

Corporate Outcome F: The distinctive cultural heritage characteristics of the settlements and landscapes are conserved and enhanced by ...

1. *Working with rural and urban communities to build on their awareness and involvement (Priority level 2)*
2. *Ensuring the achievement of all targets within the Cultural Heritage Strategy (Priority level 2)*

We achieved our target of being involved in 5 major projects to support delivery of the Cultural Heritage Strategy which contributed to succeeding in keeping our Strategy 97% on target.

Key work over 2008/09 included helping communities progress cultural heritage events and workshops in Litton, Parwich, Beeley and Bolsterstone. Over the year Village Community Planners were incorporated into our Area Teams to work with local communities on the development and delivery of village plans in a more integrated way.

We have now appraised/ reviewed 88 of the 109 conservation areas in the Park, and archaeologically surveyed over 45% of the Park. The percentage of listed buildings at risk has fallen from 7.0% to 6.6%.

Our Planners continued to work with residents and developers to incorporate appropriate enhancements to development schemes that are in keeping with the Park's cultural heritage, including providing pre-application advice. The team also developed a Design and Craft Award, in partnership with Friends of the Peak District to advance the objectives of the new Design Guide and celebrate good craftsmanship, which is often overlooked but vital to giving effect to good design on paper.

Looking ahead to 2009/10

For 2009/10 we intend to keep the Cultural Heritage Strategy on target and support 5 major projects that support its delivery.

Key actions for 2009/10 include:

- *Further develop the use of Area Teams in community planning through a pilot project in Parwich (L1)*
- *Development and delivery of the Heritage Protection Review statutory requirement (L1)*
- *Deliver the historic buildings grant scheme (L2)*
- *Deliver the archaeology grant scheme (L2)*
- *Deliver the Conservation Area Enhancement Grant (L2)*
- *Produce 4 conservation area appraisals (L2)*
- *Archaeologically survey a further 1% of the Park (L2)*
- *Give high priority to enforcement action relating to listed buildings and scheduled monuments (L2)*
- *Promote Design and Craft awards with applicants and agents (L2)*

National Heritage at Risk Award

On 9 July 2008, at a ceremony in London, the Authority was the first ever recipient of English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Award. Pauline Beswick, member and historic environment champion, received the award on behalf of the Authority. The award is in recognition of the conservation track-record of the Authority, and in particular for the key role the Authority has played in reducing the number of Scheduled Monuments at high risk in the Peak District, from 17 in 2001 to just 2 in 2008. While these last two are easily the most intractable of problems, we are working hard to remove them from the list as well.

This achievement has only been possible because of the teamwork, with input and enthusiasm from a wide range of colleagues and partner organisations and, of course, working with landowners and managers. This was underlined by Dr Simon Thurley, chief executive of English Heritage, who said: "With nearly 3,000 listed buildings, more than 450 scheduled monuments, 109 conservation areas and internationally recognised attractions such as Chatsworth, Haddon Hall and Lyme Park, there is a great deal within the national park that needs caring for, many voices that need to be listened to, and many competing interests that need to be reconciled.

"The Peak District National Park Authority has undertaken outstanding work with its strategic and often innovative approach to managing the historic sites and landscapes within its boundary. We believe the authority should be especially commended for its highly effective partnership working."

Such partnership working will continue to be vital in future to continue to deliver the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the National Park and as heritage protection reform continues to be developed by government and delivered through local authorities.