



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Conservation Areas at Risk campaign: Award Winners

National prize and North East Region winner

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is being awarded the national prize for managing conservation areas by English Heritage for its work on its buildings at risk and management of its heritage. The Local Planning Authority has taken some brave decisions about the buildings on the English Heritage *Heritage at Risk Register*, particularly Holy Trinity Church which they now own. Ruined and burnt out for a long time, it has been incorporated into an open park area. They are now focussing on the heritage of the town centre and have a PSICA (Partnership Scheme in a Conservation Area) project in place through which they will promote the wider benefits of heritage. They also deserve praise for cross departmental working.

North West Region

West Lancashire Borough Council

West Lancashire Borough Council is being awarded a prize by English Heritage for its proactive conservation team who have completed appraisals on all of their conservation areas. The Local Planning Authority's website is extremely useful and a conservation newsletter is sent out to the community on a regular basis. English Heritage is delighted to highlight a small shire Local Planning Authority, showing that good things can be done by small Local Authorities.

Yorkshire Region

Richmondshire District Council

Richmondshire District Council is being awarded a prize by English Heritage for its work in Richmond Town Centre Conservation Area and the improvements to the buildings. Their support of a Town Centre Manager has helped to improve the commercial activity and business confidence in the town. Their economic development and finance departments and planning department have collectively played a role in this improvement.

West Midlands Region

Wolverhampton City Council

Wolverhampton City Council is being awarded a prize by English Heritage for its work in Bilston Conservation Area. An English Heritage monitored Town Heritage Initiative funded project was particularly well run and effective and a model of good practice thanks to an effective Project Officer. Advantage West Midlands funding was used to follow up on the success of the Town Heritage Initiative grant. They have also tackled the Town Hall, a key building in Bilston and a symbol of the town's civic pride.

East Midlands Region

South Derbyshire District Council

South Derbyshire District Council is being awarded a prize by English Heritage for its work in Swadlincote Conservation Area. The Local Planning Authority has a sustained commitment to the conservation area through a PSICA (Partnership Scheme in a Conservation Area) project, strong community engagement and exemplary interpretation (including publications) for visitors at the Sharpes Pottery Museum (formerly on the English *Heritage Buildings at Risk Register*).

East of England Region

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council is being awarded a prize by English Heritage for its work in Downham Market Conservation Area. They have instigated a major repaving of the town square and have reorganised traffic in the heart of the town to improve pedestrian areas and allow congregation in the square. New landscaping using traditional materials, with some contemporary design features, has been very well integrated.

South East Region

Southampton City Council

Southampton City Council is being awarded a prize by English Heritage for its characterisation project work and because following the completion of the Conservation Areas at Risk campaign census, no conservation area was found to be at risk. The Local Planning Authority has improved the public areas, has appointed an additional Conservation Officer and has a Heritage Champion.

South West Region

To follow...

London Region

Islington Council

Islington Council is being awarded a prize by English Heritage for its work in Whitecross Street and King's Cross Conservation Areas. A Partnership Scheme in a Conservation Area funded project has hugely improved a number of 18th and 19th century unlisted buildings, put back a high number of traditional shop fronts and improved their facades, creating an improved public area that is appropriate to the historic street.

The council is also being acknowledged for a development scheme that has brought back into use a number of good quality industrial 19th century buildings in a canal side setting, all of which have been repaired and conserved to a high standard.

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