for heritage

- New economic estimates produced for Heritage Counts, following current official forecasts, suggest that by the end of the year the economic output of the heritage sector may have recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels. This is subject to great uncertainty regarding current public health outcomes including any future restrictions on movement.

Evolution of the heritage GVA forecast (central scenario)



The graph above shows the monthly evolution of the heritage sector's gross value added (GVA) in 2020 and 2021. It is projected that the GVA will recover to pre-COVID-19 levels before the end of the year, under current COVID-19 rules. The heritage sector would have grown by 15% in 2021. The dashed line segments represent the latest forecast.

Source: Historic England



At Warwick Bridge Corn Mill, Carlisle, Cumbria, bakers are hard at work in the conserved mill building. This at-risk nineteenth-century mill has benefitted from repair grants from Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund and is now back in use as a heritage centre, mill and bakery. © Historic England

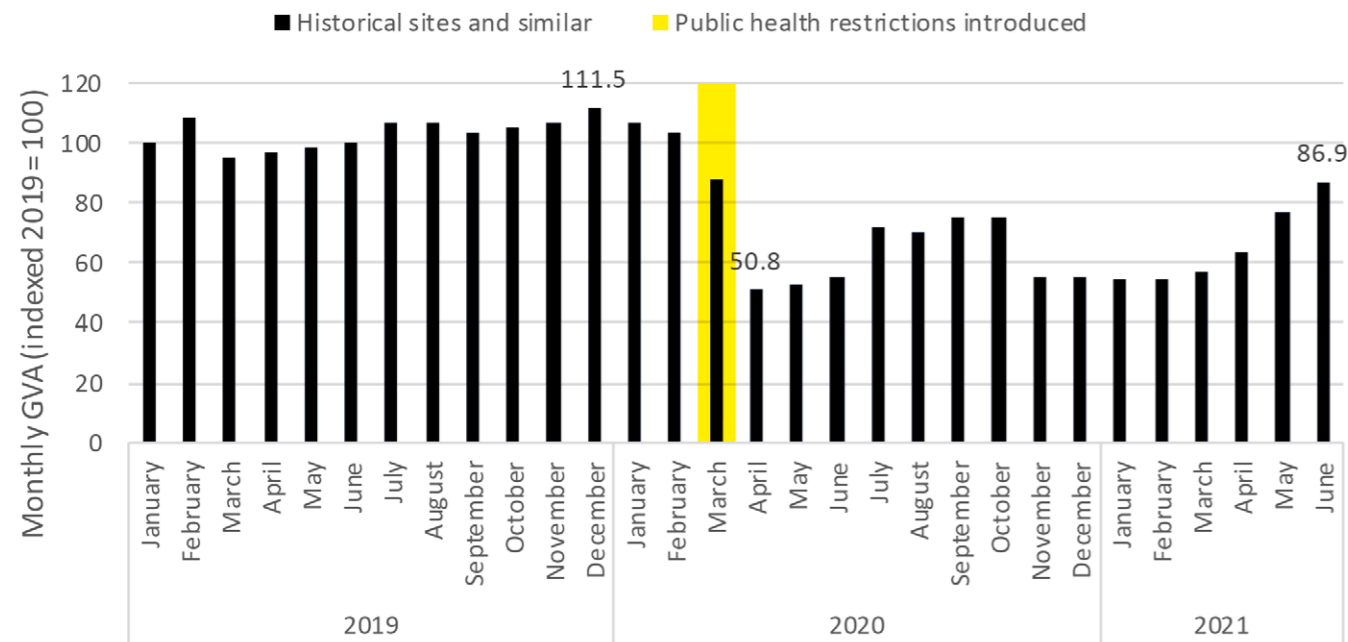
- The heritage sector's economic value stems from a variety of activities, ranging from the conservation and preservation of historic buildings to activities in the natural environment. Heritage construction comprises a significant part of the heritage sector, and this sub-sector has been less affected by COVID-19 and public health restrictions because restrictions on its activities were lifted earlier.

- The Heritage Stimulus Fund and Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, delivered by Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, have also supported economic activity within this subsector. In late 2021, with restrictions on tourism currently lifted, there is scope for further growth in the heritage sector, subject to changes in public health guidance.

Heritage sector GVA estimates: methodology

Gross value added (GVA) is a measure of a region, industry or sector's contribution to the economy. To produce these estimates Historic England analysts followed the Centre for Economics and Business Research's (CEBR) robust and detailed statistical definition of the heritage sector, which identifies heritage-based industries (using Standard Industrial Classification employment statistics) mapped against heritage occupations (using Standard Occupational Classification employment statistics). The latest CEBR estimates were produced for 2019 and provide the underlying data for the 2020 and 2021 projection, considering the monthly average weighted compound impact of the change in output of the following sectors as measured in the relevant index of services: repair and maintenance, architectural and engineering activities, archives, libraries and museums, the operation of historical sites, and public administration. These indices are published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). For the months in which data has not yet been published (October, November and December 2021), we accounted for the monthly average growth of these indices after restrictions were lifted for the sector of interest.

**Index of estimated monthly GVA
operation of historical sites and similar visitor attractions**



Source: *DCMS sectors economic estimates: Monthly GVA (June)*

In focus: heritage visitor attractions

- Economic estimates produced by DCMS indicate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health restrictions on operators of historical sites and similar visitor attractions, an important subsector of the heritage sector.
- In December 2019, historical sites reached the pre-pandemic peak of their economic contribution (111.5% of the baseline established in January 2019). A rapid decline occurred in the first quarter of 2020, coinciding with the initial spread of COVID-19 and the announcement of public health restrictions. As of June 2021, the historic attractions subsector had yet to return to the level of economic contribution measured pre-COVID-19, but from March 2021 a positive trend has been evident.
- The effects of the pandemic are also evident in the economic output of other DCMS sectors. Libraries and archives and museums and galleries have been similarly affected, evidencing a steep decline in output in March 2020, and a recovery beginning in the first quarter of 2021. Architecture and crafts (including non-heritage applications) on the other hand suffered a shorter period of disruption following the outbreak of the pandemic and performed above the average for DCMS sectors since April 2020.

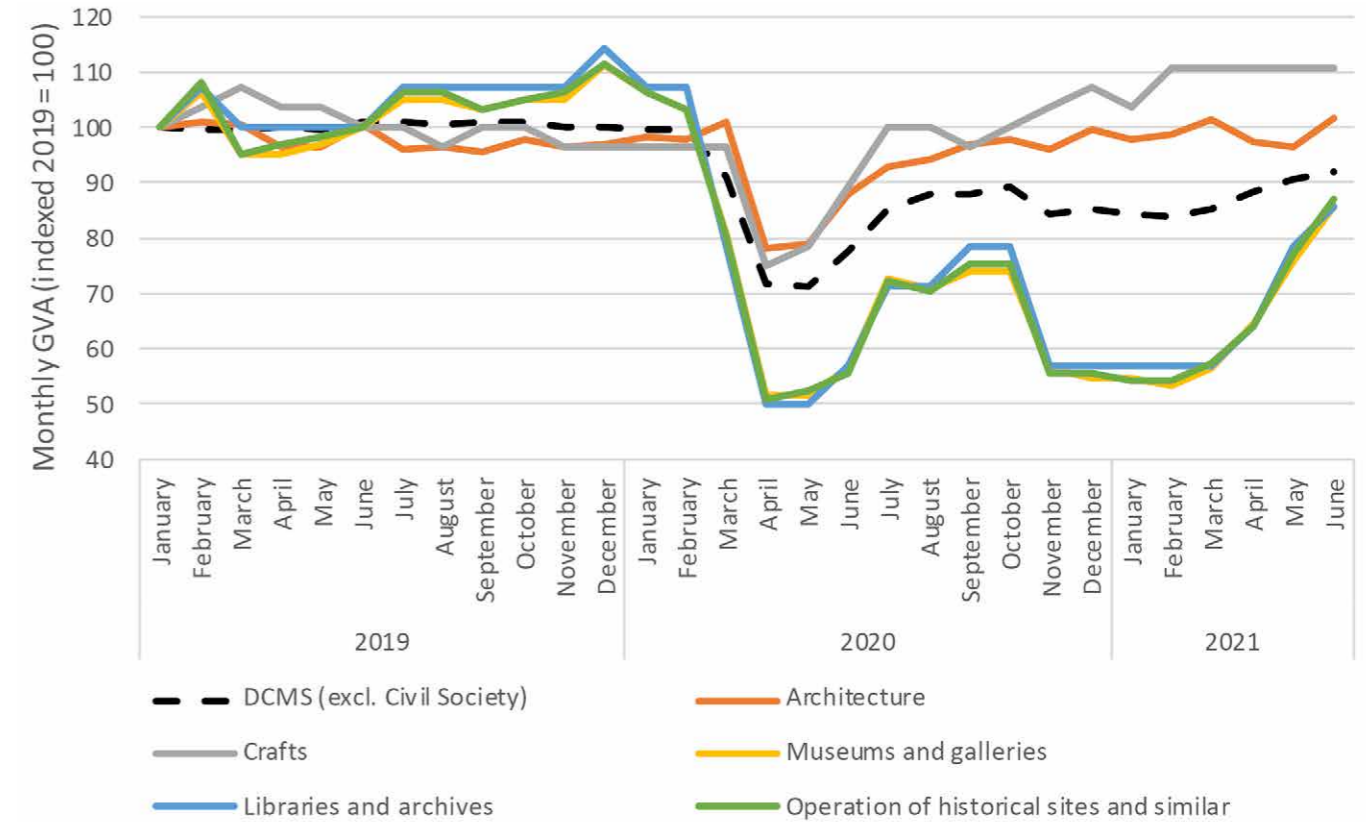
Supporting the Sector

The Culture Recovery Fund

On 5 July 2020, the Government announced the Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to support organisations who had been put at risk by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund comprised £1.57 billion of government funding for cultural organisations and heritage sites.

- Over 5,000 organisations and sites were awarded funding from the CRF, benefiting from:
 - £840 million in recovery grants,
 - £250 million in repayable finance,
 - £120 million in capital grants.
- Two rounds of the CRF have been completed, benefiting:
 - Round 1: 3,800 organisations,
 - Round 2: 2,700 organisations.
- A third round of funding was announced in July 2021, which will focus on supporting organisations as they move towards reopening, subject to the lifting of public health restrictions (NLHF).

**Index of estimated monthly GVA
selected DCMS sectors**



Marsden Quarry, Marsden, South Shields, South Tyneside, Tyne and Wear. © Historic England Archive

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

In the 2020/21 financial year, the National Lottery Heritage Fund delivered and distributed several grant-in-aid programmes in England.

- The Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage (CRF1 and CRF2) – delivered in partnership with Historic England on behalf of DCMS,
- The Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF1) – distributed on behalf of Defra, in partnership with its arms-length-bodies, including Natural England, the Forestry Commission, the Environment Agency and others,
- The Digital Skills for Heritage initiative – which received additional funding from DCMS,
- The Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund – distributed on behalf of DCMS.
- The NLHF estimates that as a result of the grants awarded via the Heritage Emergency Fund, a fund of £50m [announced in April 2020](#), between 2,422 and 3,094 full-time equivalent roles in heritage were sustained; between 1,422 and 1,922 staff were brought back from furlough; and between 14,694 and 29,186 volunteer roles were directly supported ([NLHF](#)).

Historic England

Historic England was authorised to distribute £138 million to heritage organisations in England as part of the £1.57 billion rescue package provided by DCMS. Funds have been awarded through the Heritage Stimulus Fund and the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, which has been administered in partnership with the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Heritage Stimulus Fund aims to support jobs, supply chain businesses, growth and longer-term stability in the heritage sector, which particularly relies on its skilled supply chain that includes heritage architects and skilled craftspeople.

Heritage Stimulus Fund Round 1:

- £5.57 million was awarded through Repair Grants for Heritage at Risk, which has funded the repair and conservation of at-risk historic sites in England,
- £37.6 million has been awarded through Grants for Programmes of Major Works, which supports programmes of repair and restoration projects at nationally important sites where works were stalled by the effects of COVID-19,
- £9.4 million was awarded through the COVID-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund. This fund supported urgent maintenance, repairs and surveys at 500 locally cherished historic buildings and sites.

Heritage Stimulus Fund Round 2:

- £29.5 million was awarded through a second round of the Grants for Programmes of Major Works scheme,
- £3.7 million was awarded to a second round of funding that targeted at-risk heritage sites, namely the Major Repairs for Heritage at Risk scheme,
- The final value of funds awarded may vary once works have been completed and the final costs are known.

Icon, Collections Care Stimulus Fund

Icon, the Institute for Conservation, has delivered a programme of grants for conservation projects under the banner of the Collections Care Stimulus Fund. Supported by the Radcliffe Trust, the fund has supported the care and conservation of collections during the COVID-19 pandemic, when conservation budgets have been put at risk. Eight grants of up to £1,250 were made available to museums, galleries and cultural heritage institutions in the UK with fewer than 100,000 visitors per year ([Icon](#)).

Completed projects included:

- Conservation of c.100 mediaeval parchment manuscript fragments at Exeter Cathedral Library and Archive,

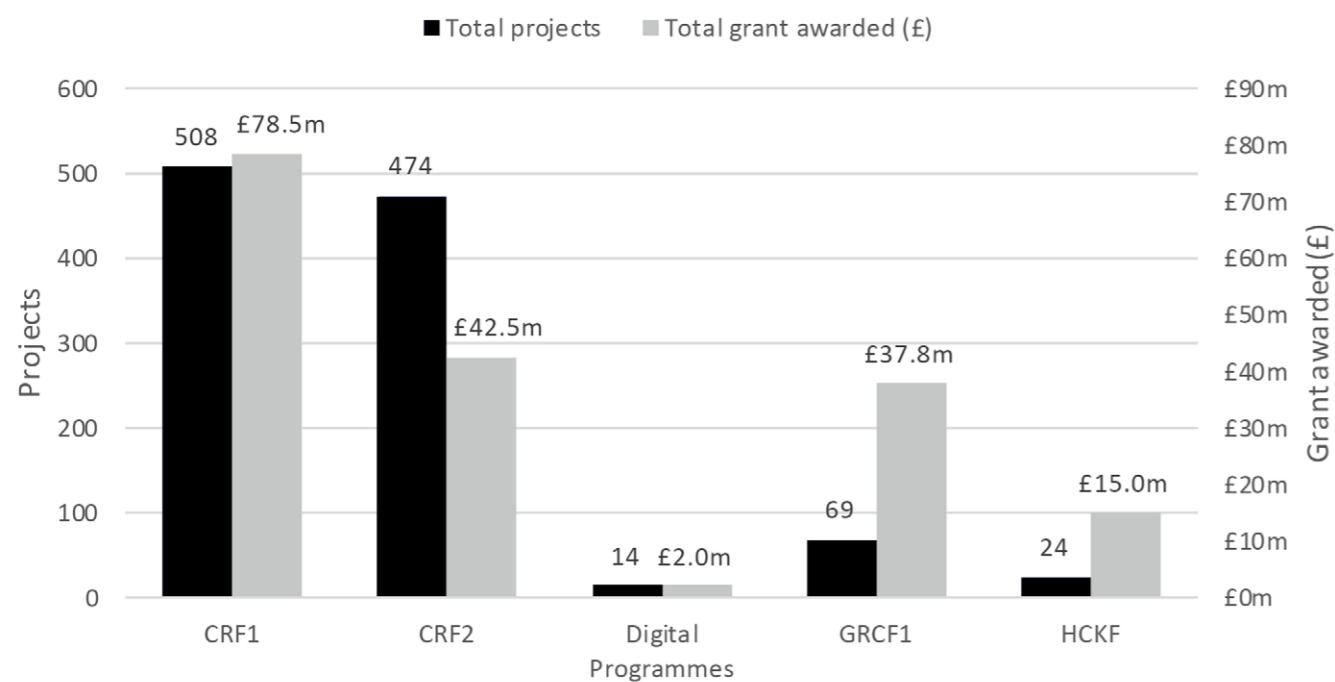
- At the RAF College at Cranwell, silk escape maps produced during the Second World War were documented, photographed, cleaned and packed,
- Treatment of insect damage to a case of 12 taxidermy birds at the Museum in the Park in Stroud.

Reopening Safely

As part of their annual survey of visitor attractions in England, VisitEngland asked attractions to describe how they had been affected by COVID-19.

- 10% of the attractions surveyed had closed or received no visitors throughout 2020, and only 64% had been able to reopen fully when national lockdowns were lifted.
- Historic attractions were particularly affected by closures in 2020. 16% of ‘Other Historic Properties’ and 19% of ‘Visitor/Heritage Centres’ surveyed remained completely closed in 2020.
- Of those who were able to open, less than half of ‘Visitor/Heritage Centres’ and ‘Places of Worship’ were able to open year-round (44% and 48% respectively) ([VisitEngland](#)).

NLHF COVID-19 grant-in-aid (2020/21)

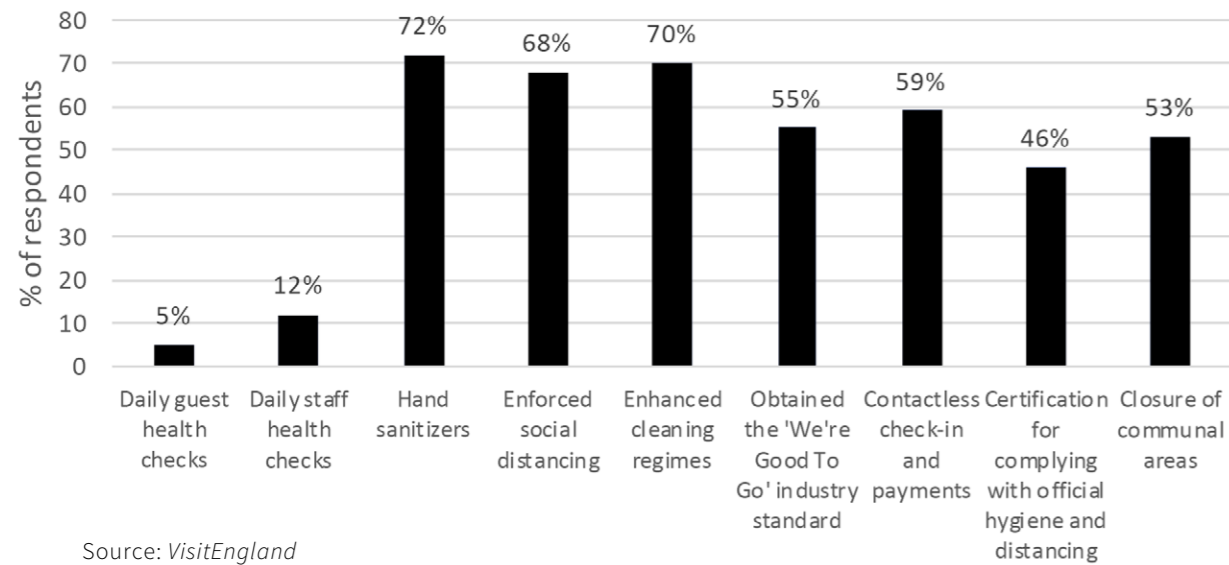


Source: National Lottery Heritage Fund



A taxidermy pheasant conserved by Simon Moore ACR as part of an ICON-funded project at the Museum in the Park, Stroud. A case of 12 specimens had suffered insect damage. Now conserved, this collection can help tell the story of collecting, conservation and the human impact on the natural world. © Museum in the Park/ Simon Moore ACR

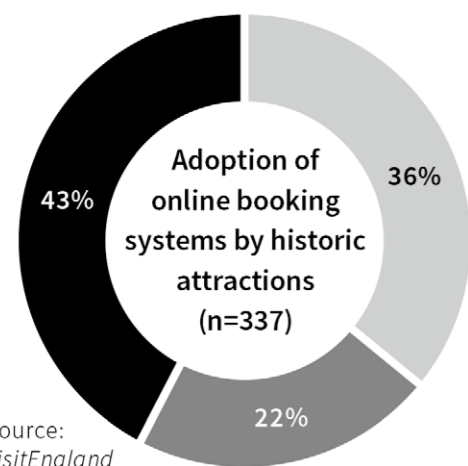
COVID-19 measures put in place by heritage attractions
(n=332)



Source: VisitEngland

VisitEngland's survey of heritage attractions, commissioned by Historic England, provides evidence of the measures these attractions had put in place during 2020 to help their audiences return safely:

- Provision of hand sanitizers was the most popular measure adopted by historic attractions (72%), and this was most readily adopted by attractions in the 'castles/forts' category, of which 94% had done so.
- Daily guest and daily staff health checks were the two least-adopted categories, being employed by only 5% and 12% of historic attractions respectively.
- The survey also asked respondents about their adoption of online booking tools in 2020. 43% of responding sites had adopted online booking tools in 2020, compared with 22% who had done so in 2019 or before (VisitEngland).



Source: VisitEngland

■ No ■ Yes - introduced in 2019 or before ■ Yes - introduced in 2020

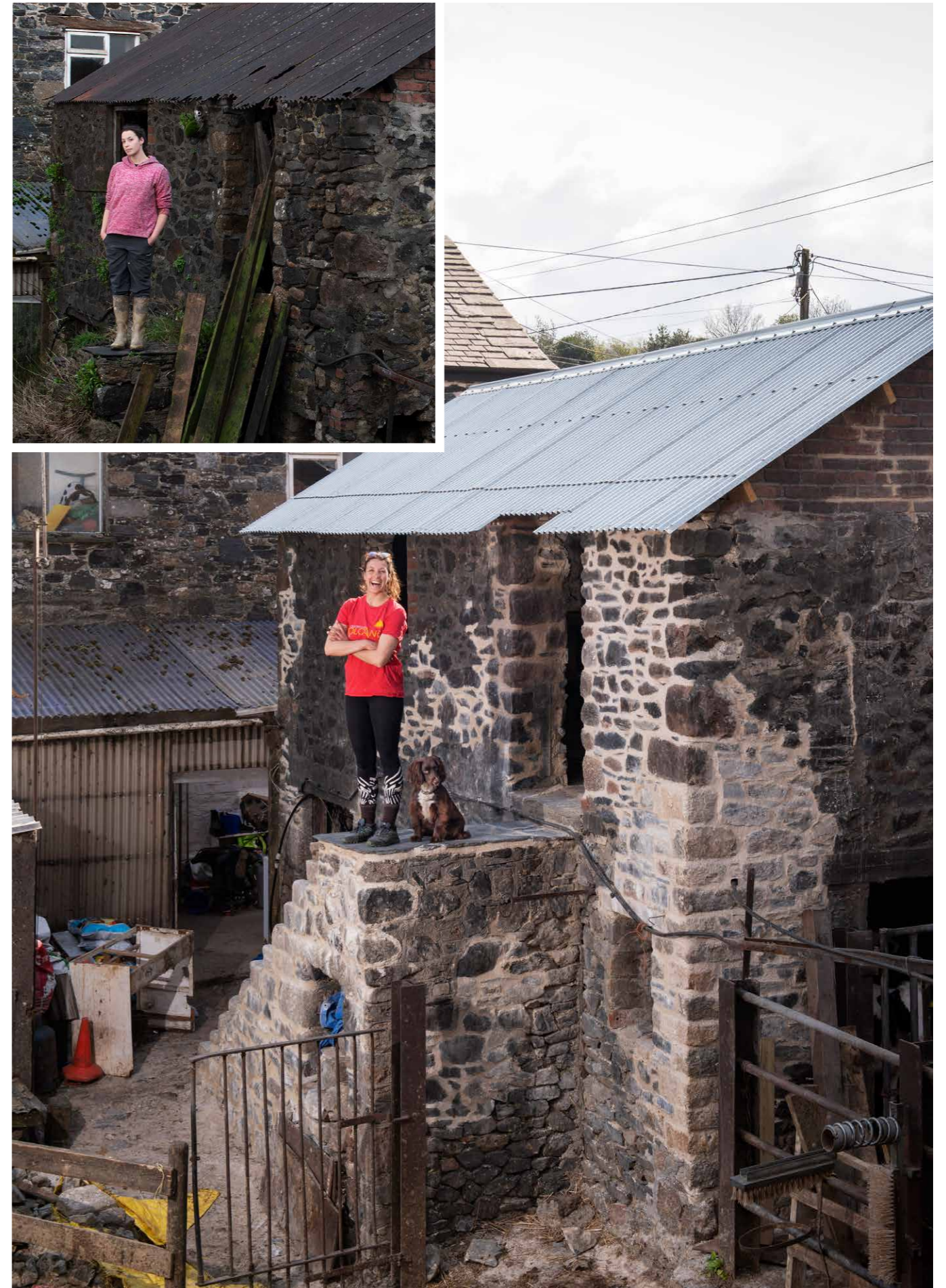
Heritage Digital

Delivered between July 2020 and July 2021, Heritage Digital was a digital skills programme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and delivered through a consortium of partners led by The Heritage Alliance. The programme focussed on improving digital skills in the following four areas: digital marketing, communications, intellectual property rights and data protection, and digital tools and technologies.

Adapted following the outbreak of COVID-19, the project was delivered remotely through 3 large-scale virtual days, 7 standalone webinars, 10 masterclasses (delivered to 17 groups), and 12 digital guides, many of which are available through the [resource portal](#) alongside post-event recordings.

- 2,796 individuals (from 1,090 unique organisations) attended live events,
- Guides and templates were downloaded 3,993 times,
- Recorded content (webinars, events) were viewed 2,872 times.

[The Heritage Digital Academy](#), now with support from DCMS as well as the National Lottery Heritage Fund, continues to address the sector's digital skills needs through a series of unique digital business support sessions focussed on innovation, enterprise and organisational planning. The Heritage Digital Consortium will release additional resources for the sector in the Spring of 2022.



Before and after pictures of a barn restoration at Scorriton Farm on Dartmoor. The barn has benefitted from the [Historic Rural Buildings Pilot Scheme](#), jointly delivered by Historic England, DEFRA, the Rural Payments Agency and six National Parks, which sought to restore field barns and small scale farmyard barns and bring them back into use.

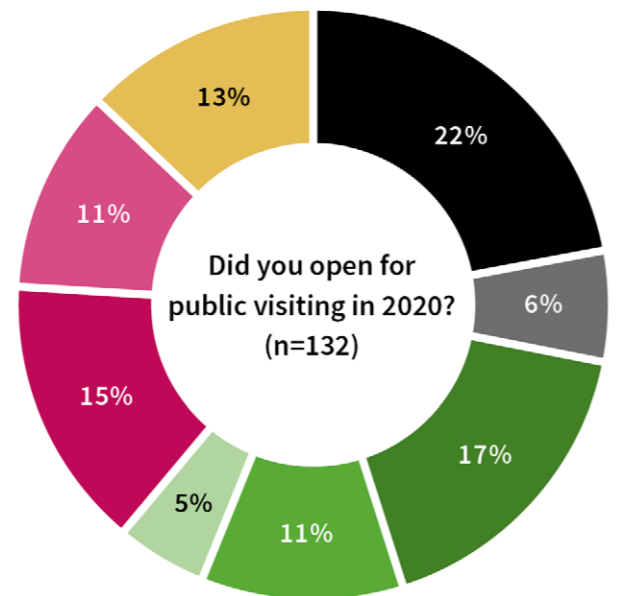
Sector Surveys

Umbrella bodies in the heritage sector have surveyed their members to better understand the impacts of the pandemic.

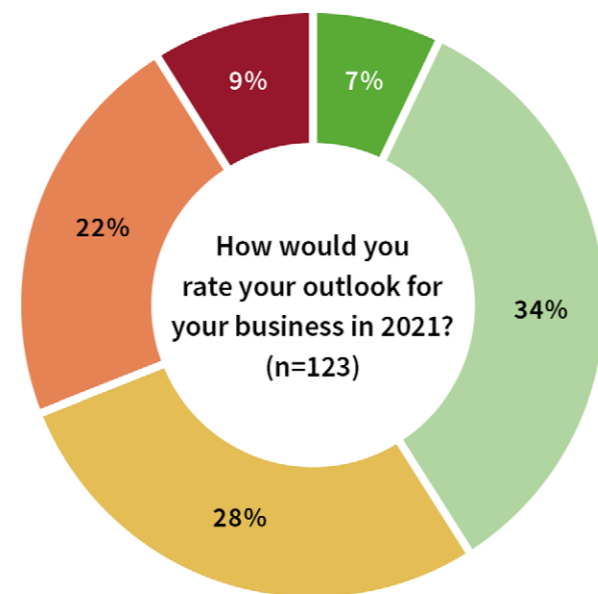
Historic Houses 2020 Policy Survey

Historic Houses is the UK's largest collection of historic houses and gardens, comprising 1,500 member properties, all in independent ownership. In November 2020, Historic Houses commissioned DC Research to survey the properties making up its membership, building on an April 2020 survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Historic Houses members. 133 sites (or 9%) out of 1,499 members responded to the survey in November 2020.

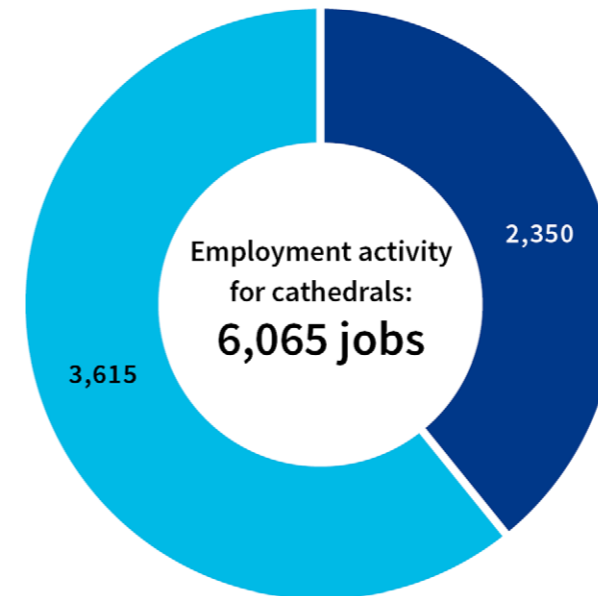
- 61% of respondents opened to the public in 2020; more than half opened for a small number of days, and around one in ten opened for the majority of days.
- Visitors numbers to responding properties fell from around 3.75 million pre-COVID-19 to under 1 million in 2020. In 2020 only 2% of respondents reported more than 100,000 visitors, compared to 11% pre-COVID-19.
- In November 2020, 41% of responding members were optimistic about the outlook for their business; 31% were pessimistic, of which 9% were very pessimistic.
- Almost half of respondents (47%) have or planned to diversify their business in response to their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic.



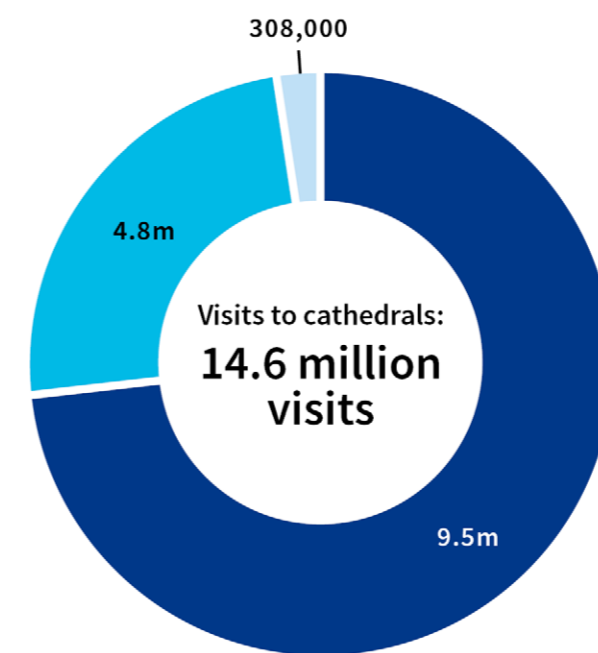
- Yes – house, gardens and events/weddings
- Yes – house and gardens only
- Yes – gardens only
- Yes – events/weddings only
- Yes – occasional house tours
- No – but we usually open
- No – and we don't usually open
- Other



- Very optimistic
- Slightly optimistic
- Neither optimistic nor pessimistic
- Slightly pessimistic
- Very pessimistic



- Directly employed
- Local visitor spend related



- Tourists
- Attending events
- School children

Cathedrals and places of worship

The Association of English Cathedrals commissioned new research on the economic and social impacts of England's cathedrals. The research focussed on the flows of expenditure related to the cathedral – their day-to-day operations and visitor-related activity – into and through the local economy, which generates economic activity and employment, and identified the impacts of COVID-19 ([Association of English Cathedrals](#)).

- Cathedrals contributed £235 million to local economies in 2019, of which £107 million was direct spend, and £128 million was spent by visitors.
- In 2019, cathedrals' activity accounted for 6,065 jobs, of which 2,350 were directly employed. The COVID-19 pandemic caused most cathedrals to furlough over 70% of their staff.
- Like other heritage sites, cathedrals suffered a significant fall in visitor numbers due to COVID-19. In 2019, cathedrals received 14.6 million visitors, of whom 9.5 million were tourists. In 2020, the number of tourist visits fell by 75%, reflecting potential visitors' reduced ability or willingness to travel.
- Before 2020, none of the surveyed cathedrals offered online services. When public health restrictions limited cathedrals' ability to open for worship, they adapted by developing online offerings. In 2020, cathedrals offered an average of two online Sunday services and six online midweek services, which have continued since the lifting of restrictions.
- Cathedrals offer a range of core community engagement activities such as foodbanks and different types of support for people who are out of work, those experiencing homelessness, people dealing with mental health issues, and migrants and asylum seekers. While some of these were curtailed by public health restrictions during 2020, new services such as online food shopping and one-to-one support began to be offered.



Meeting the challenge of COVID-19

- Rebuilding Heritage was a UK-wide free support programme coordinated by The Heritage Alliance and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It aimed to help individuals and organisations in the heritage sector to overcome the impacts of COVID-19 and plan for a sustainable future. Launched in 2020, the live programme has now closed, but **many of its resources are still available**.
- The programme offered a ‘by application’ strand, which invited applications from heritage organisations and to take part in 6 rounds of 121 consultancy and small group training sessions, and an ‘open to all’ strand of webinars.
- 1,018 individuals engaged with the live programme, and 634 heritage sector businesses benefitted.

Identifying organisations in need

- The programme was designed to support heritage organisations and businesses that were put at risk by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these were organisations with low levels of engagement with sector support networks before the pandemic, and organisations self-assessing as at risk due to severe impacts of the pandemic.

The scale of COVID-19 disruption

- Applicants to the programme reported high levels of disruption due to COVID-19. For organisations, this meant their core purpose had been ‘completely’ or ‘significantly’ disrupted, and for individuals, that they had lost ‘all’ or ‘most’ of their work.
- 55% of applicants had accessed some kind of COVID-19 support during the pandemic (furlough, grant or loan) but still required assistance of the type provided by Rebuilding Heritage.

Building a more robust heritage sector

- Although Rebuilding Heritage was launched to address the challenges created by COVID-19, early consultations and applications identified that there were many heritage organisations with more fundamental needs, which were addressed by additional training offers:
 - 57% of applicants requested 1-2-1 business planning support (29% had no business plan),
 - 60% requested 1-2-1 communications support (69% had no strategy, and 78% had no dedicated staff),
 - 38% requested financial literacy training (33% identified their organisation as ‘at risk’).

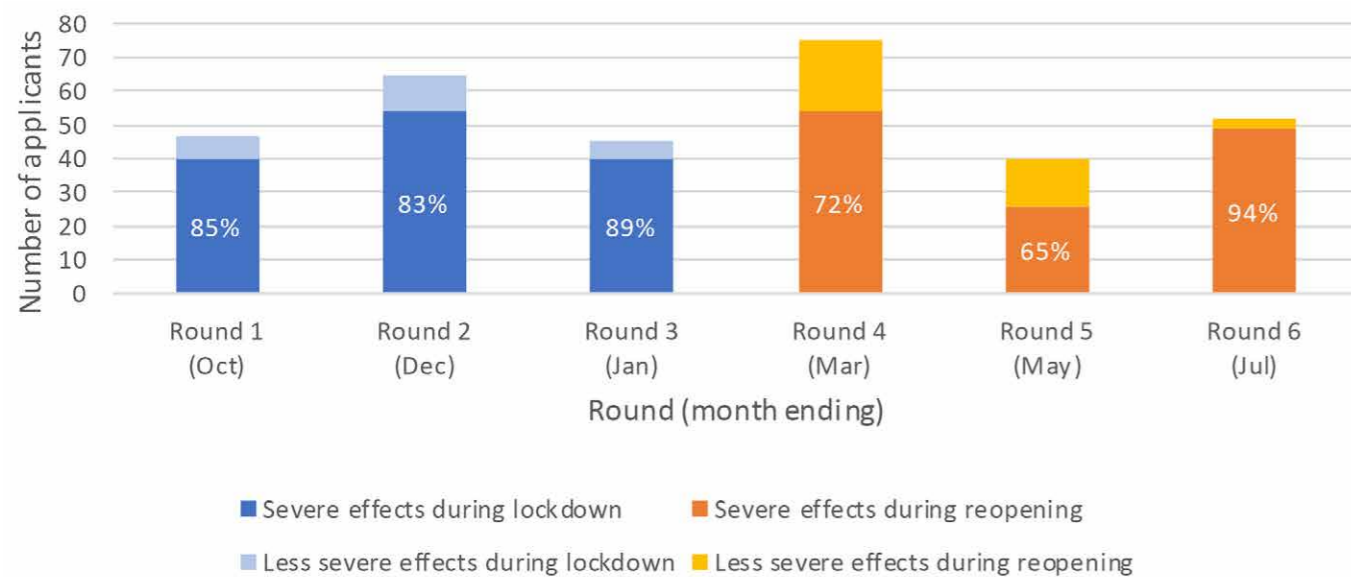
- The programme gathered evidence of a high and consistent level of demand among applicants for the ‘by application’ strand of core areas of support.
- These needs were often complex, with 71% of applicants requesting support in more than one work area.

The programme was developed and coordinated by The Heritage Alliance in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, Clore Leadership, Creative United and Media Trust, and with input from Bates Wells, Steve Wood, the Disability Collaborative Network and EMBED.

Applicants’ areas of demand for core areas of support

(% of applications) Low or no confidence in:	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
Business planning	45%	63%	49%	51%	45%	not offered
Communications and marketing	62%	68%	60%	63%	35%	54%
Fundraising	53%	55%	47%	49%	33%	50%

Applicants for consultancy and training by round and severity of COVID-19 effects



Bars show the number of applicants, with a shaded portion indicating the number of applicants experiencing severe effects. Labels indicate the percentage of applicants reporting severe effects.



Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Ancoates, Manchester, Greater Manchester. © Historic England Archive



The Fosse Way Bridge, Long Newton, Gloucestershire, was listed at Grade II in July 2021. This largely unaltered 18th century packhorse bridge spans the River Avon along the route of The Fosse Way, a historic Roman road.
© Historic England Archive

1. Discovery, identification and understanding







Our heritage assets







■ The [National Heritage List for England](#) (NHLE) provides the official record of nationally designated heritage assets. The total number of list entries has grown slightly from 400,551 in 2020, to 400,866 as

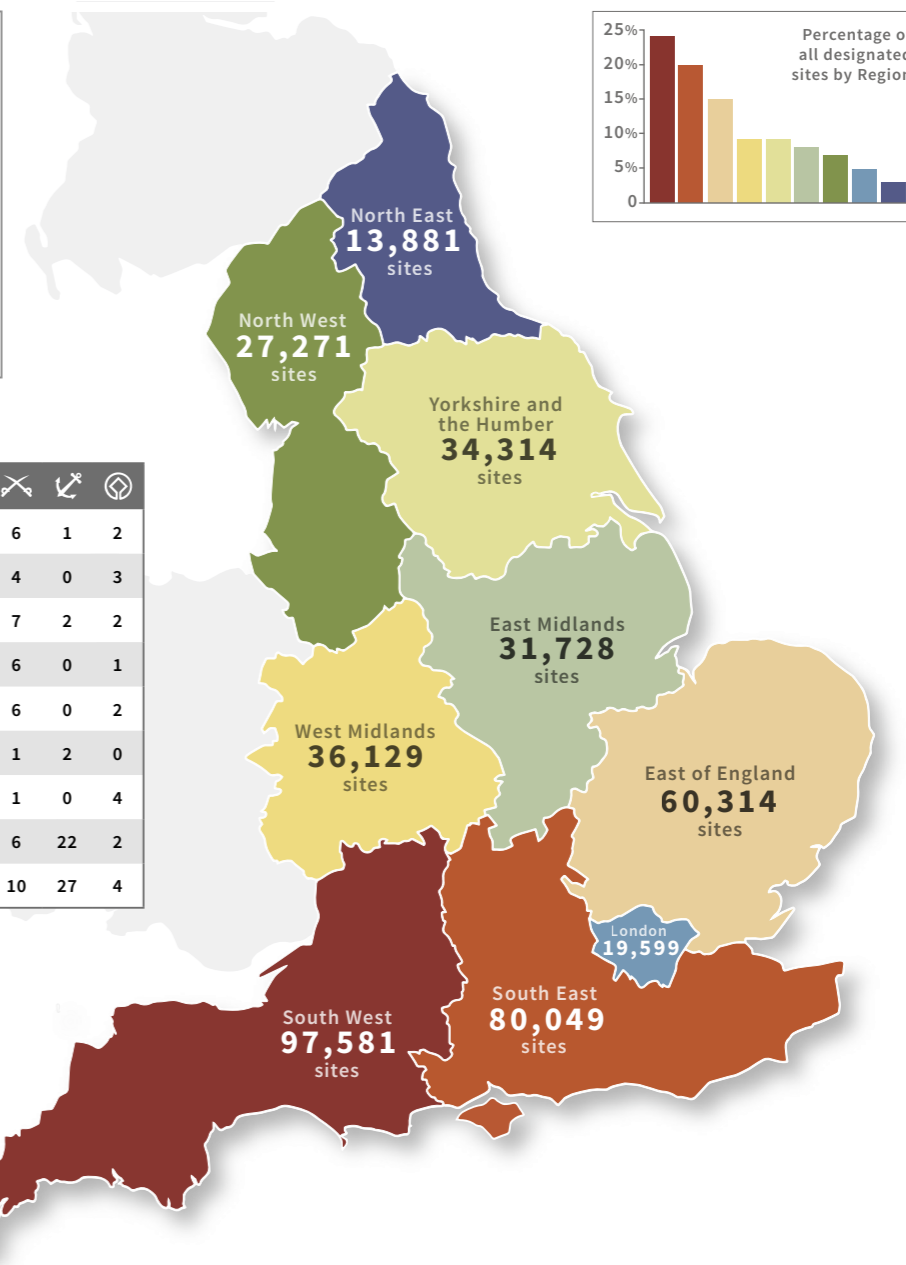
of 31 March 2021. Listed Buildings has experienced the greatest increase (+261), and the largest regional increase in this category was in the East of England (+56).

Distribution of designated heritage sites in England

KEY [total number in England]

-  Listed Buildings [379,126]
-  Scheduled Monuments [19,923]
-  Parks and Gardens [1,696]
-  Battlefields [47]
-  Protected Wrecks [54]
-  World Heritage Sites [20]

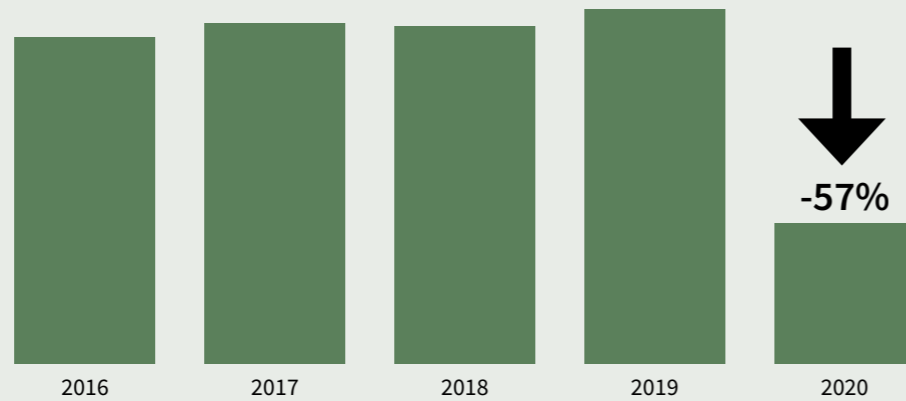
REGION KEY						
North East	12,415	1,401	56	6	1	2
North West	25,799	1,328	137	4	0	3
Yorks & Humber	31,532	2,644	127	7	2	2
East Midlands	30,026	1,549	146	6	0	1
West Midlands	34,564	1,402	155	6	0	2
East of England	58,326	1,762	223	1	2	0
London	19,259	169	166	1	0	4
South East	76,964	2,674	381	6	22	2
South West	90,241	6,994	305	10	27	4



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2021 Key findings

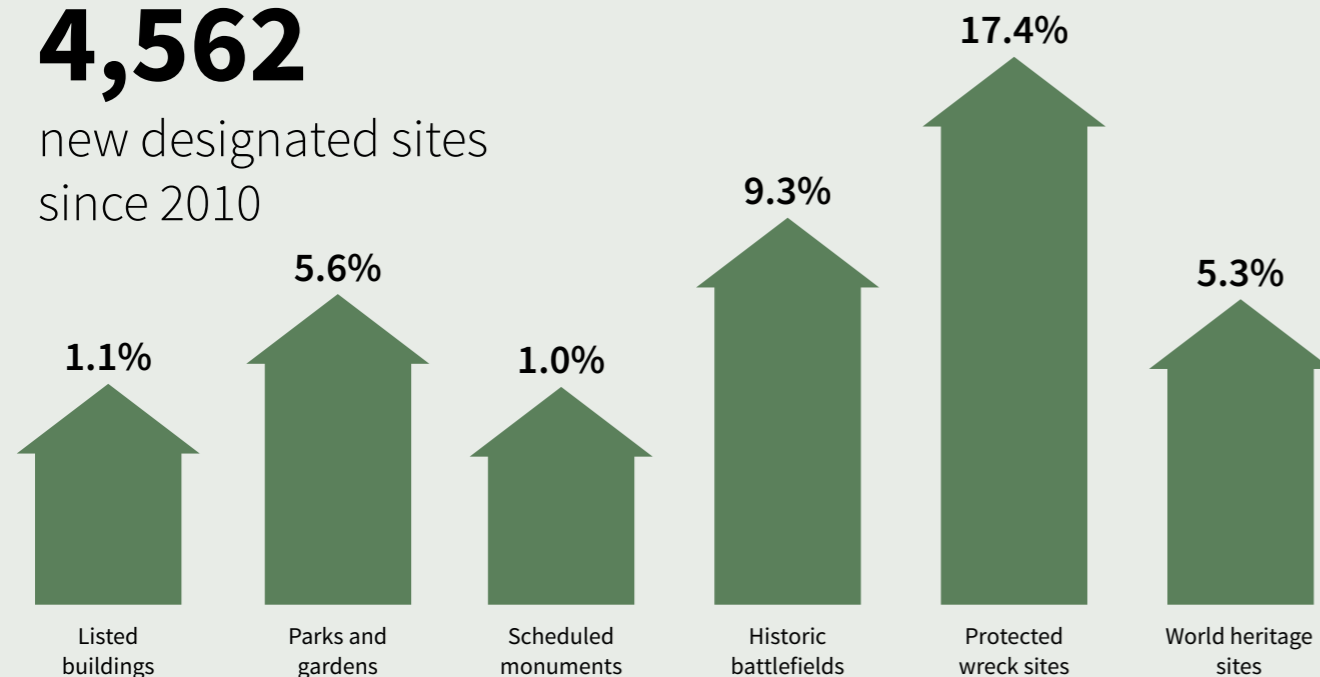
Visits to historic sites **fell by 57%** in 2020



The sector has been supported by important sources of emergency funding:



4,562 new designated sites since 2010



Source: *Heritage Counts Indicators, 'Discovery, Identification & Understanding' (2021)*

Local lists

- Local lists can be used to identify significant local heritage assets which are not nationally listed to support the development of Local Plans. The proportion of district councils and unitary authorities with local lists has grown over the last year, from 189 in 2020 to 208 in 2021 – this is equivalent to 65% of all local authorities. The uptake of local lists is not uniform across the country, for instance, in London 91% of local planning authorities have a local list, while in Yorkshire and the Humber only 26% do – a significant increase from 2020, when only 16% of authorities had a local list.
- The Local Heritage List Campaign delivered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will provide funding for local authorities to support the further development of these valuable local resources. In February 2021, DLUHC announced that funding for the project had been increased from £700,000 to £1.5 million and published a list of areas that had successfully applied to the scheme (DLUHC).

Historic areas and open spaces

- National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are statutory designations which protect our countryside. There are currently 1,264,424 hectares of National Parks and 1,930,803 hectares of AONBs.
- The figures for 2021 indicate that there are also 364,004 hectares of ancient woodland – land continuously wooded since AD 1600 – and 164,310 hectares of heritage coast – a non-statutory landscape definition identifying our most naturally beautiful, undeveloped coastline.

Conservation areas

- Conservation areas exist to manage and protect the special architectural and historic interest of a place. There were approximately 9,900 conservation areas recorded in 2021, an increase from ca 9,200 in 2003.

Historic Environment Records

- Historic Environment Records (HERs) provide access to resources relating to the historic environment of a particular locality. England's 83 HERs are maintained and managed by local authorities. 76% of HERs are available online through the [Heritage Gateway](#), where anyone can search several local and national datasets on the historic environment.
- In 2021, two HERs became newly available online, and three HERs became available via the Heritage Gateway.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is a tool for describing the historic character of places by mapping physical changes in the landscape over time. With the completion of Historic Landscape Characterisation for East Berkshire in March 2020, the County HLC programme is formally complete. Although there is no formal HLC in London, characterisation projects have been completed for individual boroughs.
- In 2021 [the London Historic Character Thesaurus](#) was published as a result of a [project commissioned by Historic England](#). The thesaurus aims to facilitate mapping and analysis of historic character across the whole Greater London area in a way that is compatible with other characterisation projects.

2. Constructive conservation and sustainable management

Heritage at Risk

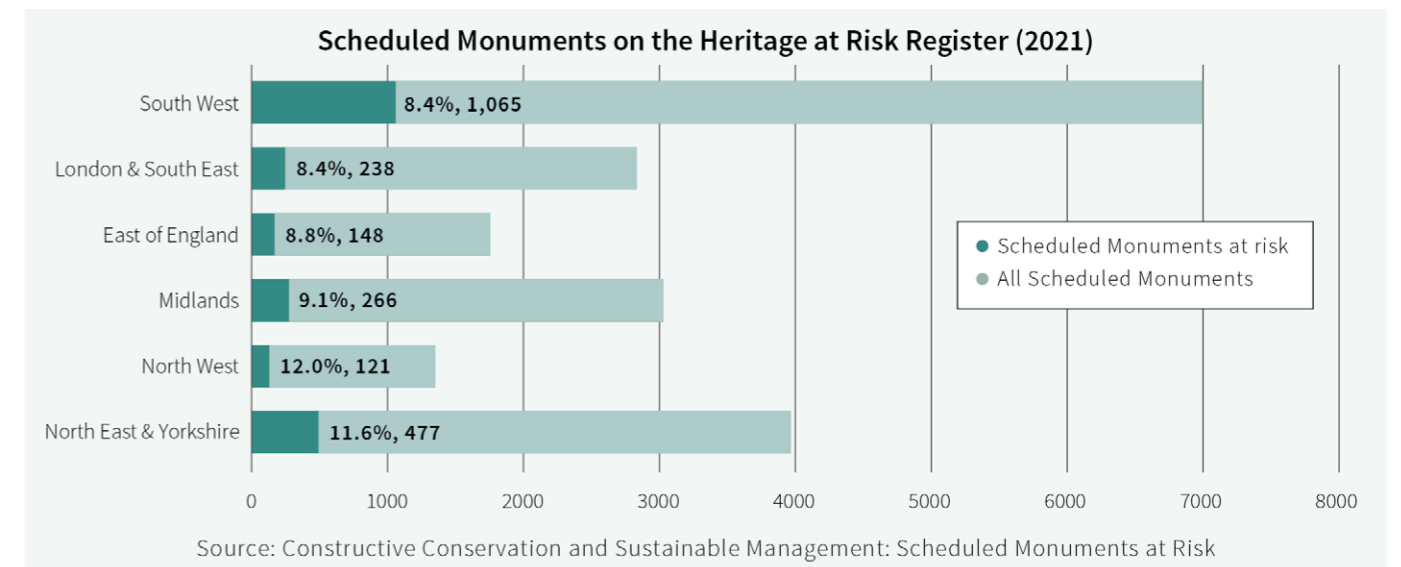
- Launched in 2008, the **Heritage at Risk (HAR)** programme identifies sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.
- The number of entries present on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register continued to decline in 2021, dropping to 4,983 from last year's total of 5,097.
- Most Grade I and II* listed buildings entries on the register are found in the Midlands (195 out of

772), representing 6.7% of all Grade I and II* listed buildings in the region (2,898). In 2020/21 Historic England made grants amounting to £935,000 to save 15 at-risk assets in this region.

- 2,315 at-risk scheduled monuments are included on the register. Of these, 46% (1,065) are found in the South West region. Historic England supported 29 at-risk scheduled monuments in this region with £296,300 of grant funding.



At Tyldesley, Lancashire, a High Street Heritage Action Zone community group pauses around the scaffold outside Frank's Café. Historic England and local partners are working to restore historic character and create new opportunities in more than 60 high streets in England. © Historic England Archive

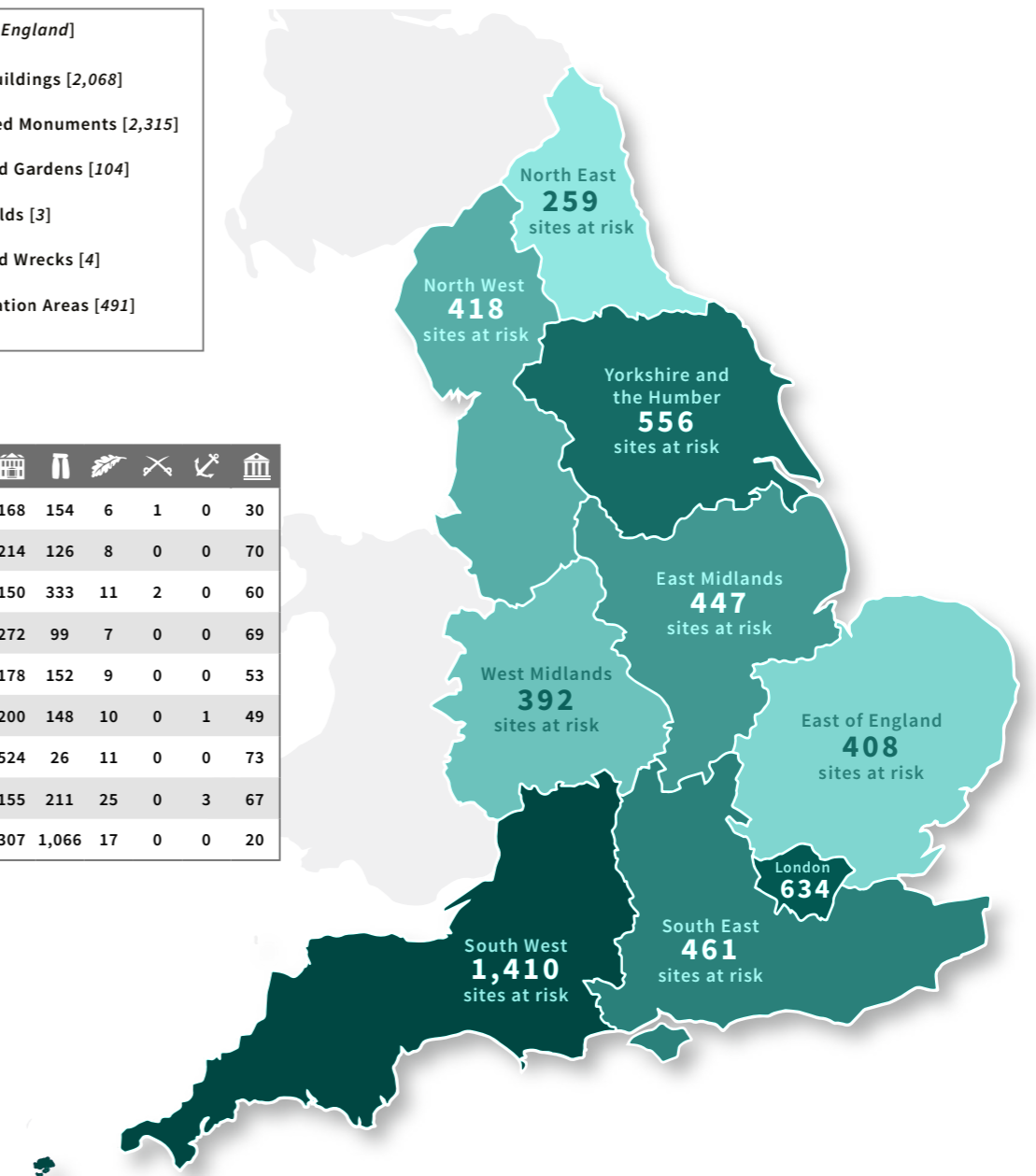


Numbers of heritage sites at risk by region

KEY [at risk in England]

- Listed Buildings [2,068]
- Scheduled Monuments [2,315]
- Parks and Gardens [104]
- Battlefields [3]
- Protected Wrecks [4]
- Conservation Areas [491]

REGION KEY	Listed Buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Parks and Gardens	Battlefields	Protected Wrecks	Conservation Areas
North East	168	154	6	1	0	30
North West	214	126	8	0	0	70
Yorks & Humber	150	333	11	2	0	60
East Midlands	272	99	7	0	0	69
West Midlands	178	152	9	0	0	53
East of England	200	148	10	0	1	49
London	524	26	11	0	0	73
South East	155	211	25	0	3	67
South West	307	1,066	17	0	0	20



Planning applications

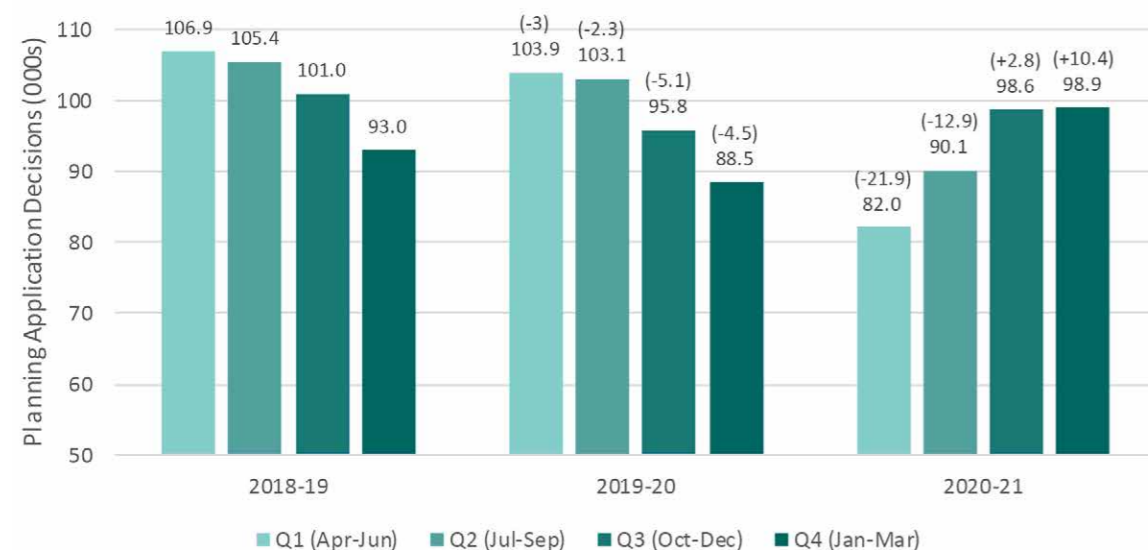
- Planning statistics from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) show that planning applications have increased in 2020/21, despite the effects of COVID-19.
- In 2019/20, a total of 369,600 planning application decisions were reported – the lowest annual total recorded since Heritage Counts began recording this statistic in 2002/03, and a decline of 8% from 2018/19.
- Between April and June 2020, 82,124 planning application decisions were made, 21,778 or 20% fewer than the same period in 2019 (Live Table P120).
- The total number of decisions reported in 2020/21 was 399,500; an increase of 8% over the previous year, indicating the beginning of a recovery. The graph below highlights the quarters affected by the public health restrictions in England that were introduced in March 2020 and lifted on 19 July 2021.

Listed Building Consent applications

- The number of Listed Building Consent applications (LBCs) grew between 2012/13 and 2016/17, however, in 2017/18 and 2018/19 a 6% annual decrease was recorded. This annual rate of decrease has slowed to 4.2% in 2020/21.

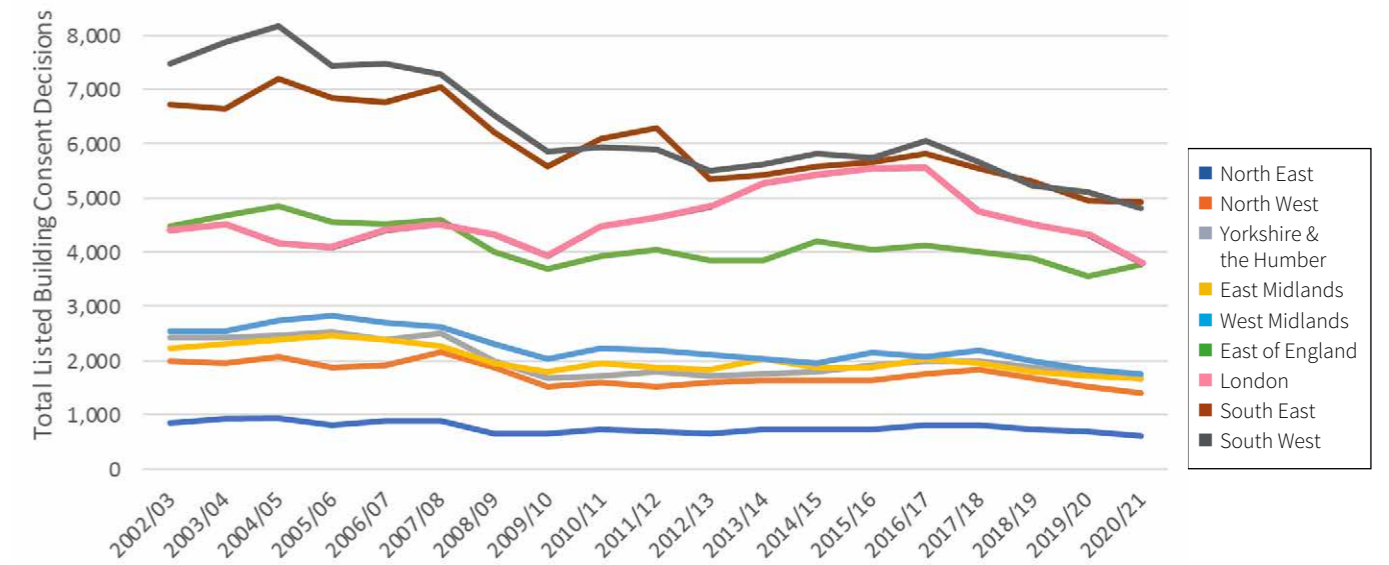
- The result is a proportionate increase in LBCs relative to all planning decisions. In 2020/21 LBCs accounted for 6.3% of all planning decisions, compared to 5.7% in 2007/08. This trend is problematic given the dramatic 37% decline in numbers of local authority historic environment (conservation and archaeological) staff in the same time period.* see note p25
- In 2020/21, official demolitions made up 1.2% of national listed building consent decisions. In absolute terms, 299 demolition decisions were made in 2020/21, a decrease of 9% on the total for 2019/20 and of 52% against the total for 2009/10.
- The number of demolitions decisions declined in four regions between 2019/20 and 2020/21: the North West, East Midlands, London, and the South East, with the most marked decrease found in London (-71%). Of the three regions in which the number of decisions increased in the last year (the West Midlands, East of England and the South West), the greatest increase was found in the West Midlands (+60%). In the North East, the number of demolitions decisions was unchanged between 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- The region with the most Listed Building Consent decisions per listed building is London (0.2), and the region with the fewest is the North East (0.05).

Quarterly difference in Planning application decisions (2018-19 to 2020-21)



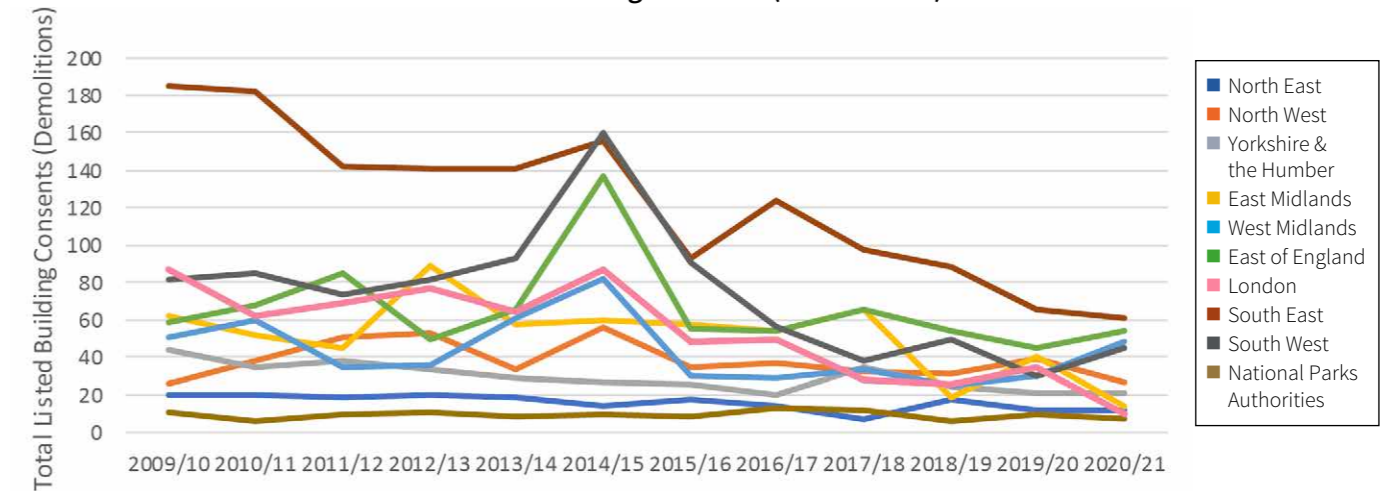
Source: DLUHC: Live Table P120 The bars are labelled with the number of applications decided in that quarter, the difference between the number of applications decided in the current quarter and the same quarter in the previous year is provided in brackets.

Listed Building Consents



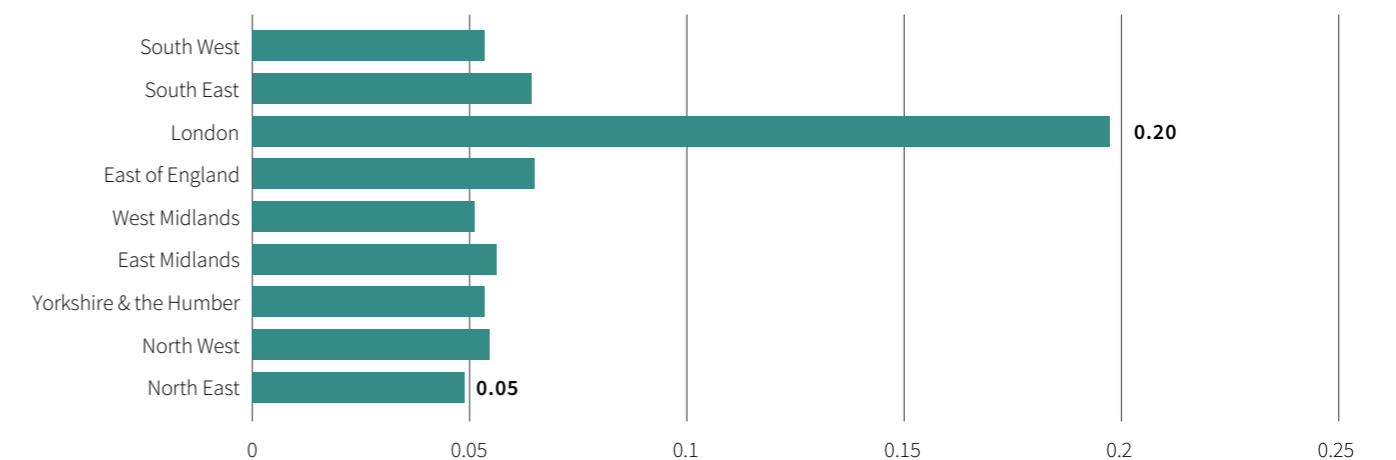
Source: DLUHC: Live Table P124A

Listed Building Consents (Demolitions)



Source: DLUHC: Live Table P124A

Listed Building Consent decisions per Listed Building by region (2021)



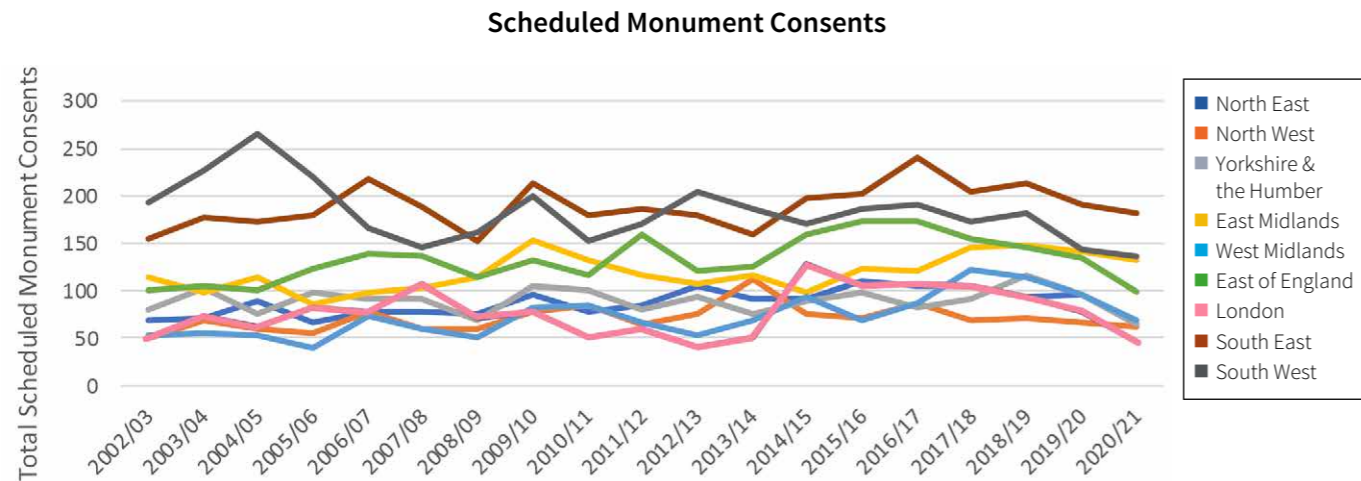
Source: Discovery, Identification, Understanding (2021): Registered Parks and Gardens by Region, Constructive Conservation and Sustainable Management (2021): Parks and Gardens Applications by Region.

Scheduled Monument Consent

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is required for alterations to any scheduled monument. In 2020/21 there were 858 SMC decisions, an 18% decrease over 2019/20 and a decrease of 1% below the baseline established in 2002/03, the first time this figure has fallen below its baseline as recorded by Heritage Counts.
- In total, five regions reported fewer SMCs in 2020/21 than in 2002/03: the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, London, the East of England and the South West.
- The region with the most Scheduled Monument Consent decisions per scheduled monument is London (0.28); the region with the fewest is the South West (0.02).

Registered Parks and Garden planning applications

- All planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens must be sent to the [Gardens Trust](#). In 2020/21 there were 1,078 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens, a 4.7% increase on the previous year and a 43.5% increase since 2003/04. In three out of nine regions, the number of planning applications affecting parks and gardens decreased between 2019/20 and 2020/21: the East Midlands, West Midlands and the South West.
- The North West region has the greatest reported increase in the total number of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens between 2019/20 and 2020/21, with a total of 62 consents recorded (an increase of 59% over the previous year).



Source: Heritage Indicators, Constructive Conservation and Sustainable Management (2021)

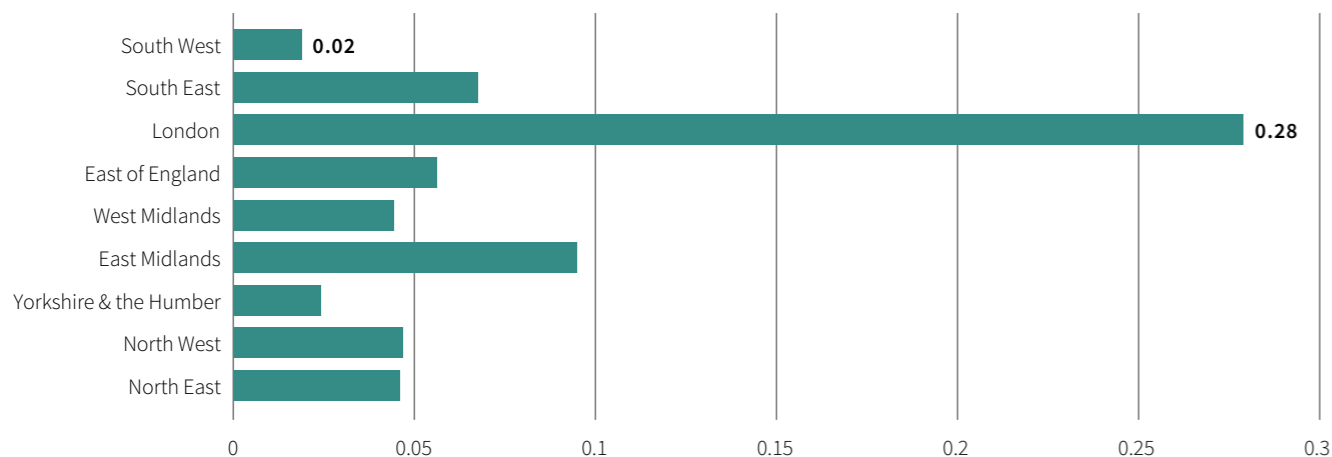


The prolific architectural sculptor William Mitchell designed this decorative retaining wall by the Kidderminster inner ring road. © Historic England Archive

- The North East is the region with the most planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens per registered park and garden (0.82), and the West Midlands has the fewest (0.43).

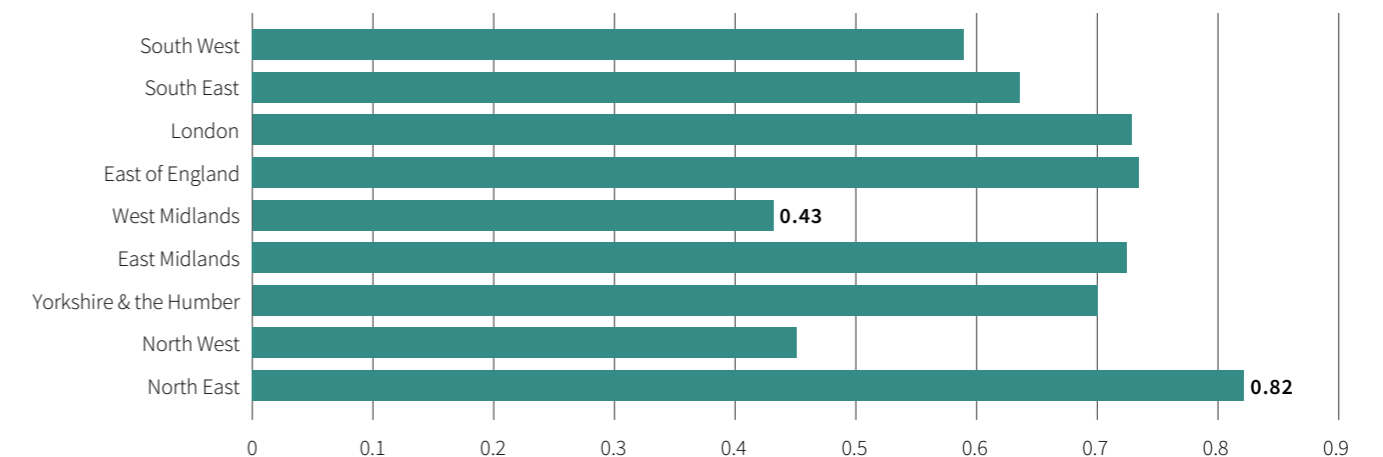
* p22. Series 2 of the local authority staffing uses a new methodology. The percent change figure reported here is therefore indicative.

Scheduled Monument Consent decisions per Scheduled Monument by region (2021)



Source: Constructive Conservation and Sustainable Management: Scheduled Monument Consents by Region, DLUHC: [Live Table P124A](#)

Parks and Gardens applications per Registered Park and Garden by region (2021)



Source: Discovery, Identification, Understanding (2021): Registered Parks and Gardens by Region, Constructive Conservation and Sustainable Management (2021): Parks and Gardens Applications by Region.



Ford Green Hall in Stoke-on-Trent was removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk register in 2021. The late 16th-century former farmhouse now serves as a museum. Trustee Neil Dawson and member of staff Chris Bell are pictured in Tudor garb. © Historic England Archive

3. Public engagement

Heritage visitor trends

Each year, VisitEngland conducts a survey of visitor attractions in England, including historic properties. In 2020, 653 historic properties responded to the survey and indicated that there were 30.2 million visits to historic properties that year. On average, visits to responding historic properties decreased by 59% between 2019 and 2020, reflecting the effect of public health restrictions during 2020 (BDRC, Table A.4).

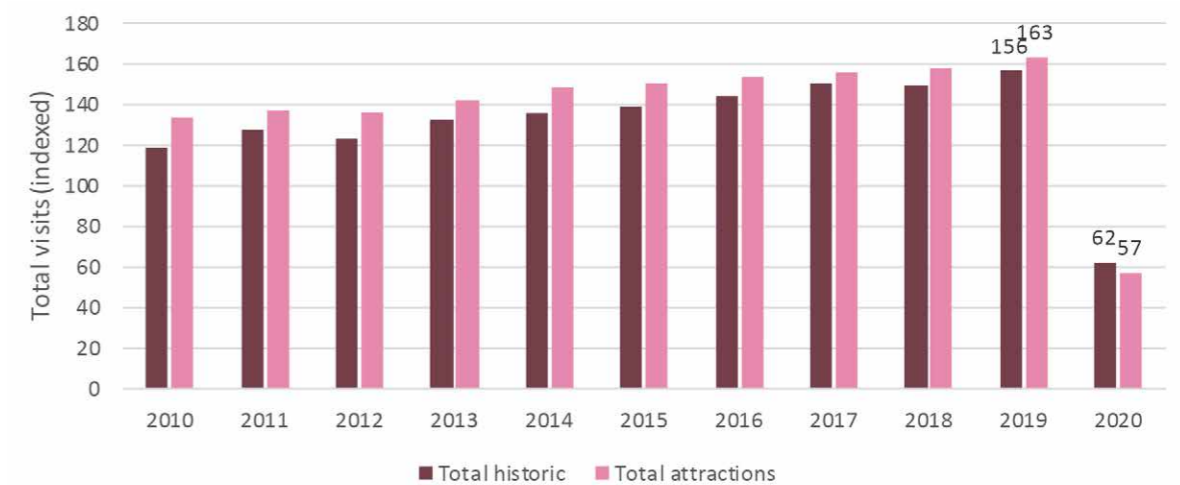
Full findings can be found in the [BDRC Visitor Attractions Trends in England 2020 report](#).

The most popular types of historic attractions, according to the VisitEngland survey, are historic houses (comprising 44% of all heritage visits in 2020) and historic gardens (totalling 23% of all heritage visits). During 2020, the types of heritage attraction that were open to the public were limited by public health restrictions imposed in response to the spread of COVID-19. The effect of these restrictions is demonstrated by the

change in visitor numbers to all types of heritage attractions of all types between 2019 and 2020.

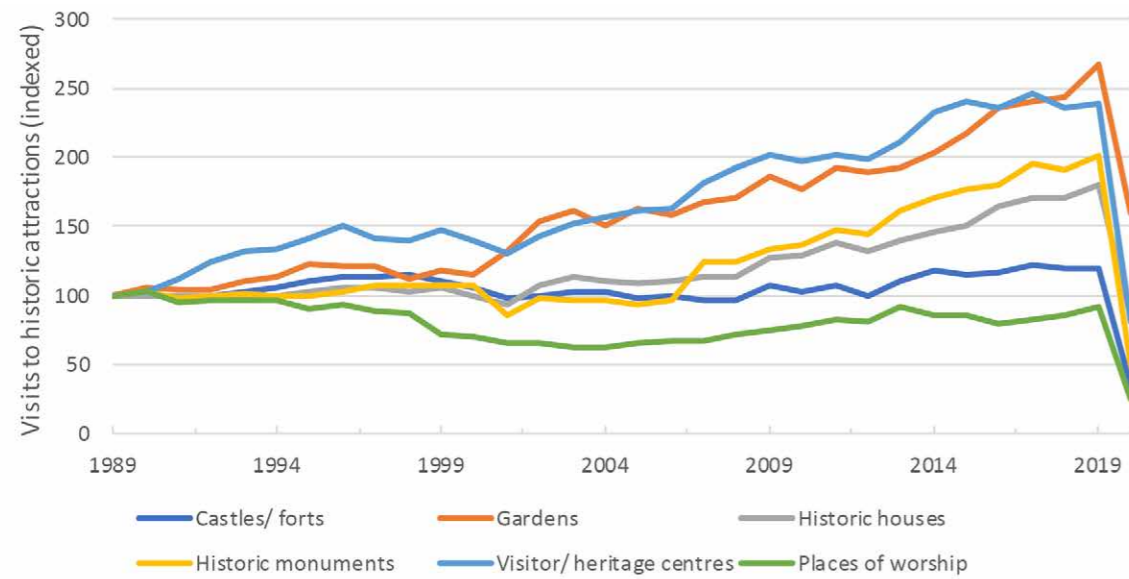
- Although historic gardens experienced a 39% decline in visitor numbers between 2019 and 2020, they were the type of historic attraction least impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. This may reflect the public's confidence in visiting outdoor spaces, and the wellbeing benefits provided by green spaces during the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak (Poortinga et al, 2021).
- In 2020, only 7% of all visitors to heritage attractions were from overseas compared to 22% in 2019. On the other hand, 76% of visitors were local visitors or on day trips which is a large relative increase from 51% in 2019. 17% were other UK visitors.
- In terms of absolute visitor numbers, the number of overseas visitors decreased by 92% in 2020, while the number of local or day trip visitors decreased by 45%.

Change in visits to historic sites and all attractions (indexed 1989 = 100)



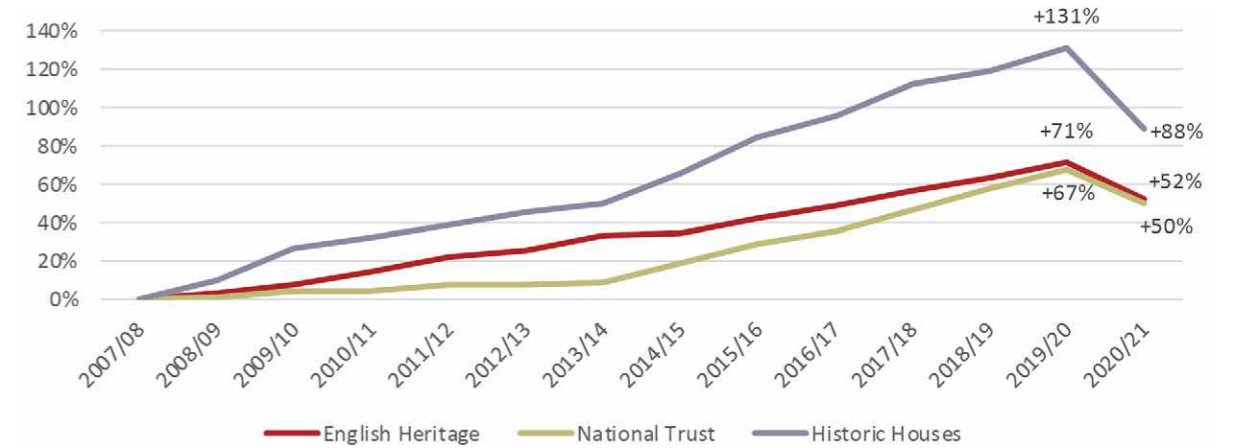
Source: Visit England (BRDC) report, Table A.28

Change in visits to historic attractions in England (1989-2020)



Source: Visit England (BRDC) report, Table A.28

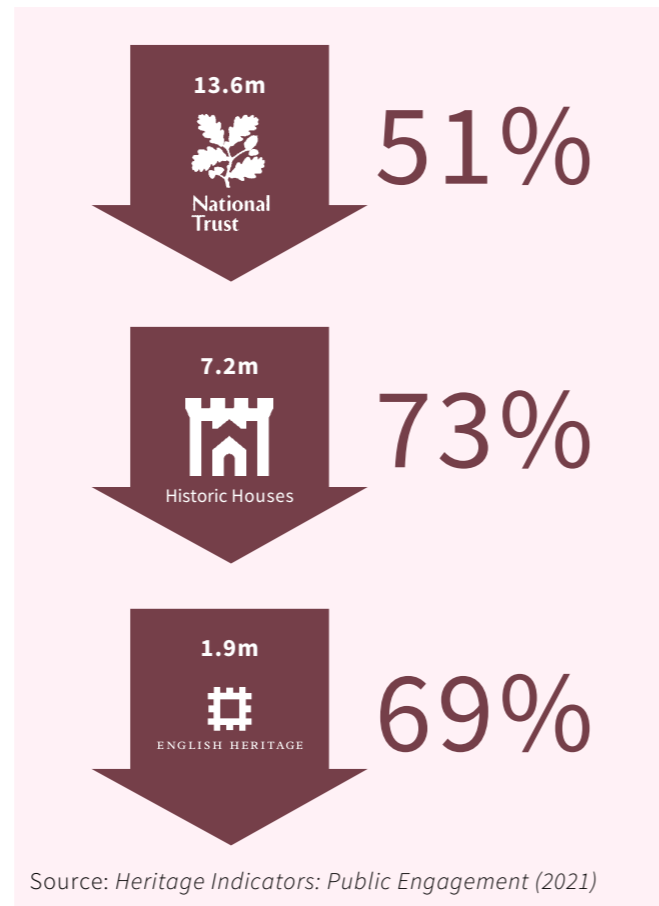
Percentage change in memberships English Heritage, National Trust and Historic Houses (Baselined to 2007/08)



Source: Visit England (BRDC) report, Table A.28

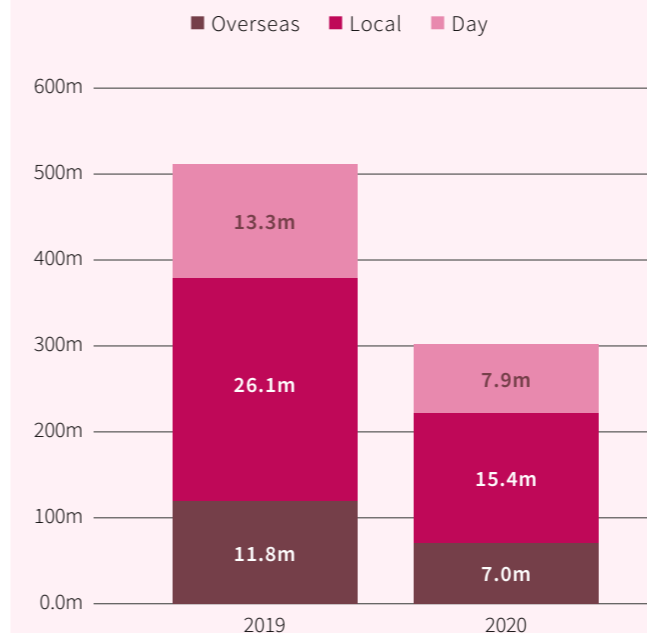
Visits to historic properties

- Visitor numbers to historic properties experienced a significant decline in 2020/21 as a result of the public health restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2020/21, visits to National Trust sites totalled approximately 13.6m, a reduction of 51% over the total for 2019/20. This follows a period of steady growth from the baseline of 12.4m visits in 2006/07.
- Visits to Historic Houses member properties declined significantly to 7.2m in 2020, having achieved a stable peak of between 26.0m and 26.8m visitors between 2016 and 2019. In response to public health restrictions during 2020, Historic Houses enabled the public to take part in digital visits, and 665,000 such visits were recorded in 2020.
- Visits to English Heritage sites totalled over 1.9m in 2020/21, down from 6.2m in 2019/20.



Source: Heritage Indicators: Public Engagement (2021)

Visits to responding sites by origin (2019 to 2020)



Source: Visit England (BRDC) report: 2019, 2020, tables A.3 and A.5. Totals for responding sites, which differ year-to-year, are indicative.

Heritage membership

- Membership of heritage organisations has grown considerably over the past 10 years, however this trend has been interrupted in 2020.
- The National Trust currently has over 4.9m members in England (a decrease of 10% on the 2019/20 total of 5.6m). Including Northern Ireland and Wales, the Trust has a total membership of 5.3m.
- Membership of the English Heritage Trust declined in 2021. In 2021, there were 1m members (a decrease of 12% since the previous year). The largest decrease was in the 'Other UK, overseas and unknown' category of member, which decreased by 22%.
- Historic Houses membership decreased from 56,500 to 46,100 (-18%) between 2019 and 2020.

Taking Part The Participation Survey

The Taking Part survey was DCMS' flagship national, face-to-face survey for many years, collecting data on how adults and children engage with heritage and other DCMS sectors. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented face-to-face fieldwork taking place in the 2020/21 (yr 16) survey year and created an unavoidable break in the survey time series (DCMS). Therefore, the final round of annual data was collected in 2019/20 and the survey is being replaced with a new push-to-web social survey, the Participation survey. The survey will be run by DCMS and will provide data on adult engagement in all DCMS sectors, including cultural heritage.

Taking Part: Engaging with Heritage

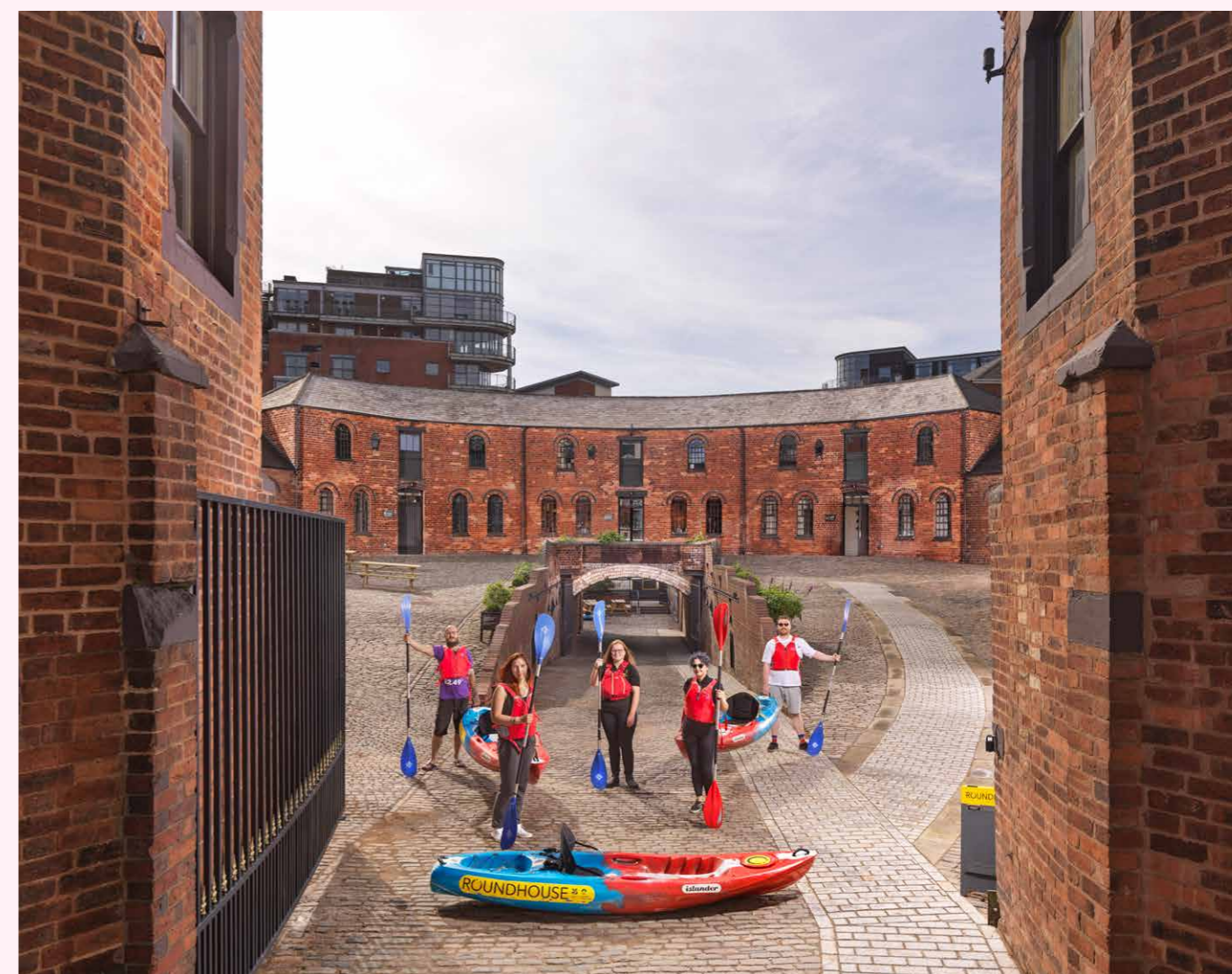
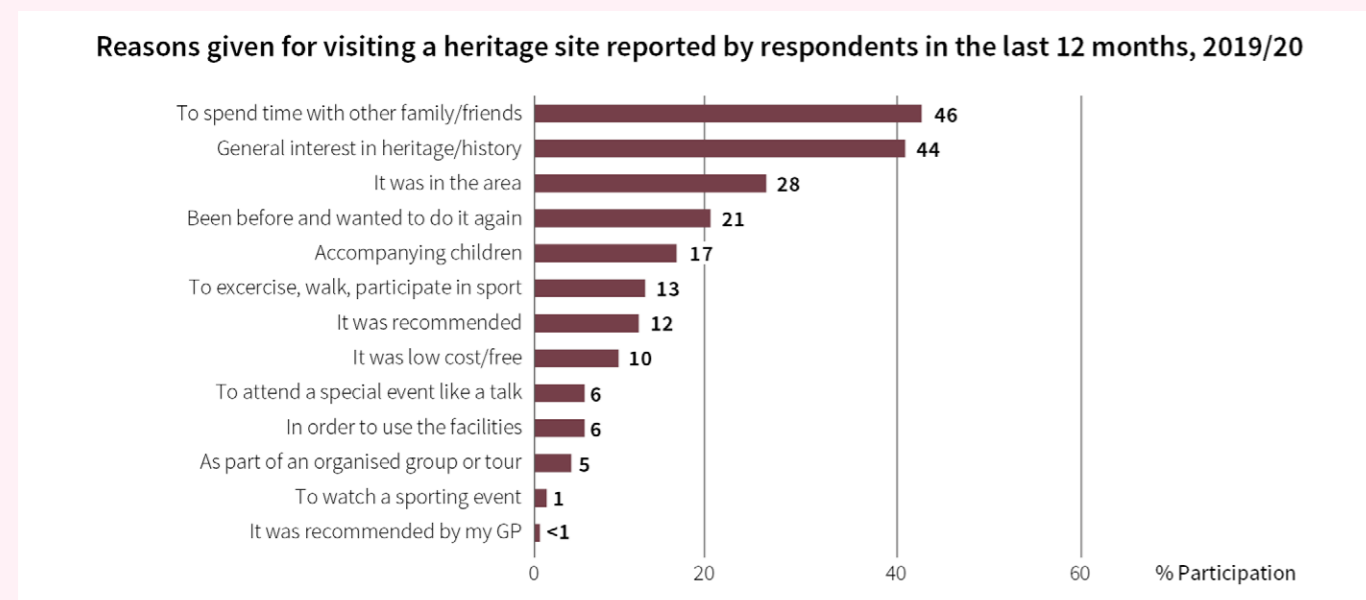
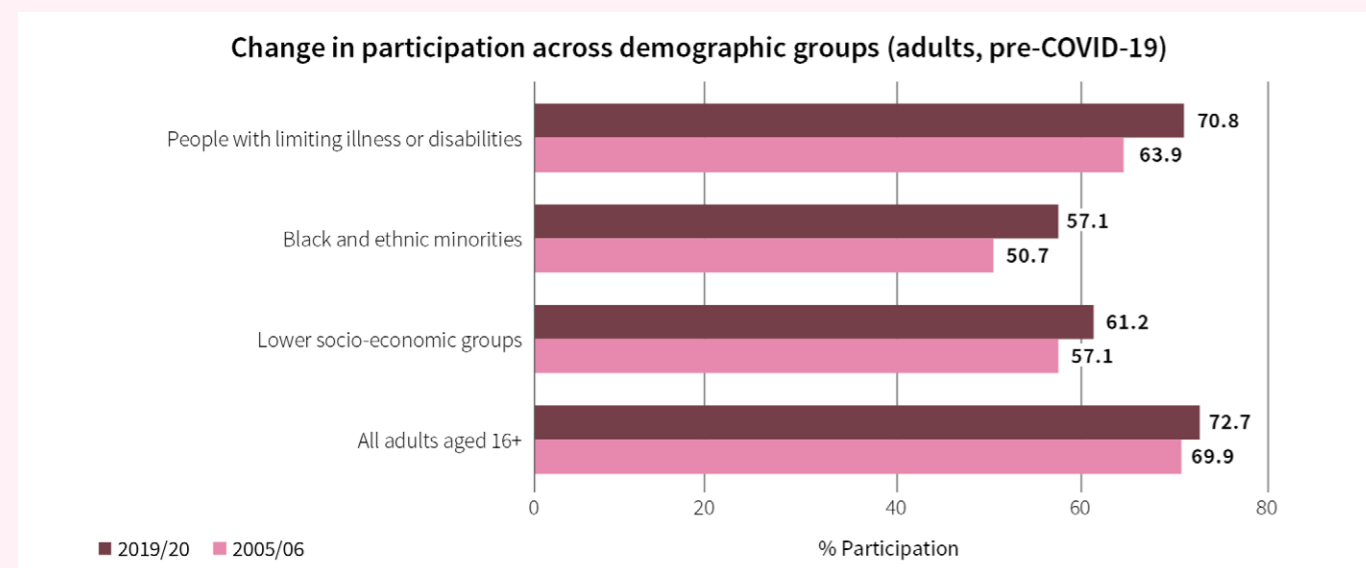
The Taking Part survey had a main sample of over 8,000 UK citizens that recorded participation and engagement in heritage through visits to monuments such as a castle, fort or ruin; a historic park or garden open to the public; or a city or town with historic character (DCMS 2020, 'Heritage'). The final round of annual data collection for Taking Part describes people's activities in the period April 2019 to March 2020, before the effects of COVID-19 could be readily observed.

- In 2019/20, 72.7% of adults reported having visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, similar to the rate of 72.4% surveyed in 2018/19. The most common reason given for visiting heritage sites was to spend time with friends and family (46.1%), closely followed by having a general interest in heritage or history (43.6%).

- A heritage participation gap persists, reflecting different patterns in several socio-demographic groups, although significant increases have been recorded for all adults, those in lower socioeconomic groups, ethnic minority groups and those with a limiting disability or illness, since the baseline of 2005/06.
- The participation gap has narrowed between those with a long-term illness or disability and those without. In 2005/06, 63.9% of respondents with a limiting illness or disability participated in the historic environment; by 2019/20, this figure had risen to 70.8%.
- 2019/20, 66% of surveyed 5- to 10-year-olds had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, a decrease from 2018/19 when 71% of this group

had done so out of school. Among 11- to 15-year-olds, there had been no change in the rate of participation from 2018/19 to 2019/20, which remained at 67%.

- Child respondents aged 11 to 15 who had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months were also asked about the types of site they had visited:
 - 46% had visited a historic building, garden or landscape open to the public,
 - 34% had visited a historic monument or site of archaeological interest,
 - 46% had visited a city or town with historic character,
 - 22% had visited an important modern building or public space.



The Roundhouse in Birmingham was removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk register in 2021. Built in the late 19th century as a stables and store, the Canal and River Trust and the National Trust have worked in partnership to restore the site. Today, the Roundhouse provides office space for local businesses and serves as a hub from which visitors can explore the historic city and canals. © Historic England Archive

Digital Engagement with Heritage

The Taking Part survey asked respondents about digital engagement with heritage:

- 29.8% of adults visited a heritage website in 2019/20. This proportion has continued to increase since 2016/17, when 26.3% did.
- Of those adults who visited a heritage website:
 - 43.6% did so to learn more about history or heritage,
 - 60.2% did so to plan how to get to a historic site,
 - and 72.2% did so to check the opening hours of a historic site.
- The proportion of adults who visited a heritage website has continued to increase since 2016/17 (26.3%). (Data from 2019/20 Taking part survey).

- 9.1% of adults in England engaged digitally aiming at following a virtual tour online. This is slightly less than the proportion of adults who did that in 2018/19 (11.5%).

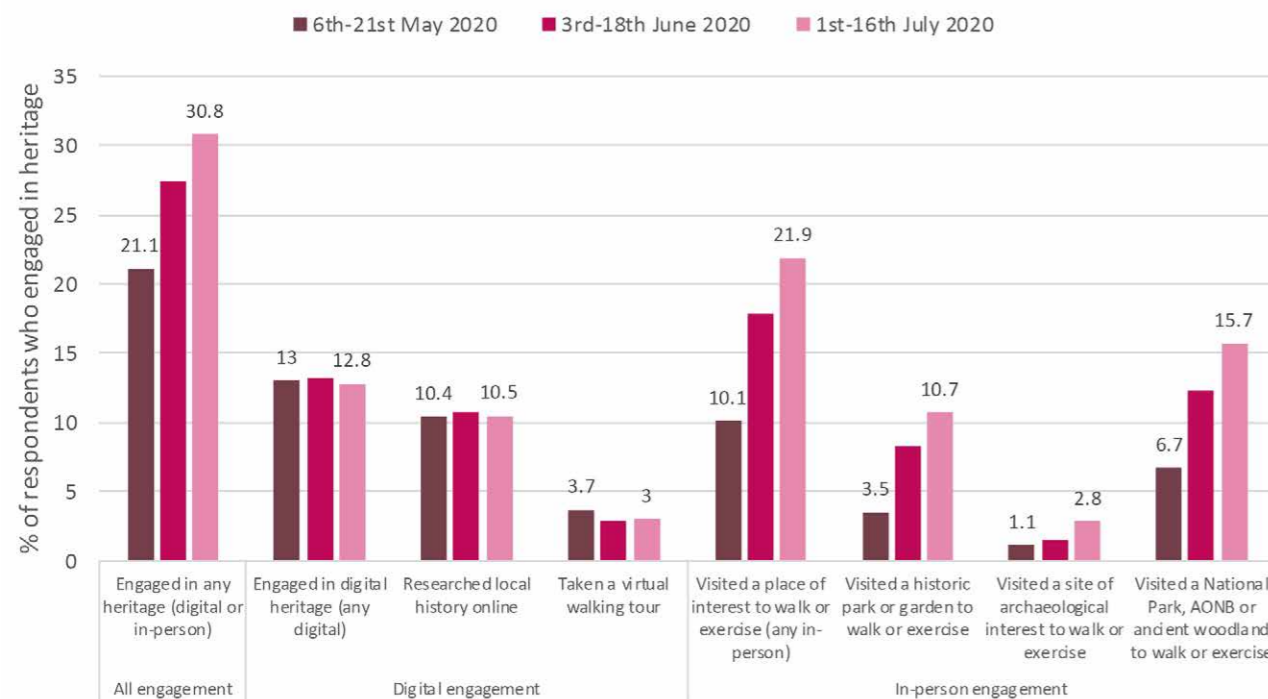
Engaging with Heritage during COVID-19

Although face-to-face research was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Taking Part Web Panel survey was able to continue. The web panel is composed of adults who agreed to join a longitudinal panel after being randomly selected following their completion of a face-to-face survey. The web panel is not fully representative of the population of England, since certain groups are under-represented, and the estimates are therefore indicative of national participation. In May, June and July 2020, the Taking part Web Panel participants (1,052, 1,035 and 976 respectively) were asked about their digital and physical engagement with heritage (DCMS 2020, 'Participation').

- In May 2020, 21.1% of respondents had engaged in heritage, whether digitally or in-person; this increased to 30.8% by July 2020.
- Digital engagement (by researching local history online or taking a virtual walking tour) fell by 0.2% over the same period, while in-person engagement increased from 10.1% to 21.9%.
- Visits to National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or ancient woodland were the most popular form of in-person engagement with heritage between May and July 2020, increasing from 6.7% to 15.7%.
- Respondents were asked whether they would feel comfortable visiting certain types of venue 'in 30 days' time if restrictions were relaxed' (DCMS 2020, 'Comfortable Visiting').

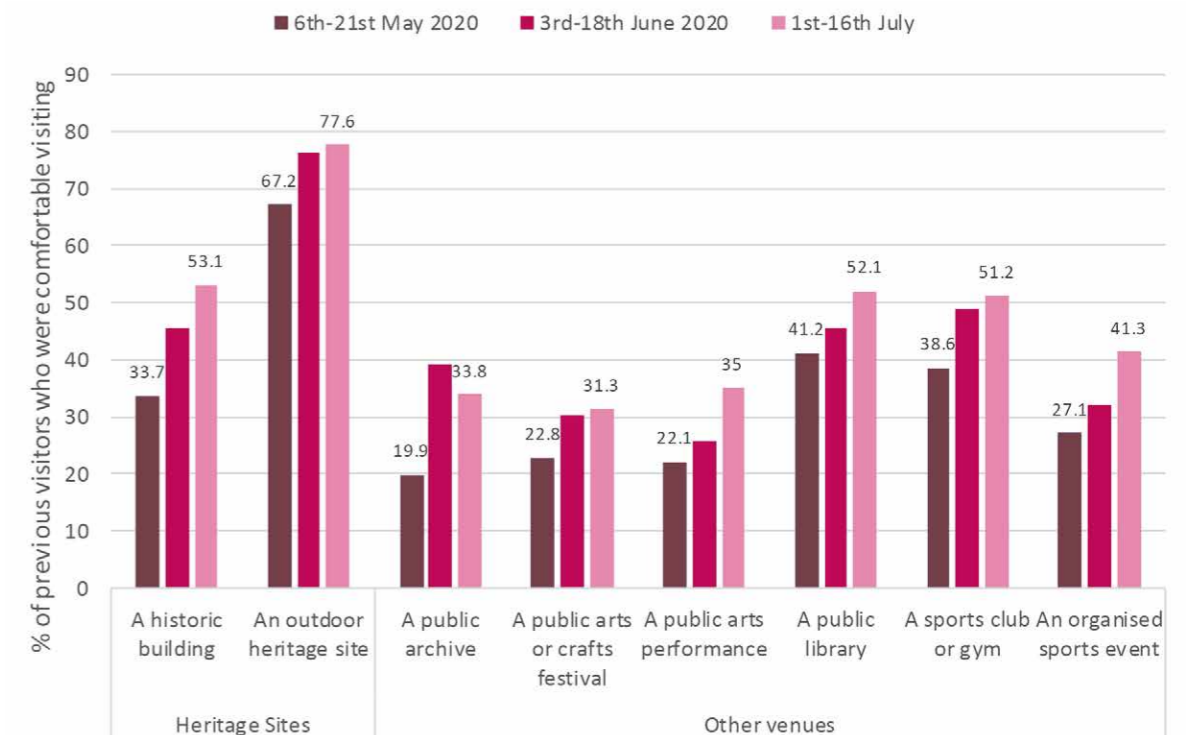
- In May 2020, 33.7% of former visitors (those who had visited similar venues in the last 12 months) were comfortable visiting a historic building, and 67.2% were comfortable visiting an outdoor heritage site, compared with 41.2% of respondents who felt comfortable visiting a public library and 38.6% of respondents comfortable visiting a sports club.
- In June 2020 53.1% of former visitors were comfortable visiting a historic building and 77.6% were comfortable visiting an outdoor heritage site, while 52.1% of respondents were comfortable visiting a public library, the highest scored non-heritage type of place.

Taking Part Web Panel – Digital and In-Person Engagement (May - July 2020)



Source: DCMS, Taking Part Web Panel (2020)

Taking Part Web Panel – 'Comfortable Visiting' (previous visitors, May - July 2020)



Source: DCMS, Taking Part Web Panel (2020)

Volunteering in heritage

- The National Trust reports that in 2019/20 the organisation had at least 50,000 volunteers.
- English Heritage volunteers increased marginally to 4,100 in 2020/21, continuing a trend of annual growth by which that figure has increased from 650 in 2010/11.
- In 2020, 11,900 people volunteered for Heritage Open Days. This is the lowest annual total recorded by Heritage Counts since a baseline of 39,780 was established in 2014.

Education and the historic environment

- According to the VisitEngland survey, there were 201,000 school visits to historic properties in 2020. This represents a significant reduction from the previous year (-73%), paralleling the reduction in visitors to historic sites brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- English Heritage reports there were approximately 4,100 free educational visits to their sites during 2020/21, which is a 99% reduction on the previous year's total (325,200).
- A third of Historic Houses work with primary schools, and a fifth work with secondary schools, universities and colleges.
- There is mixed evidence indicating the number of young adults engaging in heritage-related qualifications.
 - In 2021, 48.4% of all GCSE students studied for a history GCSE, compared to 32% in 2008.
 - The proportion of 16- to 18-year-olds taking History A-Level increased marginally from 6.8% in 2020 to 6.9% in 2021, after achieving a peak of 7.8% in 2019.
 - In 2020, 115,385 Higher Education students were enrolled in courses related to the historic environment in the UK, which equates to 4.6% of all students enrolled, a 0.1% decrease on 2019.



Warley Place, Essex, is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. Mick Hedges, Volunteer Warden, is pictured with volunteer Jenny Fisher as they clear the south pond.
© Historic England Archive

4. Capacity building

Funding the historic environment

National Lottery Heritage Fund

- The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) is the largest source of public funding for the historic environment in the UK.
- Over its lifetime the NLHF has awarded over £6.7 billion to over 37,900 projects (1994/95 to 2020/21). Approximately 34% of the funding was allocated to projects in areas with high levels of deprivation.
- In 2020/21, 849 heritage projects were granted over £47.6 million of NLHF funding, compared with £157.7 million in 2019/20. Over £17.4 million of funding was awarded to projects in the 25% most deprived local authorities.

Other public funding

- In 2020/21, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) spent £27.2 million on Listed Places of Worship Grants. Other heritage-related funding from DCMS includes the National Heritage Memorial Fund (£183.3 million) and Royal Parks Funding (£10.0 million).
- DCMS are a key income source for the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) and supplied £2.8m of grant in aid in 2020/21. In the last year, the CCT spent £5.2 million on conservation and church repair.
- The Historic Royal Palaces launched a new strategic framework in 2019/20 that re-mapped its charitable expenditure. Under the new headings, £30.4m was spent on conservation in 2018/19, and this figure increased to £31.5 million in 2019/20.

Voluntary funding

- The National Trust is the largest single voluntary organisation managing historic properties and landscapes across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. During 2020/21, the National Trust spent £263.8 million or 44% of its total expenditure on property operating costs, and a further £83.8 million (or 16%) on property projects.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme

- Under the Rural Development Programme for England 2014-2020, the Environmental Stewardship scheme was replaced by Countryside Stewardship (CS) which commenced in January 2016. Countryside Stewardship agreements that started in 2020 are the last to be operated under EU regulations. The scheme provides funding to farmers and other land managers who deliver effective environmental management on their land, including protection of the historic environment. In 2021, grants totalling £12.7m (an increase of 52% over the previous year's total) were taken up via the scheme, including 1,362 historic environment agreements, up from 849 in 2019/20.

Employment and skills in the sector

Employee jobs

- Using a method adapted from DCMS' Creative Industries Estimates, employment in the heritage sector can be estimated.
- In 2020, when the figures were last updated, there were 206,000 direct heritage jobs in England, an increase of 3.79% from the 2019 estimate of 198,000 jobs. If indirect and induced heritage employment is included then this figure rises to 564,000 heritage jobs in 2020, up from 464,000 jobs in 2019.

Local authority employment

- In 2020, Series 2 of the Local Authority Historic Environment Staff Resources survey began, produced by Historic England, Place Services at Essex Council and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.
- In October 2020, there were 728.5 historic environment specialist FTE jobs. The equivalent of 458.2 roles were working on building and area conservation, and 270.3 provided archaeological advice. New methodology employed for Series 2 means that direct comparisons with data for April 2018 cannot be made.

Pictured with its owner, 142 Elliott Street is undergoing refurbishment as part of the Tyldesley High Street Heritage Action Zone – one of more than 60 high streets that are benefiting from £95 million of government funding. © Historic England Archive





A community group pauses for a break inside Frank's Café, which is being restored as part of the Tyldesley High Street Heritage Action Zone.
© Historic England Archive

Further education and training

■ Launched in 2021, [The Hamish Ogston Foundation Heritage Building Skills Programme](#) is a major five year in-work training and apprenticeships programme in the North of England, running until 2026. The programme aims to reduce shortages in heritage building skills by providing paid opportunities for individuals at three critical points in their careers: preparing, entering and specialising. All 40 trainees engaged across the programme will benefit from on-site training with expert teams at some of the country's most valuable historic buildings and places, identified by Historic England as 'at risk' and in need of rescue.

■ In 2018, there were 51,150 people enrolled on heritage-related construction courses*. This is a 7% increase on the previous year, and a 9% increase since 2012/13. The courses are for:

- Bricklayers
- Building envelope specialists
- Floorers
- Glaziers
- Painters and decorators
- Plasterers
- Roofers
- Specialist building operatives
- Wood trades and interior fit-out

*The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Trainee Numbers Survey (TNS) from which this data was previously derived has now been discontinued. As a result the data reported for 2018 differs from that which has reported in previous Heritage Counts, and now includes the stats on all Further Education Courses for publicly funded courses and apprenticeships in England, provided by the Skills Funding Agency, and is more representative of the full scope of activity. This will be kept under review to capture the most relevant and useful data and trends, particularly in light of the developments of new apprenticeships standards and T levels.



At St. Mary's Church in Whaddon, Cambridgeshire, David Grech polishes a war memorial brass with help from Olivia and Lauren. © Historic England Archive

5. Helping things to happen

Building Preservation Trusts

- Building Preservation Trusts (BPTs) are important organisations in taking on heritage assets and delivering solutions which provide social and economic benefits for communities. In 2015/16 there were 192 BPTs active in England with 105 live projects to rescue historic buildings – 44 of these projects or 42% are on the Heritage at Risk Register. No new data were available in 2020.

Heritage Champions

- A **Heritage Champion** is normally a local councillor who has been nominated by their authority to promote all aspects of the historic environment in their area.
- In 2021 there were 171 Heritage Champions across England, a decrease of 31 from the 2020 total of 202. 51% of local authorities in England had heritage champions in 2021.

Advice for homeowners

- Heritage 2020 committed the heritage sector to engaging more effectively with owners and suggesting how heritage can help meet their needs. Historic England has published a set of documents on the subject of improving energy efficiency for owners of listed buildings, forming part of a wider suite of good practice advice on adaptation for energy efficiency and the impact of carbon legislation on older buildings.
- The complete series is available to download from the Historic England website: <https://historicengland.org.uk/energy-efficiency>



The cricket pavilion at Crawley Road, Leyton, has seen better days. Added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk register in 2021, plans for its restoration are now underway. © Historic England Archive

Heritage Indicator Summary Tables

Discovery, understanding, identification

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Designated heritage assets	Number of listed building entries	379,126	Increase of 4,260 since 2010
	Number of scheduled monuments	19,923	Increase of 457 since 2010
	Number of registered parks and gardens	1,696	Increase of 90 since 2010
	Number of protected historic wreck sites	54	Increase of 8 since 2010
	Number of registered battlefields	47	Increase of 4 since 2010
	Number of world heritage sites	20	Increase of 2 since 2010
Historic areas and open spaces	Number of conservation areas (2020)	9,903	Increase of 120 since 2011
	Area of land in England which is a national park	1,265,000 ha	Increase of 49,000 hectares since 2010
	Area of land which is an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB)	1,931,000 ha	Increase of 34,000 hectares since 2010
	Extent of ancient woodland	364 ha	Increase of 13 hectares since 2010
Acquiring information	Number of online historic environment records	72	Increase of 15 since 2010
	Extent of historic landscape characterisation	99%	Increase of 27% since 2007

Constructive conservation and sustainable management

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Historic environment at risk	Scheduled monuments on the Register	11.6% (2,315)	Decrease of 0.4% since 2020
	Listed places of worship on the Register	6.2% (923)	Decrease from 6.3% in 2020
	Grade I and II* secular buildings on the Register	3.4% (772)	Increase of 6 assets from 2020
	Conservation Areas on the Register	5% (491)	No change from 5% in 2018
	Grade II secular buildings on the Register (London only)	2.2% (371)	Decrease of 0.1% since 2020
	Registered parks and gardens on the Register	6.1% (104)	Increase of 1 asset from 2020
	Protected wreck sites on the register	7% (4)	Increase of 1 asset from 2020
	Registered Battlefields on the register	6.4% (3)	No change from 3 assets in 2019
Managing positively	Number of Planning applications decided 2020/21	399,531	Decrease of 31.8% since 2002/3
	Number of applications for Listed Building Consent application decided 2019/20	25,303	Decrease of 22.4% since 2002/3
	Number of scheduled monument consent decisions 2019/20	858	Decrease of 1% since 2002/3
	Number of planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens 2019/20	1,078	Increase of 43.5% since 2003/4
	World heritage sites with management plans reviewed in last 5 years	15 out of 20	No change since 2020

Public engagement

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Participation	Participation in the historic environment (2019/20)	72.7% of all adults visited at least one heritage site in the last 12 months	Statistically significant increase for all adults, lower socioeconomic groups, black and ethnic minority groups and those with a limiting disability or illness since the baseline of 2005/06
		57.1% BME groups	
		61.2% lower socioeconomic groups	
		70.8% limiting disability or illness	
		67.5% of all 11-15 year olds	
		66.3% of all 5-10 year olds	
	Number of members of historic environment organisations	National Trust: 5.3 million	Decrease of 10% since 2009/10
English Heritage: 1 million		Increase of 52% since 2007/08	
Historic Houses visiting members: 46,121		Increase of 88.3% since 2007	
Visitor statistics	Number of visits to historic visitor attractions	30.2 million	Decrease of 59% from 2019
Education and lifelong learning	Number of GCSE/A level history candidates (school year ending 2019)	278,880 GCSE candidates	Increase of 44% since school year ending 2002
		41,585 A level candidates	Increase of 17% since school year ending 2002
	Number of higher education students studying courses related to the historic environment (Academic Year ending 2020)	115,385	Increase of 11% since academic year ending 2003
	Number of school visits to historic sites	201,000	85% decrease since 2001

Capacity building

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) grants	Number of projects funded	37,906 (1994/5-2020/21)	Increase of 849 in 2020/21
	Total value of projects	£6,717,830,280 (1994/5-2020/21)	Increase of £47,612,185 in 2020/21
Environmental Stewardship Scheme	Total value of projects	£12,707,022	Increase of 48.1% since 2020
Capacity and resources	Numbers employed in the operation of historic sites and buildings in 2019 (Business Register and Employment Survey)	Over 14,000 in 2019	Increase of 31% since 2008

Helping things to happen

Indicator	Measurement	Value	Change
Building Preservation Trusts (BPT)	Number of active BPTs (2015/16)	192	Increase from 144 in 2014/15
	Total projects (2015/16)	117	Increase from 116 in 2014/15
	Live Projects (2015/16)	105	Increase from 102 in 2014/15
	Projects completed (2015/16)	12	Increase from 102 in 2014/15
Local authority Heritage Champions	Number of local authorities with Heritage Champions	171	Decrease from 202 in 2020

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Front cover: In August 2021, Bristol Cathedral hosted Luke Jerram’s ‘Museum of the Moon’ installation. The seven-metre wide, 1:500,000 scale sculpture of our only natural satellite features highly detailed NASA photography of the lunar surface. Originally scheduled to be displayed in August 2020, the exhibition was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced organisations across the heritage sector to similarly change their plans. © Historic England Archive



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