



Historic England

HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY: VISION FOR HAMPSHIRE 2050

SUBMISSION BY HISTORIC ENGLAND

Historic England is the Government's adviser on the historic environment. We are the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment.

1. The Value of Heritage in England

- 1.1 The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) published its Culture White Paper in 2016. This paper sets out the government's strategy for the cultural sectors which includes the nation's heritage and historic environment. A central tenet of the government's strategy is the way in which culture and heritage "*has an intrinsic value through the positive impact on personal wellbeing*", and that it makes "*a crucial contribution to the regeneration, health and wellbeing of our regions, cities, towns and villages.*"
- 1.2 The White Paper also stated "*Our historic built environment is a unique asset.....The development of our historic built environment can drive wider regeneration, job creation, business growth and prosperity.... Historic England has a key role in ensuring that developers and local authorities have the confidence to transform their historic places, ensuring that new development supports and enhances what is distinct and special about them.*"
- 1.3 The historic environment collectively comprises what generations of people have made of the places where they live. It is a precious inheritance which, when well-managed, can be a valuable source of prosperity, wellbeing and community cohesion. The value of the historic environment is recognised in legislation and national planning policy.
- 1.4 Heritage, in the form of the historic environment, forms a vital part of our nation's infrastructure providing homes, amenities, utilities and premises for businesses. Historic buildings, monuments and spaces shape how our towns, cities and rural areas look and feel (in which hand made clay tiles may play an important part). They add to the unique character of places signifying the culture of places and playing an important part in shaping peoples' perceptions and authentic experiences of a place.
- 1.5 Heritage plays a significant role in society, enhancing our wellbeing and quality of life, improving the way places are perceived, and engaging the general public. England's heritage is loved and cared for by millions; for its beauty, for the fascination it inspires, and for the benefits it brings us all.
- 1.6 Historic England's recent publication "*Heritage and Society 2018*" (<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2018/heritage-and-society-2018.pdf>) presents evidence on the ways that the historic environment benefits individuals and communities, gathered from a wide range of reliable sources including major household panel surveys, systematic literature reviews, bespoke evaluation studies and public opinion surveys.

- 1.7 “*Heritage and Society*” explains how England’s historic environment is enjoyed by millions, deeply valued by members of the public, is important for our health and wellbeing, creates a strong sense of place, influences how we perceive places, brings people together and inspires learning and understanding.
- 1.8 Each year, Visit England conducts a survey of visits to visitor attractions in England, including visits to historic properties. The survey reports over 71.5 million visits to historic properties in 2016. There were also over 1.6 million school visits to historic properties that year. In 2016/17, almost three quarters (74.8%) of adults in England or 33 million adults had visited a heritage site at least once during the year.
- 1.9 A survey of more than 5,000 adults in England found almost two fifths (38%) of the public have taken action to protect a local historic building or local place. 87% of 1,731 adults in England agreed with the statement that ‘finding new uses for historic buildings is better than demolishing them’, with only 2% disagreeing with this statement.
- 1.10 According to the DCMS Taking Part survey, there were an estimated 615,500 historic environment volunteers in 2016/17, representing 1.6% of the population and 4.9% of all volunteering in England. Over 90% of HLF volunteers surveyed said they had benefitted from socialising on heritage projects and 35% sustained friendships outside of the project. People who participate more often in heritage activities have higher life satisfaction and better mental and physical health.
- 1.11 Heritage provides a tangible link to the past and is an important source of authenticity and distinctiveness. This attracts people, businesses and investment, and can provide places with a competitive advantage. Using the historic environment as an asset, and giving it new life, has been one of the cornerstones of the economic and social revival of our towns and cities.
- 1.12 Historic England’s “*Heritage and the Economy 2018*”, also recently published, <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2018/heritage-and-the-economy-2018/>, explains that “*The historic environment is intrinsically linked to economic activity, with a large number of economic activities occurring within it, dependent on it or attracted to it*”.
- 1.13 It notes that “*The heritage sector is an important source of economic prosperity and growth*” – it has a total Gross Valued Added (GVA) of £29.0bn, equivalent to 2% of national GVA and generates over 459,000 jobs and tourist spending of £16.9 billion.

2. Heritage in the South East

- 2.1 In 2014 heritage directly, indirectly and induced over £3.5 billion in GVA in the South East, equivalent to 1.4% of total South East GVA in the South East. In 2016 (the most recent available figures), the total heritage contribution to GVA in the South East was £4.6 billion. 1.8% of the total South East GVA.
- 2.2 There were over 25,200 people directly employed in heritage in the South East in 2014; 41,300 including indirect and induced employment. In 2016, this had increased to 71,000.
- 2.3 In 2015, in total, it is estimated that there were 33.2 million heritage-related visits to the South East. In 2018, it is estimated that there were 37 million visits. Heritage tourism generated £2.24 billion in spending by domestic and international visitors in the South East in 2016.
- 2.4 Repair and maintenance of historic buildings in the South East directly generated £1.5 billion in heritage-related construction sector output in 2016, equivalent to 7.4% of total construction output in the South East.

3. Heritage in Hampshire

- 3.1 Within the county of Hampshire there is a wealth of designated heritage assets; according to the National Heritage List for England there are 187 Grade I, 513 Grade II* and 10,177 Grade II listed buildings; 618 scheduled monuments; three Grade I, 21 Grade II* and 34 Grade II Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; one Registered Battlefield and one Protected Wreck. There are also many Conservation Areas.
- 3.2 The Heritage at Risk Programme (HAR) helps us understand the overall state of England's historic sites. The programme identifies those sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay, inappropriate development, coastal erosion or other threats. The Register includes designated buildings, places of worship, monuments, parks and gardens, conservation areas, battlefields and wreck sites that have been assessed and found to be at risk.
- 3.3 Unfortunately, there are 42 listed buildings, 44 scheduled monuments, three Registered Parks and Gardens and 19 Conservation Areas in Hampshire on the 2018 Heritage at Risk Register identified as being at risk for a variety of reasons.

- 3.4 Being on the Register is not all bad news. It tells communities about the condition of their local neighbourhood. It encourages people to become actively involved in looking after what is precious to them. It also reassures them that any public funding goes to the most needy and urgent cases.
- 3.5 However, the Register does serve as a reminder that the historic environment and the heritage assets therein will not always be able to look after themselves, and may require proactive management.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 We trust that we have demonstrated in our submission the value of heritage to society and the economy. Although we do not have specific figures for the value of heritage in Hampshire, it is an entirely reasonable extrapolation, given the rich heritage of the county, that heritage in Hampshire contributes significantly to the quality of life and well-being of the residents of the county and to the sense of place and economy of the county.
- 4.2 Historic England considers that the Vision for Hampshire 2050 should therefore recognise the contribution of heritage to the quality of life, well-being, sense of place and economy of Hampshire and set out a vision for the historic environment of the county, to include the conservation, enhancement, and increased understanding, access to and enjoyment of the heritage assets therein.
- 4.3 We would be delighted to work with the Council, and with those who live or work in the Borough, or visit it, to develop that vision and work with our partners to help deliver it.
- 4.4 We will, of course, continue to work with our partners to conserve and enhance the historic environment of Hampshire and to promote the understanding, enjoyment and care of that heritage through our statutory and non-statutory work, for example through our grant programmes, engagement with local and neighbourhood plans and engagement with development proposals that would affect heritage assets. However, we look to Hampshire County Council to also take a lead in the conservation and enhancement of Hampshire's heritage.
- 4.4 Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. We would be pleased to discuss this further with you and, if appropriate, attend the Hearing on 14th December to present it in person.