

HERITAGE CRIME PROGRAMME

As we head into autumn we wanted to let you know what is happening to progress the initiative that we launched earlier this year and, vitally, what you can do to help it along. The reaction to the launch has been tremendous. We now have lots of members of ARCH, many local authorities who have signed the agreement with the police, CPS and ourselves that sets out the strategy for tackling this crime, and many more interested in doing so. Most importantly, we have seen individuals in police forces, local authorities and local interest groups taking it upon themselves to become the point of contact and expertise for the cause in their area.

English Heritage has retained Chief Inspector Mark Harrison who has done a magnificent job in spreading the word on how best to improve the situation in your area, often through advice on a particular incident. We've continued to hold meetings with the police and CPS to improve our understanding of the problem and our means of dealing with it and have now employed Newcastle and Loughborough Universities to carry out research into the issue. Mark has spoken at countless awareness and training sessions and we have a planned programme of our own for the spring.

Whilst that is all progress, there are worrying trends. A particular concern is the crisis of lead theft that our churches are facing. This is a very difficult issue that we are hoping will be eased somewhat by the work of the National Metal Theft Group, which we are now members of, and recently published English Heritage guidance on the issue.

Thank you for joining ARCH, but thank you so much more for doing what you can to tackle crime at a local level. That is what will make a sustained difference.

Mike Harlow
Governance and Legal Director, English Heritage



Launch of the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage

Over 80 delegates attended the launch of ARCH in February. The event also included the formal endorsement of the Heritage Crime Memorandum of Understanding by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) English Heritage and participating local authorities.

To date six local authorities have become signatories to the MoU –

Canterbury City Council

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Dover District Council

Ipswich Borough Council

Northamptonshire County Council

Norfolk County Council

Many more are considering it.



Chief Constable, Richard Crompton, Baroness Andrews, Dr John Gilbey, Nick Hunt

ARCH membership

Since February 64 organisations have joined ARCH. The quantity and quality of information and intelligence provided by members of the Alliance has resulted in a range of collaborative activities and operations leading to the arrest of offenders and seizure of artefacts.

Recent additions to the membership include:

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers

Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust

Centre for Applied Archaeology University of Salford

Darwen Archaeology History & Research Group

Diocese of Gloucester

Diocese of St Edmundsbury

Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit

Lichfield Diocesan Advisory Committee on the Care of Churches

Ipswich Historic Churches Trust

National Churchwatch

Norfolk Archaeological Trust

Towton Battlefield Society

A full list of ARCH members can be found on the ARCH pages of the English Heritage website. [Click here](#)

News

English Heritage is delighted to have been asked to form part of the National Metal Theft Group. The group, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable of British Transport Police, Paul Crowther coordinates a range of commercial and public sector bodies to tackle and investigate this form of criminal behaviour.

During the past six months metal theft has dramatically increased across the country with more thieves targeting copper, lead and other metals than ever before.

The thieves often operate on the premise that the crime is almost victimless and no-one, other than large corporations, suffers as a result of their activity. This couldn't be further from the truth, of course.

DCC Crowther, said: "Every single metal theft is an attack on either an individual or the wider community."

"When thieves steal lead from residential properties it is the householder who suffers when they steal the same material from a school or church then hundreds of people are potentially affected by the crime."



Enforcement operations

Since March 2010 English Heritage has assisted in the strategy for the investigation of over 150 incidents across the country. This will represent only a fraction of the incidents occurring, of course. Some of the more notable operations include:

Operation Arsenic and Godiva – Kent and Essex Police working with the Receiver of Wreck and English Heritage executed five search warrants as part of an investigation into unlawful salvage from protected wrecks.

Operation Totem – Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire Police working with English Heritage and experts from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, arrested a male on suspicion of illicit metal detecting in Lincolnshire.

Operation Denby – Kent Police working with French Customs, English Heritage and the Army to disrupt and deter the importation of artefacts, including live ammunition from Great War battlefields.

Operation Quartile – Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Police, English Heritage and finds experts from the Portable Antiquities Scheme investigating illicit metal detecting and damage to a scheduled monument. Two men are assisting the police with their enquiries.

Collaborative work between the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council and English Heritage to investigate and enforce unauthorized tipping and damage to a scheduled monument which also involves a planning breach.

There have also been a number of successful prosecutions involving metal thefts and graffiti affecting listed buildings where the police, English Heritage and local authorities have worked closely.

Heritage Crime Impact Statements

The use of heritage crime impact statements is developing across the country. The statement, produced by a historic buildings or archaeological expert, highlights the true loss to society of damage done to the heritage asset.

Recent cases include:

Graffiti – Folkestone Viaduct. Statement prepared by Dr Andrew Richardson, Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Offender sentenced to 15 months in a Young Offenders' Institution.

Metal theft – Folkestone Grammar School. Statement prepared by David Kincaid, IHBC and Canterbury City Council. Two offenders sentenced to 9 and 5 months imprisonment.

Metal theft – St Werburgh's Church, Chester. Statement prepared by Marie Smallwod, IHBC and Cheshire West and Chester Council. One offender sentenced to a 12 month Community Order. Curfew for 8 weeks. Addressing Substance Related Offending - 20 sessions supervised by the Probation Service.

Unauthorised works to a scheduled monument – Dray's Ditch Luton. Statement prepared by John Etté, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage. One offender formally cautioned.

Anti-social behaviour – Audley End House. Statements prepared by Matthew Lester, Visitor Operations Site Supervisor; and John Neale, Inspector of Historic Buildings, both English Heritage. One young offender received a Youth Rehabilitation Order for two counts of ASB to run concurrently for 6 months. Banning letters also sent to all youths involved with ASB.

Damage to a scheduled monument (graffiti) – Clifford's Tower, York Castle. Statement prepared by Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage. Male offender sentenced to 4 months imprisonment.



Jailing him for four months District Judge Roger Elsey told Blythe: "Given the worldwide significance of the historic sites you damaged with graffiti, I am satisfied the offences were so serious only a custodial sentence is appropriate."

Unauthorised demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area – Trafalgar Road, Richmond-Upon-Thames. Impact statement provided by Philip Davies former Territory Director for the South East Region of English Heritage. Male offender sentenced to £80,000 fine.

During sentencing His Honour Judge Dobson said referring to any replacement building '...nothing will be able to alter the fact that what is there is a replica.' He went on to say 'There is something intangible and incredibly valuable about our history'.

This is the highest ever fine for the demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area.

Events

Securing the Landscape

East Malling, Kent, Mark Harrison

On the 20th July 2011, the Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership Scheme hosted a national one-day conference to discuss the issues around illegal vehicle access, fly-tipping and environmental and heritage crime in rural areas.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, the conference was opened by Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams.

Mark Harrison Policing and Crime Advisor highlighted the issues of crime and anti-social behaviour to over 200 delegates from the UK and France

In the afternoon, workshop sessions allowed the sharing of approaches and best practice on a variety of strategic and practical issues.

Heritage Crime Summit

Hillsborough, Northern Ireland

In August, English Heritage was invited to speak at the Heritage Crime Summit at Hillsborough, Northern Ireland.

Mark outlined the progress that had been made in England to protect the historic environment.

Speaking after the summit Minister for the Environment, Alex Attwood said: "The serious damage to a small number of built heritage properties over the last few months was a call to action. That was the purpose of today's summit. It will reconvene in 55 days to review all the measures that will be taken between now and then and outline the measures to be taken forward over the next 55 months.

"The turnout of over one hundred people was evidence of the concerns and interest in the built heritage. The scale of proposals was impressive and the demands on government and everyone else was very clear."

Mark Harrison said: "Heritage is a finite resource. Once it's gone it is gone. We are temporary guardians so we need to do right for future generations. My role at this conference will be to provide an overview of the work that we have been developing in England, and to highlight how a coordinated partnership can tackle and investigate crime and anti-social behaviour within the historic environment."



Mark Harrison



Hillsborough Court House

Awards

In June, Dr Andrew Richardson and Michele Johnson were Highly Commended at the annual Special Constable and Police Support Volunteer Awards. The awards are organised by the National Policing and Improvement Agency and recognise the work undertaken by volunteers working with the police service.

The awards were presented by Damian Green MP, Minister for Immigration.

Chief Executive Officer, National Policing and Improvement Agency, Nick Gargan said:

“These awards are an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to the achievements of the thousands of community-minded volunteers across England and Wales who help the police in many important ways every day.”

As practising archaeologists, Andrew and Michele have used their expertise to help tackle heritage crime such as unlawful excavation and theft of historical items. Their work has led to recovery of a Bronze Age hoard and other items as well the prosecution of an offender for vandalising a Victorian bridge.

Officers had strong praise for the work of the duo. Ch Supt Neil Jerome, Head of Volunteers and Specials for Kent Police, said their contribution was highly prized.

Ch Supt Jerome emphasised: “They give so much of their own time to help us protect our heritage for this generation and the generations to come.”

“Let us not forget that the individuals who carry out the types of crime that they help us investigate are often highly organised and benefit greatly from their criminal activities.”



Catherine Mulholland, Michele Johnson, Dr Andrew Richardson, Chief Superintendent Neil Jerome

So what can you do as an ARCH member?

As members of ARCH you can:

- **Become a signatory to the Heritage Crime Memorandum of Understanding.** If you are a local authority and would like to become a signatory or learn more about what becoming a signatory will mean for you then please contact us.
- **Set up a Key Individual Network (KIN) in your area.** A KIN is a community engagement mechanism advocated by the Association of Chief Police Officers which is now being embedded in Neighbourhood Policing and partnership systems. It is a way of bringing intelligence and information to the attention of those agencies that can prevent damage and enforce the law against offenders. If you would like more information on how to set up a KIN in your area please let us know.
- **Provide intelligence about crimes affecting heritage assets.** English Heritage has appointed Newcastle and Loughborough Universities to undertake a research programme into the location, type and extent of crime affecting heritage assets across England. The outcomes will inform the forthcoming strategic assessment from which the national priorities for intelligence, prevention and enforcement will be set. As ARCH members we ask you to engage in this research programme and you will be contacted in the near future for information you might hold on this type of crime.

If you wish to discuss any of the above or have any other questions please email:
Chief Inspector Mark Harrison mark.harrison@english-heritage.org.uk
Joanne Fisher, Legal Adviser English Heritage joanne.fisher@english-heritage.org.uk

Forthcoming events

You will be receiving information shortly on the annual ARCH conference and also ARCH events in your area.

A regional training programme for the spring will be launched shortly.

Guidance on Out of Court Disposals will be issued shortly to members of ARCH. Guidance on Preventative Measures and Guidance for Sentencers' of crime affecting Heritage Assets is under development.



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