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# **Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy**

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# 1 Introduction to the Heritage Strategy

1.1 Folkestone & Hythe District is the most southern local authority in Kent and its longest standing administrative unit. It extends from the hills and valleys of the North Kent Downs in the north, through the Greensand Vale (an area that includes the Greensand Ridge and Holmesdale) and southwards onto the Romney Marsh and the Dungeness shingle spit. It is a coastal district edged by high white chalk cliffs and sandy beaches interspersed with a number of coastal towns and settlements including the former major port of entry at Folkestone.

1.2 The district has a remarkably rich and diverse heritage. While some of its heritage assets are instantly recognisable like the Martello towers along its coastline there are many more that are less well known but that play a major role in the district's historic sense of place. At a wider scale the district contains a range of historic landscapes moulded by natural and human processes that provide the distinct character that is valued by those who live, work in and visit the area. The heritage assets, from individual features to the wider landscapes, have all played a role in shaping the district's development and identity.

1.3 At a time of substantial change and growth in the area, the district's heritage assets provide a unique opportunity for place-making, guiding and stimulating regeneration and making significant contributions to recreation, tourism, the economy, health and education. That is why the District Council has identified a key priority in its Corporate Plan (2017-2020), under the 'Appearance Matters' objective, to '...maintain and improve ... historic assets' by providing landscape and urban design advice in order to achieve high quality places to live and work in.

1.4 The Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy was commissioned by the Council to ensure that the heritage of the district plays a clear and positive role in its future. While the primary purpose of the Heritage Strategy is to address local planning needs, it is designed to address much more than that. It has been written to explain the substantial benefits and real value that conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets, their recognition and use can bring to the district. The Heritage Strategy will seek to:

- Ensure that heritage plays a positive role in all areas of strategic planning – place shaping, economic, tourism, health and wellbeing, education;
- Enable and inform regeneration and growth, building places and communities with a stronger sense of place, pride and interest in their surroundings. Heritage-led regeneration and development provides additional economic value to an area, providing a quality environment that attracts new businesses;
- Contribute to and enhance tourism and the visitor experience and the economy;
- Increase wider understanding of the District's heritage and the ways in which the community can engage with and experience their heritage;

- Provide strong social and health benefits through improving quality of life and activities that encourage physical and mental health and well-being, reduce social exclusion and crime;
- Provide a valuable educational resource that can contribute local context to curriculums at all stages and an available and accessible resource for local schools and colleges.

1.5 There are a large and enthusiastic group of stake-holders, individuals and groups, involved in many existing heritage activities within the district. Many of these stake-holders have been involved in the production of the Heritage Strategy. The Heritage Strategy will act as an aid to the stake-holders helping them to pursue common goals and to provide an evidence base for their project funding bids and future plan development.

1.6 Overall the key aim of the Heritage Strategy is to help those involved with the district's heritage understand the real values that it can provide and see it less of a constraint and more of an opportunity to be embraced and considered at the outset of planning change and activities.

## **Policy Context**

1.7 Planning shapes the places where people live and work and the country we live in. It plays a key role in supporting the Government's wider social, environmental and economic objectives and for sustainable communities. This is achieved through a planned system, with national policy and local plans, forming the basis for sustainable planning.

### ***National Policy***

1.8 The Government's planning policy is set out in a single document known as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>1</sup> backed up by the Planning Practice Guidance<sup>2</sup>. These highlight the importance that the built and historic environment plays in promoting sustainable development.

1.9 Section 16 of the NPPF sets out the Government's specific policies relating to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. It states that planning should '*...conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life for this and future generations....*'

1.10 The NPPF states that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/740441/National\\_Planning\\_Policy\\_Framework\\_web\\_accessible\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

most at risk though neglect, decay or other threats. Such strategies should take into account.

- *'the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- *the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;*
- *the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- *opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment on the character of a place.'*

1.11 The NPPF places importance on having a solid and robust evidence base for plan and decision making. This strategy, along with the County Historic Environment Record, will form part of that evidence base so that the District Council has up-to-date evidence about the historic environment in its area. The strategy also provides a broad-brush assessment of the significance of groups of heritage assets within the district and the contribution they make to their environment.

### **Local Plans**

1.12 The Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan<sup>3</sup> was adopted on 18th September 2013 and sets the overall long-term vision, principles, course and framework for more detailed plan making in the district to 2031. This sets out two strategic aims that are relevant to heritage:

***'Strategic Need B : The challenge to enhance the management and maintenance of the rich natural and historic assets in Shepway.'*** (para 2.38)' and

***'Strategic Need C: The challenge to improve the quality of life and sense of place, vibrancy and social mix in neighbourhoods, particularly where this minimises disparities in Shepway.'***

1.13 The Core Strategy is now being reviewed and will look further into the future to 2037. This Plan does not change the strategic needs set out above but has set out policies for a new garden settlement and a revised policy for further growth in the village of Sellindge. The proposed garden settlement site contains cultural heritage with the potential to bring benefits to the masterplan design.

1.14 The Places and Policies Local Plan (PPLP) identifies specific sites and policies for new development. This strategy is being developed in parallel with and informing this plan.

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<sup>3</sup> On 1 April 2018 the local authority changed its name from Shepway District Council to Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

1.15 It is hoped that the theme papers in this Strategy will be useful tools for other plans or strategies being developed. These would include communities developing neighbourhood plans or other district council strategies.

## Approach and Structure

1.16 The approach taken to compiling the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy conforms with the advice set out in Historic England's paper 'Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning - Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans' (HELP) (March 2015)<sup>4</sup>, which sets out advice about creating the 'positive strategy' sought by the NPPF.

1.17 HELP explains how conservation is not a stand-alone exercise satisfied by stand-alone policies and that it needs to be woven throughout the Local Plan. The Strategy therefore needs to consider the inter-relationship of the historic environment and the following suggested areas:

- Building a strong and competitive economy;
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres;
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy;
- Promoting sustainable transport;
- Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes;
- Requiring good design;
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change; and
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

1.18 The Heritage Strategy goes beyond planning and development and will be used to explain the ways in which the historic environment can positively address other key current agendas such as education, crime, health, community cohesion, recreation, pride and celebration.

1.19 The evidence base has been compiled with reference to thematic grouping of heritage assets (see Chapter 4 and Appendix 1). This approach enables the broad significance of collections of heritage assets that provide the distinctive character of the district to be described in a legible and engaging way. A key part of the process of identifying the heritage themes and assets that the district's community value has been an extensive programme of stakeholder consultation involving workshops, meetings, site visits and general correspondence throughout the period of development. An additional aspect gained from the stakeholder engagement has been to identify the substantial amount of heritage-related activity that is taking place or being planned within the district (Chapter 5) and to highlight potential opportunities for linking activities for common benefit.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa1-historic-environment-local-plans/>

1.20 Chapter 6 sets out the ways in which the district's heritage can be used in a positive way providing real value from its appropriate conservation.

1.21 The way in which heritage assets are vulnerable to change both in general terms and from specific circumstances in Folkestone & Hythe District has been considered and set out (Chapter 7). At an early stage the site allocations being considered in the PPLP were reviewed and advice provided with respect to their impact on the historic environment.

1.22 A major focus of the project has been engagement with local heritage stakeholders. This engagement and the principal feedback received is described in Chapter 8.

1.23 Specific objectives, priorities and recommendations are set out in Chapter 9 including advice for the role of the council and stakeholders as well as to assist the development of policy in the Local Plan.

## 2 The District's Rich Heritage

2.1 The district contains an exceptional wealth of heritage spanning from prehistoric times to the present day. The district features archaeological finds, historic structures and landscapes that are of outstanding significance having importance nationally and even internationally. While the district may arguably lack the internationally recognisable sites of its neighbours, Canterbury Cathedral and Dover Castle, it does include amongst its heritage offer iconic assets. For example the Martello Towers and Royal Military Canal which sit proudly amongst its unrivalled collection of Napoleonic period defences or the unique landscapes at Dungeness and the Romney Marsh.

2.2 Alongside these and other nationally important sites there are numerous sites of regional or local importance, less well known perhaps but treasured and valued by local communities as markers of their own history and that of their towns and villages. Furthermore there are many important visitor sites, museums and collections that are open to the public in the district that make a substantial contribution to the public's understanding of the area's heritage and to its tourism potential. These sites, buildings and objects are known as 'heritage assets' and are exactly that – places and artefacts of value to the district, to its sense of identity, its aesthetic appeal and its economy.

2.3 The wealth and importance of this heritage is reflected in the Kent Historic Environment Record which lists more than five and a half thousand heritage assets in the district with more than a thousand being designated. Alongside those recorded there will be many more that are not yet included in the Record.

2.4 The geography of the district plays an important role in its heritage and history. Located in the south east of the country, separated from the Continent by the English Channel and the narrow Straits of Dover the interaction with Europe through trade, new people, cultures and ideas and through cross channel travel all play a part in the story of the district. In particular the area has always been on the front line of potential invasion and this has left a particularly rich defensive record, expressed clearly in the Napoleonic defences but also in a remarkable collection of heritage assets that span from Roman times to the Second World War.

2.5 The richness of the heritage assets is reflected and to a great extent influenced by the richness of its landscapes. The district contains an exceptionally rich and varied historic landscape which spans southward from the quintessential rolling Kentish chalk downland to the unique and vegetated shingles of Dungeness. In doing so it crosses the major coastal transport conduit of the Greensand Vale before dropping into the expansive Romney Marsh. The district's coastline, varying between the iconic White Cliffs and sand or shingle beaches with a seascape that includes views to France and the busy shipping routes through the Channel makes a further major contribution to the outstanding landscape of the district.

2.6 The range of heritage assets and the way in which they can be explained through a number of particular themes is described in Chapters 3 and 4 of this Heritage Strategy. Unsurprisingly given the location it is perhaps the district's defensive and coastal heritage that is the most prominent, however there are many other aspects that provide the area with its distinctive character; its settlements and rural landscapes, transport infrastructure and its church heritage are all examples.

2.7 A strong legacy of defence is represented by the remains of various fortifications on the coastline and inland going back to the Iron Age and continuing through to the 20th century. They form an outstanding collection of assets that represent the nation's responses to foreign threats and the defence strategies that were employed as a result. The earliest potential fortification in the District lies at Castle Hill, here the prominent hill overlooking Folkestone with its Norman castle earthworks possibly originated as an Iron Age hill fort though this is yet to be confirmed. With the arrival of the Romans we see the emergence of one of the main crossing points from the south east at Lympne (*Portus Lemanis*) sited at the end of Stone Street and to facilitate the crossing to Boulogne. Archaeological evidence has highlighted the importance of the area in the activities of the *Classis Britannica*, the Roman channel fleet. The most prominent evidence in the district of the Roman's defence from seaborne raiding survives at Lympne where the ruins of Stutfall Castle, a 3rd century Roman fort of the Saxon Shore, one of a number that survive along the east and southern coast of England, can be seen. During the medieval period, possibly with Saxon origins, we see the rise of some of the most spectacular of the district's fortifications, its castles. Designed more as defended seats of power rather than serving an anti-invasion purpose the castles illustrate the changing nature and function of the fortifications over the time. Amongst them are the Norman earthwork castles at Castle Hill, Folkestone and at Stowting. The impressive, mainly 14th century castle at Saltwood which itself had a Norman precursor and the fortified manor house of Westenhanger Castle. Although now mostly lost to coastal erosion a castle once lay at the Bayle in Folkestone.

2.8 By the late 14th and 15th centuries coastal defences again became important meeting the threat of French raiding. Saltwood Castle would have played an important role in overlooking the Cinque Port at Hythe. Changes in both the military potential of France and Spain and schism with Catholic powers led Henry VIII to initiate a programme of new castles along the coast, linked by lines of fortifications and now designed both to deliver and withstand artillery fire. In this district we see the construction of one such castle at Sandgate in 1540 although it was short lived and derelict by 1560 before its later modification first during the English Civil War and later as part of the Martello scheme. Perhaps the most significant anti-invasion fortifications are the outstanding collection of Napoleonic (and Revolutionary Wars) period defences built along the coast and the Romney Marsh. Although the numerous towers of the Martello Scheme are the best known remains of these defences, redoubts at Shorncliffe and Dymchurch, several coastal batteries and the Royal Military Canal are

all important surviving elements in this defensive arrangement, one of the best examples in the country.

2.9 From the late 18th century the district sees it taking on a more prominent role in encamping and preparing troops for foreign expeditions. A camp was established at Shorncliffe in 1794, training troops for fighting in the Napoleonic Wars on the continent. It was again used as a staging post for troops destined for the Western Front embarking at Folkestone. Its association with Commonwealth troops is particularly notable; from 1915 a Canadian training division was formed there and since 2001 until recently it has been a base for the Royal Gurkha rifles. The training of troops has left its considerable mark on the district, a School of Musketry was established in Hythe in 1853. Taking advantage of the open areas along the Romney Marsh coast, military training grounds and ranges developed for military practice through Hythe, Dymchurch and Lydd, much of which is still in use today. The Downs north of Folkestone and Shorncliffe were also heavily used for training troops before departure to the Western Front in the Great War. An incredible footage of troops training is available in Canadian archives and aerial photography has revealed the survival of practice trenches and other defences across the landscape with particularly important survival at Tolsfold Hill where Canadian troops camped at Sandling have left their mark.

2.10 The final stages of the development of the district's defences was during the 20th century. The increasing threat of invasion saw defensive positions being established around the vital port of embarkation at Folkestone in WW1. The Second World War sees the development of new forms of warfare and the District's heritage assets illustrate the national response to new threats. Assets associated with air defence, coastal defence, troop support and supply, anti-invasion works and civil defence are all well represented. Together these help to tell the story of Britain's changing fortunes in the war from initial preparations, through the dark days of the Battle of Britain and real invasion threat following the Dunkirk evacuation, to invasion planning and support for the Normandy landings evidenced by the remains of a Mulberry Harbour and the Pluto pipeline.

2.11 Kent's defensive role has now greatly receded but numerous sites survive and many can still be visited to remind us of the dramatic events that occurred in the district, in the sea that surrounded it and the air above. The human cost of the wars can also be seen through the war memorials and monuments across the district.

2.12 Most of the maritime traffic between the Atlantic and the North Sea travels through the English Channel and the Strait of Dover making it the busiest seaway in the world. This has been the case from early times resulting in a wealth of maritime heritage whether in the abundant wrecks that litter the seafloor between the district and the French coast as little as 22 miles away, or as features on the shoreline and inland within the district. Around 630 wrecks or reported sites of foundering of vessels are recorded on the Kent HER for the local waters, representing a fraction of the losses

in the area. The coastal heritage includes assets associated with navigation of this important sea route such as the lighthouses at Dungeness, lifeboat stations and the fishing industry. With such expansive lengths of beaches flanking the Romney Marshes, the area became synonymous with smuggling and the history of this is well represented in the towns and villages of the area. Elements of the chain of coast-guard stations still survive along the coastline.

2.13 The district played an important role in the growth of seaside leisure in the 19th century. The coming of the railway to Folkestone in 1843 opened up access to the sandy beaches of the district's coastline. By the end of century Folkestone and Sandgate had developed into fashionable seaside resorts with luxurious hotels, villas, pleasure gardens and other seaside amenities. By the early 20th centuries popular holiday camps were springing up along the coastline's sandy beaches at Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay and Romney Sands, access to which was greatly helped by the purpose-built opening of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway in 1927. Today much of the character of the district's coastal area is provided by the 19th and 20th century leisure heritage assets there. Folkestone and Sandgate's Victorian and Edwardian built heritage is particularly significant with areas such as the Leas containing important assets such as the Leas Lift and Pavilion. Elsewhere settlements along the coast still capitalise on the sands and are popular leisure destinations. The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway is a particularly important heritage asset that plays an important role in the district's tourism offer and community as well as, in part, its aesthetic value to the coastal landscape.

2.14 The district's position at the channel end of the corridor through the Greensand Vale has meant the district has played an important role in transport since early times. From the Roman times we see the establishment of Stone Street, major road between Canterbury and the coastal port at Lympne (*Portus Lemanis*) enabling access cross channel into the wider Roman Empire. With the coming of the railway in the 19th century, Folkestone developed into a major cross channel port with many of the harbour assets relating to this heritage. While the ferry services linking Folkestone to the continent have now gone, the development of the Channel Tunnel and its terminal at Cheriton plays a very significant role in the country's connection with its European neighbours. Lydd Airfield, built in 1954 was once one of the busiest airports in the country handling cross channel ferrying of cars to Le Touquet in France. Other branch railways have come and gone in the District for example the Elham Valley Line and the Hythe and Sandgate branch line though some parts survive as memories of these links. The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway has survived as a particularly special reminder of the local network built to serve the communities in the district.

2.15 The religious heritage provides valuable and unique evidence of a long and varied history of spirituality and Christianity in Kent. It includes some examples of the earliest churches dating back to Anglo-Saxon times with one example All Saints, Lydd arguably including Romano-British religious architecture. Other early assets include early Christian remains being discovered through excavations Lyminge. Of the 52

churches known in the district a particularly important grouping are those that stand in isolation on the Romney Marsh, markers of the lost settlements that they once served.

2.16 The historic character of the district is underpinned by its historic landscapes which play an important role in its distinctiveness. Within the landscapes the pattern of settlement, farms, fields, tracks and lanes has evolved over millennia, influenced by the area's geology but also by the movement of peoples through this important place connecting Britain to Europe. While many of the earliest remains survive only as archaeological remains buried beneath the ground, the influence they have on the district's landscape can still be traced. For example at Saltwood investigations have revealed that the 19th century road network, in places still used today had its origins at least as far back as the Iron Age.

2.17 The settlements in the district are rich and varied: the historic port towns at Folkestone, and the Cinque Ports of Hythe and New Romney; the seaside heritage settlements stretching from Folkestone to Romney Sands; the unique settlement at Dungeness; the garrison town at Shorncliffe and the many small historic towns and villages scattered through the valleys of the North Downs and on the shingle banks of the Romney Marshes. These contain a wealth of historic buildings and buried archaeological remains that record their evolution, development and rich history. The built heritage in the district, which includes 913 Listed Buildings and many more that are not designated, is distributed across every town and village in the district and are also scattered across its fields and along its coastline. They are buildings of special architectural or historic interest and tell the story of people's homes, places of work and worship for more than a thousand years. Some of are of national or international renown while others are of more local relevance telling the story of how ordinary people lived and worked in the district. All of these remains, whether Listed or not, have helped to shape the character of the places where they stand and are valued landmarks for local communities. They provide character, interest and a sense of age within settlements, often defining the heart of an old settlement and linking new development with old.

2.18 More detail on the district's rich heritage is explained in the following chapters and in the accompanying theme papers in Appendix 1.

## 3 Heritage Assets

### Definition of a heritage asset

3.1 *A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the Local Planning Authority (including local listing) **NPPF Annex 2***

3.2 A heritage asset will hold meaning to individuals and groups of individuals beyond their purely functional utility. Heritage assets have been shaped by people responding to their local environment, but will also help to shape that environment in the future. They have a significant role to play in creating a sense of place and acting as a catalyst for regeneration and supporting local economic activity. The district's heritage assets add distinctiveness, meaning and identity to the place and are an exceptionally valuable local resource.

3.3 It is therefore important that the significance of the district's heritage assets is taken into account as part of any future development management, regeneration or maintenance decisions and opportunities are sought, wherever possible to enhance the district's heritage assets.

### Types of assets and designations

3.4 The term heritage assets encompasses all sorts of features, including buildings, parks and gardens, standing and buried remains, areas, sites and landscapes. Some heritage assets possess a level of significance that justifies designation. The following statutory designations covering heritage assets exist within Folkestone & Hythe District:

- **Scheduled Monuments**

Scheduled Monuments are those archaeological sites which are considered to be nationally significant and as such have been given legal protection by being placed on a list by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

- **Listed Buildings**

Significant historic buildings or structures are provided with statutory protection by being placed upon the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

- **Conservation Areas**

Conservation Areas are designated where a place is of special historic or architectural interest, and where it is desirable to preserve or enhance the character and appearance

- **Registered Parks and Gardens**

This Register is specifically concerned with gardens, grounds and planned open-spaces and the emphasis is on the significance of the place as a designed landscape, rather than its botanical importance

- **Protected Wreck Sites**

The Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) provides the legislative framework for designating the remains of vessels (or their contents) which are of historical, artistic or archaeological importance.

3.5 Other heritage assets may be indirectly provided with statutory protection. For example, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are designated to protect the natural beauty of a place and heritage assets will form an important part of what makes an AONB special. The Local Planning Authority has a legal duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) to have regard to the purposes of the AONB in making decisions affecting land in an AONB. Part of the district falls within the Kent Downs AONB an area of chalk downland that extends across Kent from the White Cliffs of Dover to Surrey. The chalk cliffs at Dover and Folkestone are defined as a Heritage Coast, one of thirty two in England. The conservation, management and enhancement of the AONB, including the Heritage Coast, for a five year period is set out in the Kent Downs Management Plan 2014<sup>5</sup> which includes a vision for the AONB to 2034.

3.6 The historic environment and the natural environment are not mutually exclusive and designations aimed at the conservation of the natural environment such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) can play an important part in conserving the special and distinctive historic character of an area and afford protection to its heritage assets. Within the district there are three SACs at Dungeness, the Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpement and at Parkgate Down. Dungeness and Romney Marsh are covered by a SPA. Numerous Sites of Special Scientific Interest fall within these and other areas of the district.

### ***Non- designated heritage assets***

3.7 The majority of heritage assets will not be designated, either because they do not warrant formal designation or their significance has only recently been revealed or has not been considered. Some of the undesignated heritage assets are of equivalent significance to those that are. Non-designated heritage assets are all those recognised elements of the historic environment not covered by one of the above designations. Some assets may have a locally-defined designation; these do not have any statutory framework underpinning them but represent recognised heritage assets of local significance or value. As there is no currently adopted local list of buildings for the district, the only locally-defined heritage assets are the Historic Parks and Gardens included in the Kent Gardens Compendium 1996.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/guidance-management-and-advice/management-plan>

3.8 The Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER), maintained by Kent County Council is the county's record of its heritage assets. This is constantly being updated with new records and existing records are regularly amended and enhanced with new data and more accurate locations. The source of new records can be the result of individual contributions or from more extensive surveys and targeted thematic studies. Parallel recording schemes such as the Portable Antiquities Scheme also feed into the KHER. The NPPF (para 187) requires that as a minimum the Historic Environment Record should be consulted by applicants to understand the impact of their proposals on heritage assets. It should be noted that as the database is an evolving record there are many heritage assets, including some of great significance that have yet to be included in the record. The Kent Historic Environment Record is available on line through the website *Exploring Kent's Past*<sup>6</sup>. The web based version is however in a limited form for general use only and for planning use contact should be made direct to KCC Heritage Conservation.

3.9 The following table provides a summary of the number of records held in the KHER for the district's heritage assets.

<b><i>Designated Heritage Assets</i></b>	
Scheduled Monuments	65
Listed Buildings	913
Conservation Areas	21
Registered Parks and Gardens	2
Protected Wreck Sites	1
<b><i>Locally designated Heritage Assets</i></b>	
Historic Parks and Gardens	16
<b><i>Non-designated Heritage Assets</i></b>	
Standing buildings (not Listed)	160
Archaeology - sites and monuments	1414
Archaeology - find spots	2365
Wrecks and sites of foundering (approx.)	630
Crash sites	94

*Table quantifying designated and non-designated heritage assets recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record (as of February 2017)*

3.12 The work for the present Heritage Strategy has involved research into the key heritage assets of the identified themes. As a result a large number of additional

<sup>6</sup> <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/>

heritage assets have been identified that will be included on the KHER and enhance the record for the district.

## 4 Heritage Themes

### Introduction to the themes

4.1 The heritage of the district is exceptionally rich, varied and extensive. It comprises thousands of known and recorded heritage assets and many more that are not known. Those assets occur in a number of forms: archaeology, built heritage, landscapes and townscapes, wrecks, customs, traditions and stories. Some assets are specifically protected by designation but the majority are not. In order to properly define and characterise these assets the heritage strategy has taken a thematic approach, one that was developed and successfully used on the Dover District Heritage Strategy.

4.2 A thematic approach has considerable strengths:

- It allows a mixture of assets types to be brought together into a coherent and accessible story that explains their context and collective significance;
- It explains the contribution that the vast number of undesignated heritage assets can make to the overall significance of the district's heritage; and
- It allows broader links to be made across the district's heritage and heritage activity enabling co-ordinated effort, project development and promotion.

4.3 A list of the themes is included below. The theme papers themselves are included as Appendix 1 of this strategy.

4.4 In identifying a list of themes for this strategy consideration was given to those aspects that particularly contributed to local distinctiveness or have played an important role in shaping the character of the district. A more general description of the richness of the District's heritage is provided through the asset-based themes, considering the resource in terms of asset groupings.

4.5 The list of themes addressed in the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy has been arrived at in conjunction with stake-holders at workshops before and during the course of the project. At an initial workshop in February 2015 stakeholders presented ideas for themes. These ideas were resolved into a draft list by the project team that was then presented at a further workshop in June 2016. As a result of that workshop an additional theme 'Transport' was added to the original presented list.

4.6 A theme of 'People' connecting the district with its history of notable residents and visitors was initially considered. This was in the end not taken forward as it was agreed that the 'People' are contributing to a range of themes and enhance their historical associative values.

4.7 The following themes were considered as part of the present study (due to the complexity of some themes these have been treated by individual sub-theme). Themes 11-13 are those that are asset-based:

### **Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Themes**

1. Landscape
  - 1a Romney Marsh
  - 1b North Downs & Greensand Vale<sup>7</sup>
  - 1c Dungeness
  - 1d The District's Coastline
2. Coastal Heritage - Harbours & Ports
  - 2a Early Harbours
  - 2b Cinque Ports, Limbs & Connected Towns
  - 2c Folkestone as a Cross Channel Port
3. Coastal Heritage - Seaside Leisure & Tourism
  - 3a Folkestone & Sandgate as seaside resorts
  - 3b Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay & Romney Sands
  - 3c The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway
4. Coastal Heritage - The District's Maritime Coast
  - 4a Fishing
  - 4b Safeguarding the coast
  - 4c Wrecks
5. Defence Heritage
  - 5a Invasion Coast
  - 5b Castles
  - 5c Napoleonic
  - 5d Great War
  - 5e Second World War
  - 5f Camps, training grounds and ranges
- 6 Church
- 7 Settlement
- 8 Farming & farmsteads
- 9 Parks, gardens and estates
- 10 Transport
- 11 Archaeology
- 12 Built Heritage
- 13 Conservation Areas

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<sup>7</sup> The Greensand Vale refers to an area that includes the Greensand Ridge and Vale of Holmesdale

4.8 It is recognised that there are significant heritage assets within the district that do not easily fall in to the above themes and that arguments could be made for additional themes which are important to the district. The thematic approach is flexible and can be added to through future studies and be applied at different scales perhaps focusing on a particular collection of assets or an area of the district.

### **Themes methodology, values and significance**

4.9 Themes were investigated using a desk-based approach, with a number of different sources of information consulted. Some limited site visits were made to key heritage assets and areas. In addition a considerable volume of information was obtained via correspondence, discussion and meetings with stakeholders. Outputs comprised thematic based studies (which are included as an appendix) as well as GIS layers, which have been used as a basis for the production of the illustrations accompanying the theme papers.

4.10 The thematic studies are not intended to provide a definitive list of all heritage assets relating to a particular theme. They are intended to provide an illustration of significant elements, examples or key groupings of the district's heritage assets that contribute to the significance of the theme. The nature of such a theme based approach means that there will be considerable overlap between themes, groups and sub-themes. As such some heritage assets feature in multiple themes; where possible, cross-references have been included to other relevant themes.

4.11 Each theme study comprises an introduction to the theme, a written description of the principal heritage assets, a tabulated list of key heritage assets and a statement of significance for that theme. The theme studies also highlight any significant vulnerabilities or opportunities connected with either the theme as a whole or to specific assets within that theme. A summary of current activity taking place in the district that is relevant to the theme is also included.

### **Significance**

4.12 Measures for assessing the significance of the themes and groups in their various aspects have been based on the values (where relevant) set out in English Heritage's *Conservation Principles*. These values are: evidential, illustrative, aesthetic and communal. **Evidential value** derives from the potential for heritage assets to yield further evidence of past human activity. The evidential value of the theme is based on the potential capacity of the assets to provide additional information upon investigation. **Historical value** derives from the way in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a theme to the present. Historical values may

be represented through the ability of an asset to illustrate an aspect of history or prehistory on a wider scale, or by association with a specific notable family, person, event or movement. **Aesthetic value** derives from the ways in which people draw sensory or intellectual stimulation from a place. It is recognised in the present study that some assets may have an aesthetic value as a result of deliberate and conscious designs, whereas the aesthetic value of other places may be accidental or secondary to their primary function. **Communal value** derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. As part of the communal value consideration has also been given to the amenity value of themes or elements therein.

4.13 The overall assessment of significance is considered in terms of its evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values and is intended to reflect the theme, group or sub-theme as a whole. Assets may individually be of greater or lesser significance or may contribute to the significance of multiple themes or have an additional group value. The degrees of significance adopted in the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy are:

- **Outstanding Significance:** themes which are of key national or international significance. These contain significant heritage assets, which are among the best (or the only surviving example) of an important type of monument, or are outstanding representatives of important social or cultural phenomena, or are of very major regional or local significance.
- **Considerable Significance:** themes which contain heritage assets that are good and representative examples of an important class of monument (or the only example locally), or have a particular significance through association (although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale).
- **Moderate Significance:** themes which contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the district, or which provide an historical or cultural context for other themes that may be of individually greater significance.
- **Low Significance:** themes which are of individually low value in general terms, or have little or no significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the district, without being actually intrusive.
- **Uncertain Significance:** themes or elements therein which have the potential to be significant (e.g. buried archaeological remains) but where it is not possible to be certain on the evidence currently available.
- **Intrusive:** themes or elements therein which detract visually from or which obscure understanding of significant elements or values of the district. Recommendations may be made on their removal or other methods of mitigation.

4.14 The table below sets out the significance of each of the themes assessed for the Heritage Strategy.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Significance</b>
1a Romney Marsh	Outstanding
1b North Downs & Greensand Vale	Outstanding
1c Dungeness	Outstanding
1d The District's Coastline	Outstanding
2a Early Harbours	Outstanding
2b Cinque Ports, Limbs & Connected Towns	Considerable
2c Folkestone as a Cross Channel Port	Moderate - Considerable
3a Folkestone & Sandgate as seaside resorts	Moderate - Considerable
3b Hythe, Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay & Romney Sands	Moderate - Considerable
3c The Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway	Low - Moderate
4a Fishing	Moderate
4b Safeguarding the coast	Considerable
4c Wrecks	Outstanding
5a Invasion Coast	Considerable - Outstanding
5b Castles	Considerable - Outstanding
5c Napoleonic	Outstanding
5d Great War	Moderate - Considerable
5e Second World War	Considerable
5f Camps, training grounds and ranges	Moderate - Considerable
6 Church	Outstanding
7 Settlement	Outstanding
8 Farming & farmsteads	Moderate
9 Parks, gardens and estates	Considerable
10 Transport	Moderate - Considerable
11 Archaeology	Outstanding
12 Built Heritage	Outstanding
13 Conservation Areas	Outstanding

### ***Limitations and assumptions***

4.15 The data used to comprise the theme studies was largely comprised of secondary information obtained from a variety of sources, only some of which were directly examined. Where possible, sources have been cross-referenced and cross-examined to ensure accuracy. The general assumption was made that this data as well as that derived from other secondary sources is reasonably accurate, but none the less some errors may be expected. Given the time limits posed upon the study, only those sources that were readily and easily accessible were examined. It should be noted that the information held within these sources will not be complete and does not preclude the subsequent identification or discovery of other significant heritage assets that are, at present, unknown.

4.16 The theme papers presented in the Heritage Strategy present a snap-shot in time of the district's heritage assets. New discoveries are continually being made and new information constantly coming to light.

## 5 Heritage Activity in the Folkestone & Hythe District

### Introduction

5.1 A particular focus of the Heritage Strategy has been, through stakeholder engagement, to identify the heritage related activities that are taking place or planned to take place. As early as the pre-project workshop in February 2015 it was clear that there is a substantial amount of heritage activity spread throughout the district. A strong advocate of the need for a heritage strategy from an early stage has been the Shepway Heart Forum, a forum of stakeholders interested in heritage, the arts and tourism. Recognising this Folkestone and Hythe District Council were keen that the heritage strategy should examine the activity that is taking place and look for opportunities that may arise through connecting these.

5.2 Taking this forward the workshop in June 2016 included a group table exercise focused on activities. Tables were asked to identify

**"On the map of the district as a group note where heritage related activities or projects are taking place or are planned to take place."**

5.3 This exercise provided the project team with an initial listing of activities broadly across the district. Following this the team conducted an extensive number of discussions with numerous stakeholders to clarify their current work and ambitions. This engagement included telephone discussions, email correspondence, face to face and on-site meetings.

5.4 The very substantial evidence base that resulted from this engagement was then analysed to look for ways in which the activities can be linked. Stakeholders also provided their views on how their working could be enhanced via the Heritage Strategy.

### Heritage Activity

5.5 The substantial amount of heritage related activity identified as taking place contrasts with the RSA Heritage Index for England<sup>8</sup> which indicates that in terms of activity per heritage asset, the district is 250th of 325 local authority area in England. This however may be a product of the relative wealth of the district in terms of heritage assets.

5.6 The activities are being carried out by a wide variety of stakeholders including community and friends groups, societies and projects; institutions such as universities and the church; local authorities; AONB and landscape partnerships; the arts and natural heritage sectors; property, asset and land owners; health groups and more.

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<sup>8</sup> The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce see <https://www.thersa.org/action-and-research/rsa-projects/public-services-and-communities-folder/heritage-and-place/England>

Activities ranged from those that are concerned with a specific asset to those that are concerned with the heritage of entire landscapes.

5.7 Local history groups and societies are very active and have been passionate about contributing to the strategy. Each group has great pride for their locality and its heritage assets and provide a significant resource for future involvement with and ownership of the heritage strategy.

5.8 There are clear overlaps with other sectors particularly with natural heritage and the arts. Landscape scale projects such as the 'Fifth Continent' and 'Up on the Downs' have substantial heritage related activities. The arts sector is particularly strong in Folkestone with projects such as Creative Quarter and Folkestone Triennial.

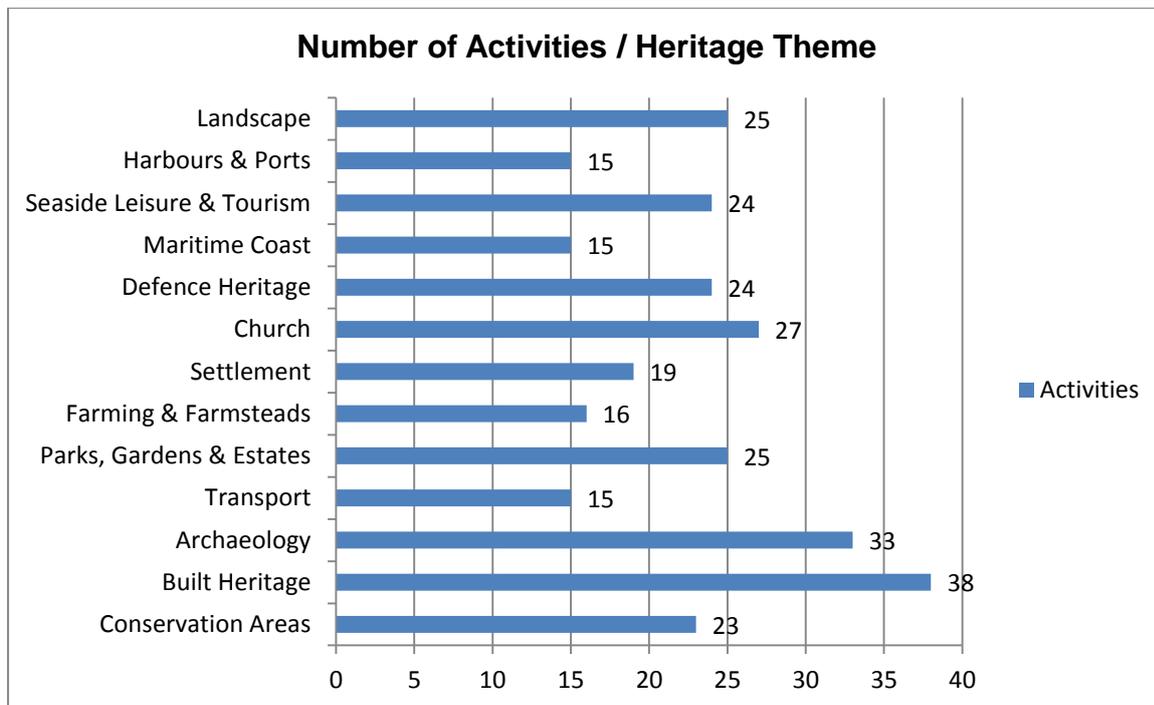
### Linking Heritage Activities in the District

5.9 The strategy has analysed the potential overlaps between heritage related activities in the district. For each activity the main heritage interests were identified and correlated against the thirteen heritage themes. A table setting out the correlation for seventy four activities is included in Appendix 3. An extract is included below:

	(1) Landscape	(2) Coastal Heritage (Harbours & Ports)	(3) Coastal Heritage (Seaside Leisure & Tourism)	(4) Coastal Heritage (Shepway's Maritime Coast)	(5) Defence Heritage	(6) Church	(7) Settlement	(8) Agriculture & Farmsteads	(9) Parks, Gardens & Estates	(10) Transport	(11) Archaeology	(12) Built Heritage	(13) Conservation Areas
"A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before 1500" (Canterbury Christ Church University, Folkestone People's History Centre and Canterbury Archaeological Trust)		X					X				X		X
"Between the Storms" (Pavement Pounders)		X	X	X	X								
"Finding St Eanswythe" (Canterbury Christ Church University)	X					X	X				X		X
"Look Out and Remember Garden" (Folkestone community project)									X				
Aspinall Foundation									X				
Canterbury Archaeological Trust		X			X		X				X	X	X
Canterbury Diocese "Pilgrimage Network"	X					X	X					X	
Creative Foundation (Creative Quarter)			X				X					X	X
Dymchurch & District Heritage Group	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
East Wear Bay Archaeological Project		X					X				X		X
EDF (Dungeness Estate)	X			X						X		X	X
Elham Historical Society	X					X	X	X	X		X	X	X

5.10 The table clearly illustrates across the themes many activities have mutual interests. The following chart illustrates the number of activities that were identified for each theme. It shows there is a good range of activity across every theme with

Church showing the highest level of the non-asset based themes marginally ahead of four others. More than half of the activities were involved with Built Heritage with Archaeology a close second. Caution needs to be exercised in reading too much into the data as many activities fall within several themes and the table doesn't take into account the scale of interest for each activity. It does however serve to illustrate that there is high potential for activities to work in a joined up way to achieve strong outcomes for each of the heritage themes.



5.11 A discussion of the heritage related activity for each theme and sub theme is included in the Theme Papers in Appendix 1.

5.12 Further analysis of the seventy four identified activities has highlighted that forty six of them have positive health and wellbeing outcomes. The Heritage and Health Case Study (Appendix 2) considers the contribution that heritage activity can make towards public health and the above suggests that in the district there is already much that is contributing.

### Stakeholder Feedback on their Activities

5.13 Through discussion with the stakeholders involved in heritage related activity the project team have raised the following:

- That there is a need for better communication between activities to achieve better outcomes and stronger impact;

- Activities and projects would benefit from understanding what is going on between them and some level of co-ordination to avoid duplication of effort and to identify opportunities for joint development of projects;
- They see benefits in sharing knowledge, skills and resources between projects;
- They could benefit from joint training initiatives;
- They see value in joint promotion of projects and feel that there is a need to raise awareness of their projects and initiatives with the public; and
- They feel that they need up to date advice and guidance on funding opportunities that may be open to them for their activities.

5.14 These matters are dealt with further in Chapters 6 and 7 following.

## 6 Opportunities - Making the Most of the District's Heritage

### Introduction

6.1 The rich historic environment offers many opportunities to those who live, work, visit and invest in the district. Heritage plays a vital role in the environmental, social and economic well-being of the district and its sustainable future. As described earlier in this strategy (1.19 to 1.21) this is recognised in the Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) and the National Planning Policy Framework (para 126) which directs the Heritage Strategy to take into account "*the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring.*"

6.2 It is very clear from stakeholder engagement that there is great enthusiasm and pride amongst local communities in their heritage and the positive role that it can play in the area's future. None-the-less heritage assets can often be seen as a constraint on change and it is the ambition of this heritage strategy to change that perception and explain the various ways in which the heritage can provide meaningful and tangible value. In particular through the following chapter the strategy will explain the economic value of heritage that can be realised through conservation and use of the district's heritage assets in a number of ways, contributing to a range of agendas.

6.3 Historic England provide some useful data and collation of research at a national level on the value of heritage through their annual Heritage Counts<sup>9</sup> audit which they carry out for the Historic Environment Forum. First produced in 2002, data from their 2016 audit is included in this heritage strategy. As well as producing broad data using heritage indicators, each year Heritage Counts focuses on a particular theme from its research: including in 2009 it focused on Sense of Place; 2010 Economic Impact; 2014 The Value and Impact of Heritage; and in 2016 Heritage & Place Branding. Two papers in the 2016 audit present national headline findings on 'Heritage and the Economy' and 'Heritage and Society'. Research quoted in Heritage Counts 2016 suggests that for local places "On average, £1 of public sector expenditure on heritage-led regeneration generates £1.60 additional economic activity over a ten year period."

6.4 The following chapter considers how the district's heritage can play a positive role in the future:

- as a catalyst for economic and social regeneration;
- in realising tourism and visitor potential;
- contributing to improved public health and well-being;

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<sup>9</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/heritage-counts/>

## **Heritage: A Catalyst for Economic and Social Regeneration**

*"Our heritage plays a crucial role in shaping the places we live, work and visit. it provides places and people with a link to the past, a symbol of permanence and stability, as sense of belonging - an identity. Places with strong, distinctive identities are more likely to prosper than those without them."*

Sir Laurie Magnus, Chairman, Historic England in *Heritage Counts 2016*

6.5 The historic environment offers great potential as a resource for enhancing the quality of life in the district. It can act as a framework for regeneration, complementing and supporting the economic development of the area. This can help produce higher quality and more sustainable development that is successfully integrated into life here. The historic environment can also play a key role in social regeneration and in the cultural offering of the district. Successful heritage-led regeneration, acting in partnership with community projects, can help to connect people with their urban and rural landscapes, with their heritage and with each other. The linking of heritage with the culture and arts sector can provide significant benefits together and be a strong catalyst to creating wealth and regeneration.

6.6 Successful regeneration has to have a lasting long-term positive effect on places and the communities that live in them. It is not just about improving the physical fabric of a place; it is about bringing about social cohesion, encouraging economic growth and restoring vibrancy to communities.

6.7 The Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan recognises the importance of quality of life and sense of place in its Strategic Need C as a key element of its growth and in Strategic Need B recognises the need to enhance the management and maintenance of the district's rich natural and heritage assets. These two aspects are fundamentally linked and should work together in regeneration, development and growth in the district. The Government in its 2016 Culture White Paper explains that "The development of our historic built environment can drive wider regeneration, job creation, business growth and prosperity."

6.8 The incorporation of heritage as a keystone in a holistic regeneration approach brings a number of benefits which are discussed further below:

- Creating a sense of place;
- Re-use of heritage assets;
- Adding value to new development;
- Attracting business and commercial activities;
- Creating employment;
- Durability of regeneration;
- Reduces social exclusion.

## **Creating a sense of place**

6.9 Creating a 'sense of place' is very important in regeneration. It provides the distinctiveness of the place and contributes to its competitiveness, sense of identity and pride. Heritage plays a fundamental role in providing the unique character and distinctiveness of a place, grounding the place in its history and roots. Without heritage the product of regeneration may be essentially similar and without its unique selling points a regenerated area is at an economic disadvantage.

6.10 Heritage Counts 2016 - Heritage and Place Branding brings together research into the role and importance of place-making. It states that "Local places are becoming more not less important for our economies and for society" and that "Place is a producer of wealth and wellbeing as well as provider of a sense of belonging and identity".

6.11 The buildings, open spaces, historic features and patterns of roads and lanes are what ultimately define the character of settlements. It is therefore important that any change is sensitive to this character, adding to and developing distinctiveness rather than diminishing it and creating uniformity or blandness. Although designated heritage assets and Conservation Areas will be central to this process, the historic environment can hold meanings and memories for a community that go beyond the architectural, archaeological or historical importance of designated assets. As has been seen in the strategy, the strength of the District's heritage is the thematic linking of its assets, designated and undesignated into stories that connect with people. With undesignated heritage assets forming the vast majority of the heritage, and the most under-valued, it is important that proposals for regeneration take account of all of its heritage from an early stage to ensure that the character and distinctiveness of a place is used to its best effect.

6.12 Heritage assets can act as a mechanism for bringing groups and communities together. People want to be proud of where they live and the historic environment can act as a catalyst for engendering and reawakening local pride by strengthening and celebrating the self-image of communities. The heritage of a place is an identifying link that brings people together. The stakeholder contribution to this heritage strategy clearly illustrates the passion that local people have for their heritage in the district and how they wish to see heritage leading regeneration. Many of the areas proposed for change have strong heritage identities for example the strategic delivery sites at Folkestone Harbour and The Leas with its maritime and leisure heritage, and Shorncliffe Garrison with its military heritage, development around the historic settlements of New Romney and Hythe and the incremental changes to the historic villages, towns and settlements each with their own distinctive characteristics and identities.

6.13 The creation of the new Otterpool Garden Settlement provides an opportunity to the District Council to use the natural and built heritage strengths of the area to

shape a unique and distinctive place and assist regeneration. The case study for Folkestone Racecourse (Appendix 2 Case Study 1) accompanying this Heritage Strategy illustrates practical ways in which the heritage can be used to positively shape place for example:

- Using the site's archaeological interest to help shape development;
- Improving understanding and management of heritage assets;
- Finding uses for Westenhanger Castle to sustain its future and use change at the racecourse to trigger investment in enhancement of the heritage asset;
- Using open space to appreciate the former parkland setting of the castle and reinstate its historic southern approach;
- Providing positive enhancements through removal of intrusive elements and reinstatement of lost features;
- Using the rich history and heritage, including that of its less tangible heritage, to make a positive contribution to the local character and distinctiveness of the place;
- Informing new development through a detailed understanding of the landscape character of the area, respecting the topography, historic character and features of the site;
- Taking into account ancient routeways in new development.

### **Re-using heritage assets**

6.14 Heritage-led regeneration can take a number of forms. In its simplest mode it might involve bringing a historic building back into use or refurbishing a historic property that has suffered from neglect. More complex programmes can involve refurbishing industrial, maritime or military buildings as whole areas become subject to change. Re-using existing buildings is a simple way of achieving sustainability whilst bringing the added benefit of reinforcing the sense of place that they engender.

6.15 The historic environment has a significant role to play in the conservation of resources required for development as it may take fewer overall resources to adapt an old building than to demolish it and build a completely new one. Some modern building materials may also have limited lifespan compared to traditional materials such as stone, brick and tile. English Heritage produced guidance (*'Climate Change and the Historic Environment'*, 2008) that reviews the threats to the historic environment posed by climate change. The guidance also demonstrates that historic structures, settlements and landscapes can in fact be more resilient in the face of climate change and sometimes more energy efficient, than more modern structures and settlements.

6.16 Re-use of existing buildings can also be economically beneficial. It may be less expensive to refurbish or convert an old structure than to build anew. By contrast,

historic buildings are often considered more desirable than new buildings and thus have the potential to carry a price premium.

6.17 Heritage-led regeneration is about more than just re-using historic buildings. Other assets such as parks and gardens, municipal spaces, sea-front promenades, bridges, piers, the patterns of roads and lanes, historic features such as walls, road signs and surfaces and also more ephemeral historic elements such as house, pub or building names etc also have key roles to play. All of these, both designated and undesignated heritage assets, can together create a historic 'framework' for the settlement. When new extensions to the settlement are being planned it may be that the majority of these features are not found in the development area as they will naturally be concentrated in the historic core. It is likely, however, that some of them will be present and these enable the new development to be linked to the historic framework of the rest of the town.

### **Adding value to new development**

6.18 Heritage-led regeneration adds value to development projects. It is striking that in most towns it is the heritage-led developments that are among the most prestigious and financially valuable. Research suggests that in Conservation Areas, properties generally have a higher selling price than areas around and generally development which includes heritage assets generally has greater value (Heritage Counts 2017 *'Heritage and the Property Market'*)

6.19 Where regeneration is led by large-scale new development, the historic environment can help to avoid a sense of a development scheme being artificial and seemingly dropped into a landscape. These can also have the advantage of accommodating large scale new housing without major intrusion into the existing infrastructure and the local community.

### **Attracting business and commercial activities**

6.20 Heritage and a historic sense of place help to attract investment, businesses and commercial activity. Research quoted by Heritage Counts 2016 found that of a 100 businesses surveyed 25% agreed that the historic environment is an important factor in deciding where to locate and indeed as important as road access. Research by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013 confirmed that innovative new businesses flourish in places that possess a good stock of historic distinctive buildings. It also found that independent retail and leisure businesses seek to cluster in historic areas of towns and cities thereby adding to the distinctive sense of place and attracting more successful businesses. The HLF also found that businesses that occupy listed buildings generate £13,000 extra Gross Valued Added per business per year. Creative and cultural industries are particularly attracted to historic buildings because they are

smaller, more flexible and cost-effective. 29% are more likely to be found in a Listed Building (Heritage Counts 2016 and HLF 2013)

### **Creating employment**

6.21 As well as heritage attracting business and commercial activity, heritage contributes to employment both directly and indirectly. Jobs created through tourism both on and off visitor sites are considerable and discussed in more detail below (6.34 to 6.50). Heritage Counts 2016 quotes research that in 2013 there were 164,100 direct heritage jobs in England rising to 328,700 when taking into account indirect and induced heritage employment. That is equivalent to 1% of national employment. Heritage related construction plays an important part in England's construction industry. Heritage Counts 2016 indicates that the value of repairing and maintaining historic buildings in England is estimated to be worth £9.7 billion in of construction sector output equivalent to 8% of total construction output or 22% of repair and maintenance output.

### **Making regeneration durable**

6.22 The historic environment can also help to ensure that regeneration is durable. Many examples of failed regeneration are where development has taken place entirely independent of the local environment. The 'newness' appeals for a period but gradually the buildings become older and less fashionable, the economic imperative that called the development into being passes and the development begins to decline, at worst gradually degenerating into a 'sink estate'. The development is then demolished and replaced and the process begins again. Heritage-led regeneration helps to avoid this. By integrating development into the historic 'framework' of a place it acquires a greater sense of belonging and thereby resilience. The historic features also help to break up the development's design thus creating 'breathing space' in contrast to developments without heritage features which can often appear monotonous. The historic framework is also a permanent fixture of the development providing a frame of reference for evolutionary change.

6.23 By using heritage to create attractive environments this durability is enhanced as external investment is continually drawn in enabling it to be refreshed and to grow.

### **Reducing social exclusion**

6.24 Heritage-led regeneration also has a role to play in helping to reduce social exclusion in modern developments. Historic buildings come in all shapes and sizes. Just as they can break up the monotonous shape of a modern development so they

can help to break up the monotony of the social structures. Retaining older buildings such as terraced housing in the centre of towns helps to conserve the character of the settlement. In addition, however, these houses are often less expensive than new build equivalents and so by conserving them a more diverse population is allowed than if they were replaced.

6.25 Heritage improves the perception of a place to those that live there, they feel that its heritage assets make it more attractive that investment through heritage regeneration not only results in a nicer place in which to live, work and socialise but also research suggests increases feelings of safety. (Heritage and Society 2016)

6.26 Retaining historic buildings and features also helps older people to retain their own sense of place in an area and thereby brings the generations together. Where those features relate to people's former employment this also helps to tell the story of an area which can be developed for educational groups to further embed new development within the older historic framework. Such changes must be affordable however. Whilst 'gentrification' of a place may lead to an improvement in the market value of properties care must be taken to ensure that this doesn't end up pricing sections of the existing community out and lead to disenfranchisement. Likewise where a ready use cannot be found for a historic building there is the danger that it will become neglected or eventually derelict and will act as a source of disenchantment. It is important therefore that innovative and transformational solutions are sought to bring historic buildings and sites back into use.

### **Regeneration checklist**

6.27 English Heritage has published a checklist for successful regeneration (*Regeneration and the Historic Environment 2005*). Whilst recognising that each regenerating scheme is unique it is recommended that the following should form part of any regeneration proposals being brought forward:

- 1 *A strong vision for the future – that inspires people and encourages them to get involved;*
- 2 *A respect for local residents and businesses – who have often fought hard to stop an area declining; ensuring they are included in a regeneration partnership means the project starts with community commitment;*
- 3 *A tangible link to the past – since places are not created in a vacuum and people need familiar elements, visual reminders and a sense of continuity; landscapes, streets, spaces, buildings and archaeological sites play a part in defining a sense of place;*
- 4 *An understanding of the area – knowing what exists and how it came to be makes it easier to plan its future;*
- 5 *A respect for what already exists – making sure that places that people*

*value are kept for the future;*

- 6 *A record of the area before work starts – so that future generations can understand how the site has evolved;*
- 7 *An integrated, sustainable approach – not concentrating on a particular social, economic or environmental consideration or a single use;*
- 8 *Achieving the right pace – regeneration that happens too quickly can harm the fabric and the community, while that which happens too slowly fails to create the momentum, commitment and enthusiasm needed to make a scheme a success;*
- 9 *The highest quality design and materials – to enhance local distinctiveness and sustain a sense of place that people can be proud of;*
- 10 *Early discussions between the community, the local authority and other interested parties – ensuring that options can be discussed and designs modified at an early stage, before too much has been committed.*

## **Heritage: Realising Tourism and Visitor Potential**

### **The economic value of heritage tourism in England**

6.28 Heritage tourism is a significant contribution to the economy. In England, research<sup>10</sup> has shown that in 2014 heritage tourism accounted for 22% of all tourist spending generating £18.4bn in expenditure and 285,700 jobs. With indirect effects included England's heritage tourism contributed £24.2bn to GDP in 2014

6.29 The table below breaks this down by type of visits and demonstrates that while day trips are by far the most frequent as would be expected, the relative spend on those trips is substantially lower than trips involving overnight stays and in particular those by foreign visitors:

	<b>Trips</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Spend / Trip</b>
Domestic Overnight Visits	15.7 m	£3.6 bn	£229.29
Domestic Day Visits	159.4 m	£4.97 bn	£31.18
International Visits	15.4 m	£9.86 bn	£640.59

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<sup>10</sup> Heritage Economic Impact Indicator Workbook (TBR 2016) commissioned by HE to estimate the national and regional economic impact of the heritage sector. Heritage Counts 2016

6.30 Heritage Counts 2016 has highlighted a number of benefits of heritage tourism and its future growth.

6.31 Heritage tourism benefits the local economy:

- visiting heritage sites generates money for local economy - for every £1 spent on a visit 32p is spent at the attraction while 68p is spent in local businesses such as restaurants, cafes, hotels, shops (HLF 2010);
- on average half the jobs created by historic visitor attractions are not on the site but in the wider economy (GHK2010);
- heritage events enhance local economies even if free.

6.32 Heritage plays a key role in attracting domestic visitors:

- 73.2% of adults (c40 million people) visited a heritage site at least once in 2015/16 a significant increase on the 69.9% in 2005/6 (DCMS Taking Part Survey);
- 63% of domestic travellers cited being able to visit a historic building or monument as their sole or very important reason why they took their holiday (TNS 2105);
- heritage tourism is more popular in Britain than the majority of the EU - 4th highest at 65% being 13% above average (European Commission 2013).

6.33 Heritage is a big motivator for international visits:

- heritage is a key part of the UK brand and tourism;
- in 2015 the UK was ranked 5th of 50 nations for being rich in historic buildings and monuments and ranked 6th for cultural heritage;
- 30% of overseas visitors cite heritage as the biggest single motivation for their UK visit. That is the largest single factor for non-business visitors.

6.34 Heritage tourism is growing and forecast to grow in the future:

- historic attraction visitor numbers have experienced strong growth. Visits to historic houses and castles has risen by 5% in 2015-16; Other prominent attractions have also seen a growth in visitor numbers for example between 2010 and 2015 Stonehenge has seen an increase of 35% and the Tower of London 15%.
- Tourism is expected to grow in the future and has been estimated to grow by 3.8% per year between 2013 and 2018. By 2025 tourism is forecast to be worth £324 Bn and 4.6m jobs in the national economy.

## **The value of tourism in Folkestone & Hythe District**

6.35 There are no readily available figures for the value of heritage tourism in Folkestone & Hythe District but research commissioned by Visit Kent published in 2016 provides an indication of the value of tourism and visitors to the district. The study identified that:

- approximately £207 million is spent in the district area by tourists and visitors generating a value to the economy of approximately £242 million;
- staying visitors make around 473 thousand trips, staying for 1,400 nights and spending around £82 million. Of these overseas visitors account for 73 thousand trips staying for 394 thousand nights and spending around £20 million;
- day visitors amount to around 4.1 million trips and spend around £123 million.
- tourism related employment in the district is estimated to be 4,796 jobs accounting for 12.7% of employment in the district. .

6.36 Of the spend figures for Kent as a whole it is suggest that 10% of spend is on attractions. Using the national figure of 22% of tourism being related to heritage as applied to Folkestone & Hythe District we can speculate that heritage tourism is worth around £53 million and 1055 jobs though caution should be used in relying on such figures which may fail to take account of considerable local variations and weighting.

6.37 In a county context the district performs well in terms of overnight stays by domestic visitors ranking 3rd behind Canterbury and Medway. It performs less well with day trippers and overseas visitors ranking around the middle of the County's districts. In terms of the prime purpose of a trip being for a holiday, the district sees a higher percentage at 66% than the county average of 44%. 69% of domestic visitors and 50% of overseas visitors to the district came for a holiday in 2015.

## **Developing the Heritage Tourism offer for Folkestone & Hythe District**

6.38 As covered earlier heritage has a fundamental role in creating a positive 'sense of place', it highlights the unique character of that place and plays an important part in shaping people's perceptions and experiences. The heritage of the district can play a substantial role in branding of the district and its constituent parts.

6.39 In August 2007 Kent Tourism carried out research into public perceptions of Kent generally and east Kent in particular (Dover, Thanet, Folkestone & Hythe and Canterbury Districts). This highlighted some key issues for how east Kent is regarded by respondents, all of whom lived in the south-east of England.<sup>11</sup>

- Although Kent was identified as a 'historical' region (50% respondents), east Kent was slightly less so (41%)

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<sup>11</sup> Kent Tourism Perception Research Prepared by Arkenford Ltd for Kent Tourism August 2007

- 45% of respondents associated Kent with castles, as compared with 37% when asked about east Kent
- 24% identified Kent as 'touristy' as compared with 30% for east Kent
- 37% thought there were a range of gardens to visit in Kent but only 26% thought this true of east Kent
- East Kent was, however, more strongly associated with the phrases 'gateway to Europe', 'stunning coastline', 'seaside resorts', and 'beaches'

6.40 While the district may not possess an iconic asset like its neighbours, it is rich in heritage and its strength lies in the cumulative nature of that heritage in terms of its heritage themes. Outstanding examples include the arrangement of Napoleonic defences - the Martello Towers, the Redoubts and forts, the Royal Military Canal - which extend along the coast and across the Romney Marsh; or the unique landscapes of the Romney Marsh and Dungeness.

6.41 The vast majority of the district's heritage is in fact accessible to the public, at least externally. Historic buildings can be seen from the roads and footpaths. Historic features such as walls, memorials, street and building names and street furniture can be seen easily in urban centres and the historic landscape can be explored via the District's extensive public rights of way network. Some of these sites may be public buildings or in publicly accessible areas (e.g. Folkestone Harbour Arm). For most people, most of the time, this represents their interaction with heritage. For residents and visitors alike it is this that defines their perceptions of the district as much as the key sites and landscapes that are more striking or are interpreted. The importance of maintaining the quality of this 'background' heritage cannot be overstated, therefore, and careful conservation will be essential to retain the district's special quality.

6.42 There are clearly some key perception challenges that need to be overcome but this can be addressed by developing and promoting the heritage of the District in a thematic way. This approach has a number of benefits and helps to:

- create packages that link a number of heritage assets across the district encouraging longer or return visits;
- provide a mix of key heritage assets that are promoted as visitor attractions with heritage that can be found in other publicly accessible locations. Following thematic trails will draw visitors in to local areas with greater contribution into the local economy;
- provide a useful mechanism to support and co-ordinate the efforts of groups and activities;
- provide stories that can be readily understood, marketed and celebrated. The stories help to provide a context for the visitor to the heritage.

6.43 Most of the heritage themes set out in this strategy can be developed for visitors however key ones would include:

- Napoleonic Defences
- Folkestone and the First World War
- Church or pilgrimage network
- Romney Marsh and Dungeness (linking with natural heritage)
- Victorian and Edwardian Folkestone

6.44 In many cases visitors may desire a diverse mix of experiences from their trip rather than simply visiting the District's heritage assets. This may be particularly true for families and is likely for those looking for more than a day trip to the district. It will be important therefore that the heritage offer becomes clearly integrated into a wider offer of the district's other assets such as its natural environment and landscape and promotes the rich mix of experiences that is available. Many of the heritage themes enable such a combined approach to be developed and promoted. Conversely it is important that the promotion of other experiences takes full account of the heritage offer so that the benefits are realised from more than one direction.

6.45 Wider use should be made of new technologies. Mobile technology, for example in the form of media players or smart phones, allows information to be packaged in a way that is attractive and elegant but also relatively inexpensive. Using this kind of technology the information that would be traditionally carried on interpretation panels can be made available to people in advance of their visits or can be downloaded 'in the field'. They can then combine it with other information from other projects or with applications providing catering or accommodation information so that all their information needs can be met. A much greater quantity of information can therefore be provided, better tailored to visitors, often at a reduced cost, than could be met by traditional panels without the equally traditional threat of vandalism. Co-ordinated use of new technology, for example with Explore Kent for countryside access, would help to ensure that wider groups benefit from heritage information and that the district's heritage forms part of a more diverse experience.

6.46 New Apps for smart phones are constantly being developed that will help people navigate around the countryside and towns, view their surroundings from new perspectives and introduce new adventures into their visits. Apps which focus on the heritage themes of the district encouraging the users to 'collect' experiences and knowledge may help to engage young people in particular and increase a broader understanding and appreciation of the heritage.

6.47 CDs are hardly new technology but they still have a role to play in packaging information for tourists in a cost-effective but flexible way. An example of this is the '*Drive the Battle of Britain*' driving tour produced by Kent County Council in 2005. The CD guided visitors around a range of Battle of Britain sites in Dover and Folkestone & Hythe districts. The principle underlying the CD remains true today – that a set of sites can be linked by a common theme far more effectively together than separately. It is

particularly useful for sites that have no interpretation materials at all and would suit many of the themes listed above.

6.48 In a similar vein tourist attractions of the future will have to be more flexible about how they communicate with the public. The advent of social media – Facebook, Twitter, etc has meant that word of mouth has, for many people, been replaced by its digital equivalent, with the difference that word travels far faster and wider across the internet than by any previous means. This provides a great opportunity for those trying to promote attractions and events in a cost effective way. It allows them to link with other projects, groups and initiatives thus allowing sites to target their marketing far more effectively than can be achieved by conventional media.

6.49 Although access to heritage sites tends to focus on physical access, it should be remembered that for many people physical access to sites may not be possible. The district's heritage is nonetheless their heritage too and it is essential that websites and other resources are fully developed to connect people with the sites, help them to explore them remotely and understand the history and the context. It is remarkable how many tourist attractions, even those run by very large national organisations, have websites that provide virtually no information about the sites except such as may be required for visitors – opening hours, prices, events etc. There is a substantial need, and a desire from stakeholders for a website that brings together the heritage of the district in a single easily accessible place. Such a website would help in promoting the heritage in the district in a coherent way and enabling thematic access and linkage to individual sites and activities.

6.50 While there are strong benefits of increasing visitor numbers through heritage it should be carefully approached to ensure that increased pressures do not damage or destroy the significance and special characteristics of an area. The case study for Dungeness (Appendix 2 Case Study 4) explains the ways in which increased visitor numbers may affect the fragile heritage, natural and historic landscapes of the area and destroy the special sense of place that it has. Many of the areas of the district such as the North Downs and the Romney Marsh have values that include their tranquillity and visitor pressure needs to be well managed to maintain that characteristic. The district is developing a Sustainable Access and Recreational Management Strategy that is looking at the impact of visiting Dungeness and the Romney Marsh and should be taken account of in developing the heritage tourism offer in the district.

6.51 Stakeholders have raised a number of issues concerning access to the heritage assets, the needs for improved signage, better visitor facilities and information. These are outlined in Chapter 7 and are challenges to be overcome to optimise visitor potential. Stakeholders have particularly referenced:

- While access to Folkestone itself is good, links within the district, particularly to its more remote areas are difficult unless by car. Public transport links to heritage are a constraint on visitors;
- Signage directing to heritage assets needs improvement both from the road network and within towns to encourage pedestrian access and alleviate on-site parking issues;
- There is potential to update and improve heritage trails in some of the district's towns. Projects such as Kent in WW1 have provided training opportunities to local communities to develop their own trails. Linking such training across the range of activities and projects taking place would help engage local communities in developing their heritage offer. Dymchurch is a good example of a trail developed by its local history group. On-site heritage interpretation needs to be brought up to date or redone as new heritage trails are developed;
- Some key heritage assets are inaccessible or not open to the public providing a challenge to thematic trails. Many of the district's castles are key examples. Support for better access and open days to these sites would enhance the tourism offer;
- Potential to create a cultural calendar that promotes celebrations of the district's heritage. There are a number of good examples already in the district which should be supported and potentially, with the thematic approach developing the stories of the district, to add to the offer;
- Strong potential to link the heritage with the cultural and creative arts sector;
- Seek opportunities to develop and promote clusters of heritage assets to enhance the tourism offer and gain a more holistic understanding and appreciation of the area's heritage. The Edwardian heritage around the Leas in Folkestone is a prime example of such a grouping;
- Explore Kent is a major initiative that encourages Kent's residents to access, enjoy and benefit from the Kent landscape. At present it has no specific 'heritage trails' although many routes incorporate heritage assets. New routes could be created that are more specifically geared towards a 'heritage trail'. Other groups have expressed the same desire and so perhaps joint working or backing from Explore Kent for these more local routes ranging to perhaps district-wide trails could also be a good opportunity;
- Explore Kent also has limited presence in the Romney Marsh. Through the Heritage Strategy and the Sustainable Access and Recreation Management Strategy there may be opportunities to improve this;
- The connectivity between the town, the Leas and the harbour at Folkestone needs to be improved;
- There are a number of significant historical figures, events and discoveries linked to the district and these need to be promoted and celebrated so as to attract more people to the area and also encourage local pride of place;
- Fishing heritage is important, celebrated with the Trawlers Race and interpreted temporarily through the Fishing Heritage Museum. A more sustainable and

permanent location for the museum should be found and re-establishment supported.

6.52 In terms of understanding and accessing the heritage in the district, many of the issues discussed with respect to tourists and visitors equally applies to those who live and work in the district. For many they will have day to day contact with their heritage, occasionally the more significant heritage assets but more often the lesser known heritage that is all around them, often not identified by them or its significance appreciated. The best way to explain heritage is through stories that help to explain its context in an engaging way. The thematic approach lends itself well to presenting the heritage assets of the district as stories. It is important that promotion and explanation of the heritage in the district is aimed equally at those who live and work there as it is to its visitors.

6.53 Heritage Counts 2016 introduces research that explains the benefits of local heritage to those that live there. As discussed before the heritage contributes to sense of place and local pride, 86% of visitors to their local heritage sites say they enjoyed their visit. 69% of UK adults believe that local heritage buildings and sites are important to their local community. Listed property owners take particular pride in their property and see it as part of the nation's history.

6.54 The extent to which local heritage is used by schools and other educational groups for their studies or for site visits has not been examined in any detail in the present Strategy. Anecdotal evidence from stakeholders is that many of their projects involve educational elements, in some cases providing specific educational material.

6.55 There is great potential for the heritage of the district to contribute to the education and learning sector. The heritage themes can fit in well with the curriculum and local heritage assets can potentially provide for a more convenient and cheaper source for school visits. Using local heritage would help to make the curriculum more relevant to local students, make them more aware of the district's heritage and help them value its heritage assets. It would also encourage the students and their families to visit the sites themselves.

6.56 More than 250 schools are directly involved in Historic England's Heritage Schools programme, reaching approximately 100,000 children and training over 3100 teachers since it began in 2012. Heritage Counts 2015 found in an evaluation of the programme that there had been very substantial increases in the knowledge of teachers and pupils about local history and similarly for teachers in how that local history connects to the national story.

6.57 In developing connected packages for the district's heritage themes attention should be given to developing educational resources and itineraries that will draw local schools into the areas heritage.

6.58 One of the most effective ways of engaging with local heritage is to become involved in projects and activities. As has been seen earlier in this Strategy, numerous heritage-led activities and projects are taking place in the district, many of which are open to participation by local people. As well as the health and wellbeing benefits from such engagement local people develop a deeper understanding of and connection with aspects of their local heritage, develop their skills and encourage them to support the conservation of the heritage through volunteering.

### **Heritage: Improving Public Health and Wellbeing**

6.59 Heritage plays an important part in wellbeing and quality of life. The opportunity for the heritage of the district to contribute to what is a presently a critical and growing issue has emerged strongly in developing this Heritage Strategy. The strategy includes a detailed case study (Appendix 2 Case Study 5) that examines the value of heritage in addressing public health and well-being in a number of ways drawing from the considerable amount of health-related heritage activity already taking place in the district.

6.60 Engagement with heritage can have a number of impacts on health and wellbeing:

- Reduce social exclusion and isolation;
- Reduce health and social inequalities;
- Increase satisfaction of living environment and overall quality of life;
- Increasing opportunities for social interaction and long-term relationships/social network;
- Reduce stress and mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression;
- Opportunities for individuals with learning difficulties to engage in new activities;
- Increase feelings of self-esteem and self-worth;
- Instil a sense of control and empowerment over personal health and wellbeing;
- Provide opportunities for self-improvement such as training and volunteering;
- Learn new skills and develop new interests;
- Encourage pride of place and communal engagement;
- Increase opportunities for physical activity;
- Provide activity and social engagement as part of rehabilitation;
- Provide a wide range of choices for engagement with heritage to supplement health and social care services;
- Help to prevent and reduce illnesses and diseases such as diabetes, depression and obesity.

6.61 The case study suggests that a number of the district's heritage-led initiatives are valuable health resources, making significantly positive impacts on health and

wellbeing, and have potential to make substantial contributions to health and social care services.

6.62 An advantage of heritage is that it can be extremely varied and programmes that engage with heritage can take many forms. Heritage assets can range from archaeological remains to memories or traditions and span a vast amount of time. This provides a wide range of potential choices when catering support and care to a person's needs and interests. The heritage-led initiatives within the district appeal to wide audiences and are largely wholly inclusive programmes, open to all. Some may have age restrictions or be targeted to specific needs, but the vast majority serve their local communities as a whole and can address a wide range of health challenges.

6.63 The case study suggests that a number of the district's heritage-led initiatives are valuable health resources and with appropriate measures of the various health outcomes they could make substantial contributions to health and social care services. Several could be suitable for health commissioning. The longevity of projects and programmes may be enhanced through more co-operative working, perhaps thematically making them more suitable for commissioning and gaining more sustained impact.

6.64 Referral by health professionals to the district's heritage initiatives is very limited. The primary challenge for heritage initiatives in becoming involved in health and social care commissioning is the recognition that they are able to make significant differences to various health challenges. This is mainly due to the lack of available empirical and clinical data to demonstrate the health benefits.

6.65 The heritage initiatives have great potential to benefit health. Participant feedback makes clear the impact that these programmes have, but a robust evidence base that includes empirical data is needed. If health outcomes could be properly measured and assessed in a formal and clinical way that is accessible to health professionals, perhaps referral pathways to suitable heritage-led programmes could be established as part of future health and social care provisions to meet the significant health challenges being faced.

6.66 Heritage has been less extensively explored for its health benefits than other areas of culture such as arts activities, sport and the natural environment. This is currently being redressed through a number of studies and projects and is recognised as a desired outcome for funding provided by bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Funding to support the continuation or formalisation of a selection of the heritage initiatives within Folkestone & Hythe District and then the implementation of assessment frameworks would provide the evidence needed to demonstrate the value of heritage as a health resource.

6.67 The case study has provided recommendations to help develop the heritage benefits to public health and wellbeing in the district (see Appendix 2 Case Study 5).

## 7 Vulnerability of the Heritage Assets

### Introduction

7.1 Heritage assets are vulnerable to change in a number of different ways. The heritage asset may be affected physically through a specific action, for example damage through ploughing or construction activities or it may be affected passively by change over time through environmental factors or neglect.

7.2 The setting of a heritage asset is also vulnerable to change. The NPPF defines the setting of a heritage asset as '*the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral*'.

7.3 The following chapter considers the vulnerability of the district's heritage assets to general activities and processes (referred to here as 'Generic Vulnerabilities') and the way in which this applies specifically to the district and its heritage themes using examples from the past and present as well as predicting the ways in which the district's heritage is vulnerable to future change. An overall assessment of the vulnerabilities of the heritage themes and the external monitoring provided by the Historic England annual 'Heritage at Risk' survey is included.

7.4 The chapter goes on to explain the ways in which the potential impacts of the allocations and proposals in the Places and Policies Local Plan have been tested against the district's heritage and summarise the results of a case study to illustrate how future development proposals can benefit from being examined in a similar way at an early stage to highlight issues and identify principles that will ensure that heritage assets are treated appropriately and opportunities taken to make the best use of them and add value.

7.5 A significant element of preparing this heritage strategy has involved gathering the views of local stakeholders on heritage matters. This chapter includes matters that the stakeholders have raised but is discussed separately in Chapter 8 Stakeholder Engagement.

### Vulnerabilities

7.6 The districts heritage assets are generally vulnerable to:

- Natural processes such as coastal erosion, sea level change, change in hydrology and climate change;
- Rural activities such as ploughing and use of machinery, changes in farming regime and leisure use of the countryside;

- The development and maintenance of infrastructure such as utilities, power generation, roads and railways.
- Development of sites including house building, commercial and industrial properties, extraction of minerals, change in land use, flood and coastal defence works;
- Change through alteration or economic decline and neglect;
- Policy and management gaps, designation thresholds and capacity for monitoring and enforcement;
- Criminal actions such as arson, theft, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

7.7 Issues such as promotion and awareness of heritage, it's accessibility, leadership and co-ordination of activity, funding and resources are also considered in the context of the vulnerability of the district's heritage. The vulnerabilities are briefly described in turn below.

## ***Natural Processes***

### ***Coastal Erosion & Protection Works***

7.8 Being a coastal district with both high chalk cliffs and low-lying beaches, coastal erosion and the movement and deposition of sand and shingle is a particular issue in the district. The management of the shoreline<sup>12</sup> generally promotes a policy of 'Hold the Line' over much of Folkestone & Hythe's coastline and requires targeted improvements including construction or raising of sea defences and beach replenishment works as needed.

### ***Sea-level Change and Flooding***

7.9 The risk of sea incursions threatens sites with flooding, erosion and exposure to salt water, thus altering preservation conditions. Low lying marsh areas, and hence any assets above or below ground within them, are particularly at risk due to this natural process.

### ***Change in Hydrology***

7.10 Changes in water table levels pose a risk of sites drying out, and therefore damaging preserved organic materials. Sites may also become waterlogged and so damage structures or materials previously preserved in dry conditions.

### ***Climate Change***

7.11 The threat posed by climate change is broad and often assumes the form of associated changes in conditions affecting sites. Longer-term climate change might

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<sup>12</sup> Environment Agency's South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan (2006) and updated in the more detailed Folkestone to Cliff End Flood and Erosion Management Strategy (2011) .

also permit the advance of invasive species (plant and animal) that may damage structures. There is also a general threat to sites and structures from the increased likelihood of more extreme weather events, in the form of flash flooding (see above), high-winds and lightning strikes.

### ***Decay & Degradation***

7.12 Heritage assets are vulnerable to natural processes and decay over time. Many built heritage assets will be built of materials which degrade over time and require regular repair and conservation attention to maintain their integrity. An example of this in the district is the Sound Mirrors at Dungeness. The RSPB who own and manage the site have reported that they are at risk of deterioration as the concrete used to construct them was not meant to last as the structures were to be short-lived as a trial. The marine environment is causing the metal reinforcements within the concrete to rust and future investment will be needed to maintain them. Previously major investment by Historic England via European Union funding has addressed problems of subsidence caused by nearby quarrying and other repair needs.

### ***Landslip***

7.13 The district's coastline from Folkestone to Hythe and its former coastline westward along the northern edge of Romney Marsh is known for its tendency to slip both historically and in more recent times. The reason is not due to coastal erosion but the geological structure where strata alternate between pervious and less pervious geological beds. At Folkestone Warren there is a huge mass of tumbled chalk, some 3km in length that has slipped over the gault clay. The town of Sandgate is built on an old landslip of the Sandgate beds and to the west of Sandgate masses of the overlying Hythe Beds often slip off the Atherfield Clay. Westward along this landslip perhaps the most notable heritage asset casualty of subsidence are the remains of Stutfall Castle, the Scheduled Roman fort of the Saxon Shore. This has suffered from several slips and resulted in the collapse of walls and the distortion of the site as it has slipped downwards.

## ***Rural Activities***

### ***Ploughing & movement of machinery***

7.14 All buried archaeological sites in agricultural land are vulnerable, to varying degrees, to ploughing, particularly deep ploughing techniques. Surviving earthworks are especially vulnerable to even shallow ploughing or machinery movements across them. Many of the district's rural archaeological sites, particularly those on the chalk ridges of the North Downs are very shallowly buried. The majority of finds made across the district by metal detectors are from sites that have been disturbed through ploughing as the majority of finds are located in the plough soil. Plough attrition is

affecting at least two Scheduled bowl barrows that are included on the 2016 Heritage at Risk Register. Ditch cleaning on field boundaries can also have an impact as has been recently seen at Five Vents Lane, Old Romney where burials from an abandoned churchyard of the lost Church of St Michael have been disturbed by mechanical excavation.

7.15 Surviving earthworks in woodland are threatened by forestry machinery movements, particularly as they may be unrecognised in areas not previously surveyed.

### ***Change in farming regime***

7.16 The introduction of new crops or techniques, either into farming practice in general or onto land not previously exploited in this manner, potentially threatens the stability of conditions for buried archaeological sites. Intensification of farming methods, larger scale activities (and machinery) along with diversification can all lead to changes in current land uses, removal of existing features, including hedgerows and the introduction of new features such as polytunnels, that can have considerable impact on settings. The trend towards the sub-division of fields into numerous paddocks for horse keeping has similar potential implications, with the introduction of new characteristics for areas and the construction of associated structures. The increasing coverage of the landscape through tree planting can have an impact on buried archaeological remains through root disturbance. Examples of the vulnerability of the district's landscapes and their features to farming practice are identified in the theme papers.

### ***Leisure use of the countryside and coastal landscapes***

7.17 Increased access to the countryside has a number of impacts, principally arising from increased traffic (foot, horse or motorised), often on un-metalled track ways or green lanes, leading to erosion. Open access land, or trespassing, also exposes heritage assets to greater erosion or vulnerability (see crime section below).

7.18 Access to the Dungeness Estate has been a particular issue highlighted during the compilation of the heritage strategy and is discussed in detail in the case study (Appendix 2 Case Study 4). The approximately one million visitors to the area each year can have a detrimental effect on the peaceful, isolated character and charm of the area, the very reason why people visit and directly on sensitive heritage and natural assets in the area. Dungeness is an attractive, highly significant and valued but fragile heritage asset which needs to be very carefully managed and the correct balance struck between attracting visitors and maintaining the area as a peaceful and distinct place.

## ***Infrastructure Development***

### ***Utilities***

7.19 The installation of new utilities pipes or cables and their maintenance can result in ground disturbance, impacting archaeology and the breaching of existing boundaries such as hedgerows. The construction of overhead power lines can have an impact on the setting of heritage assets.

### ***Power Generation***

7.20 Recent years have seen a rise in the development of new means of power generation, both on a commercial scale (impacts on setting, such as large wind farms) and for private use (solar panels on listed buildings). The district's proximity to France makes it a prime location for large cables.

### ***Transport***

7.21 The district's role in the transport of people and goods between the continent and the UK cannot be overstated either in historical terms or the present day. The construction, widening or maintenance of roads or rail constitutes a significant threat to heritage assets. Increased traffic impacts upon existing road structures, particularly historic bridges which often require strengthening or repairs. Increased traffic, street signage and surface treatment can have an impact on the setting and character of heritage assets particularly in Conservation Areas.

## ***Development***

### ***Vulnerability to Development***

7.22 Construction activities can directly affect buried archaeological remains through the excavation of new foundations, services, remodelling of land, stripping of sites in advance of development, piling works and from the operation of plant. Development can also involve the demolition of or damage to historic structures, buildings or features. Impacts that affect the setting of historic assets or the character of historic areas can result from the built form of new development, from construction activities and from the use of the new development. Expansion of settlement areas have the potential to subsume smaller distinct areas, for example drawing villages into suburbs, reducing their legibility and identity as individual historic places. Similarly development may affect the character of the historic landscape, removing features or going against the historic grain.

### Strategic Growth & Spatial Strategy

7.23 The NPPF states that the planning system should be genuinely plan-led with up-to-date plans providing a positive vision for the future addressing the needs for housing and other economic, social and environmental priorities.

7.24 The District Council therefore has to identify land for development to meet the needs of the future. The 2013 Core Strategy Local Plan set a target of 8,000 dwellings, 20 hectares for business and 35,000 sqm of retail floorspace for a period to 2026. The Plan allocated strategic sized sites for residential development in the Folkestone area (Shorncliffe Garrison and the Seafront), at New Romney and Hawkinge to meet some of this requirement.

7.25 To meet the remaining requirement for development, the Places and Policies Local Plan was published which identified smaller development sites at settlements throughout the district.

7.26 The Core Strategy is now in the process of review to meet the new development requirements until 2037. This plan includes policies for a new garden settlement around Otterpool Manor Farm.

7.27 If not considered at an early stage, development can have a detrimental impact on heritage assets. As an early stage in this Heritage Strategy, a methodology was devised to assess all the sites that were submitted for consideration. The vulnerability of all sites was assessed, comparing their potential effects against the heritage themes. This was then used to take into account heritage considerations in site selection and to develop site specific policy guidance which will help to ensure that assets can be protected, incorporated and utilised in future development. The methodology is set out in Appendix 4 and this can be used to assess other developments in the future.

### ***Change in land-use***

7.28 The withdrawal of, for example , industry or the military, exposes built heritage assets to disuse and neglect (also, see crime below). Conversely, the intensification of use can render older structures redundant and vulnerable to demolition or modification. The setting of heritage assets can be affected by changes to their surroundings through visual intrusion, noise, dust and changes in activity.

### ***Minerals extraction***

7.29 Quarrying for minerals can have a direct impact both through the removal of heritage assets, especially archaeological remains and historic landscape features and indirect impacts on the setting of heritage assets from the operation of the quarry itself and through the additional traffic and infrastructure required to support the works.

## ***Change***

### ***Alterations***

7.30 Minor changes to structures (windows, signage) or properties (conversion of gardens to parking), permitted and unpermitted, can have a cumulative detrimental impact on an area's setting or on a specific heritage asset. This gradual erosion of

character is particularly significant within Conservation Areas where the special character is derived from the sum of many things both small and large. It is particularly fragile and vulnerable to even small and incremental change which over time accumulate to a significant loss of the special interest of the area. The theme paper covering Conservation Areas (Appendix 1 Paper 13) has identified that unsympathetic alteration is a significant negative factor in all but one of the areas appraised. Wider use of Article 4 direction that removes permitted development rights could help to address this vulnerability in Conservation Areas.

7.31 Dungeness is a good example of where the improvement in quality of buildings and their surroundings needs to be treated very carefully to avoid having an impact on the unique character of the area.

### ***Economic Decline***

7.32 Areas suffering from decline or deprivation expose heritage assets to neglect and impact upon the setting of even the well-maintained assets as their surroundings deteriorate. Areas of deprivation suffer almost twice the rate of heritage crime to its assets as low deprivation areas according to a 2011 survey into the impact of heritage crime.

### ***Lack of Use / Neglect / disuse***

7.33 Heritage assets, particularly built heritage, on sites that fall out of use for a variety of reasons become more vulnerable to damage or loss. Empty buildings become susceptible to illicit entry, criminal damage, arson and theft of materials. Maintenance regimes can become neglected and repair needs overlooked. Natural processes including vegetation growth and weather can have a significant impact on heritage assets on unused sites.

## ***Policy and Management***

### ***Designation Thresholds***

7.34 Difficulties in securing designation for assets comes from complexities of the system or the high requirements to merit protection, particularly where 19th and 20th century structures are concerned. Designation tends to concentrate on nationally important heritage assets meaning that those of regional or local importance remain vulnerable. In addition, the lack of available resources for the review of heritage assets and their identification for possible designation means that many important remains that would merit designation can be left vulnerable.

7.35 Locally significant heritage assets make up the vast majority of the district's heritage and provide a huge contribution to the sense of place of our historic areas. They also contribute positively to other areas which are considered less historic. When

proposals for change come forward there are considerable problems in recognising the value of the undesignated heritage in the area, often with the result that master planning and development does not give it due consideration at an early stage. Development of a Local List of Heritage Assets that explains the significance of heritage assets included on it would help to flag up the value of undesignated heritage assets. Coupled with a thematic approach to considering the heritage of sites, this may result in development proposals considering using the heritage of the site at an early stage and potentially realising better outcomes.

### ***Management, monitoring, enforcement and advice***

7.36 While policies may be in place to ensure the protection of heritage assets, resources are often insufficient to ensure the regular monitoring and enforcement of those policies. Shortcomings in the knowledge, information available to and training of those who recommend and make decisions that affect heritage assets can be detrimental.

7.37 As well as monitoring and enforcement, specialist advice is needed to be able to manage development and ensure that proposals have fully taken account of the district's heritage and appropriate mitigation is in place. Specialist advice with a particular local knowledge and understanding is also needed to help the council and those proposing change shape regeneration and development taking account of heritage assets at an early stage.

7.38 The Council presently obtains its archaeological advice, as do most other local authorities in Kent from the County Archaeologist at Kent County Council. Whilst the District Council has tried to recruit an in-house conservation officer It does not at present have one and takes its advice on Listed Building applications and proposals for development in Conservation Areas via a consultancy arrangement. While such an arrangement can address development management needs in a reactive way, to ensure that the district's heritage assets are identified and considered at an early stage in proposals and that they are proactively used to add value an in-house Conservation Officer who is regularly engaged in future planning as well as development management would be a preference.

### ***Heritage at Risk***

7.39 There is very limited measurement of the overall condition of the historic environment and its vulnerability. At a national level, Historic England maintains a register of those designated heritage assets that are most vulnerable and subject to decay. The *Heritage at Risk Register 2016* identified heritage assets in the district that are set out in the table below:

<b>Heritage Asset</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Condition (Trend)</b>	<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Occupancy</b>
Martello 4, Folkestone	Scheduled Monument	Very bad	Repair & obscuring vegetation - long term use not agreed	Vacant in private ownership
Dymchurch Redoubt	Scheduled Monument	Poor	Brickwork deterioration - Phased repairs in progress	Part use by military
Martello 5, Sandgate	Scheduled Monument part in CA	Fair	Potential for re-use	Vacant in School grounds
Martello 6, Shorncliffe Camp	Scheduled Monument & Listed Building Gd II part in CA	Poor	Repair - residential conversion permitted	Vacant in private ownership
Martello 7, Shorncliffe Camp	Scheduled Monument & Listed Building Gd II	Poor	Repair - residential conversion permitted	Vacant in private ownership
Martello 9, Shorncliffe Camp	Scheduled Monument & Listed Building Gd II	Very bad	Derelict - no scheme for re-use yet agreed	Vacant in private ownership
Church of St James, Elmsted	Listed Place of Worship grade I	Poor	Damp problems	Church in use
Church of St Peter, The Durlocks, Folkestone	Listed Place of Worship grade II, CA	Poor	Stonework, glazing and roof fleche in poor condition - HLF project in progress	Church in use
Church of St George, Ivychurch	Listed Place of Worship grade I	Very bad	West window in very bad condition - HLF project in progress	Church in use
Motte and Bailey Castle 200m NW of Stowing Church, Stowing	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems (Declining)	Extensive animal burrowing	Private ownership
Bowl barrow 150m north east of Red House Farm, Swingfield	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems (Declining)	Arable ploughing	Multiple ownership
Bowl barrow at Minnis	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant	Arable ploughing	Multiple ownership

Beeches, Swingfield		problems (Declining)		
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Table of Assets in the District included in the 'Heritage at Risk Register 2016'

7.40 Of the twelve heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk Register, nine are Scheduled Monuments including three which are Listed Buildings. The other three are Listed Buildings. Three also fall in Conservation Areas. Thematically Napoleonic defences dominate the list with five Martello Towers and the Dymchurch Redoubt. Three are churches in use but with problems to their fabric. The remaining three heritage assets are earthwork sites, one a medieval Motte and Bailey castle suffering from animal burrowing and two Bronze Age bowl barrows suffering plough damage.

7.41 Prospects for these heritage assets coming off the Register are mixed. Two of the Churches are benefitting from Heritage Lottery Fund funding to address their problems, a conservation plan is in place for the Dymchurch Redoubt with repairs underway and two of the Martellos have permission for conversion via an enabling development scheme. For the three earthwork sites their condition continues to decline, the remaining Martellos remain vulnerable as no scheme for their re-use that maintains their heritage significance has been identified.

7.42 The Heritage at Risk Register is a useful measure for monitoring the condition of the most significant designated heritage assets in the district but it has limitations. The vast majority of the district's heritage is undesignated and not monitored for the national Register. It also excludes the majority of designated heritage assets in the district as Grade II Listed Buildings are not included. To address this some authorities have developed Local Heritage at Risk Registers to monitor the condition of their wider heritage assets. The creation of such a register is a recommendation of the present Heritage Strategy and covered in Chapter 9. Initially the list could be compiled using as its basis key heritage assets identified for the district's heritage themes, designated heritage assets not monitored on the national Register and any heritage assets included on a new Local List of Heritage Assets. Systems of monitoring involving the local community and interest groups could help to manage the Register and provide the district with a much more accurate measure of the overall condition of its heritage and its vulnerabilities.

### ***Access to information***

7.43 For effective management of the heritage of the District it is important that information on heritage assets and their significance is made readily available to all so that informed decisions can be made. Developers and their consultants require access to up to date detailed information on heritage assets so that they can examine the impacts of their proposals and provide informed assessments of the impact that may occur and contribute to Heritage Statements that satisfy planning validation needs.

7.44 The Kent Historic Environment Record (HER), maintained by Kent County Council is the principal inventory of heritage assets in the county. The HER is not a

complete inventory; it is an evolving record with many new assets recognised and added to it every day by Historic Environment Record officers and by volunteers under their guidance. Thematic studies such as the Defence of Kent Survey or the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment or area based projects such as this present study identify large numbers of new sites for inclusion and generally increase the records in detail within particular themes and for particular locations. Information within the HER is occasionally supplemented by records from other organisations' data. For example the recent incorporation of the English Heritage Listed Building record which catalogues around 20,000 buildings in the county. The Portable Antiquities Scheme also maintains a database of thousands of detectorists finds which is regularly updated into the HER.

7.45 The Kent HER is linked to a geographical information system (GIS) which allows the mapping of the records against the county's topography, geology, modern and historic maps, aerial photographs and other geographical information. The HER is available in a shortened version online through the Exploring Kent's Past web pages: [www.kent.gov.uk/exploringkentspast](http://www.kent.gov.uk/exploringkentspast)

## ***Heritage Crime***

7.46 Heritage crime is defined by Historic England as "*any offence which harms the value of England's heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations*"<sup>13</sup>. It includes crimes against landmarks, archaeological sites and built heritage, historical artefacts and museums. Heritage crime covers a wide range of criminal activity that can result in the irreplaceable loss of or serious damage to heritage assets. As well as the impact that heritage crime can have in its own terms on our heritage and the values our communities place on their heritage, in many cases the financial cost of the heritage crime, protecting and repairing the remaining heritage asset can be substantial. Heritage crime includes:

- criminal damage or vandalism;
- arson;
- theft of heritage and cultural property;
- anti-social behaviour;
- damage by vehicles and trespass;
- unauthorised excavation and metal detecting.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/heritage-crime/what-is-heritage-crime-and-what-is-being-done-about-it/>

7.47 Historic England (English Heritage) commissioned a survey in 2011 to examine the scale of heritage crime in England<sup>1415</sup>. The research was targeted at the impact on designated sites and buildings only and highlighted that nationally there are around 75,000 crimes affecting these annually. The study concluded that although heritage assets are not being specifically targeted over other places other than where valuable materials and artefacts are being removed, they are suffering a substantial rate of attrition and are subject to irreversible harm. For example 18.7% (70,000 plus) of all Listed Buildings in England were physically affected in 2011 with 8% of those suffering substantially. The proportion was greatest for the highest grade of buildings with churches and other religious buildings most at risk with about 37.5% being damaged by crime.

7.48 While the survey has presented useful data on the potential impact of heritage crime on designated heritage assets there is at present no understanding of the effects of crime on undesignated heritage. Instead our knowledge is limited to anecdotal accounts of heritage crime. It may be that in many instances a lack of understanding of the heritage value of sites and property affected by crime prevents systematic reporting of heritage crime.

### ***Criminal Damage & Vandalism***

7.49 Built heritage assets can be vulnerable to varying degrees to vandalism including graffiti. The 2011 survey found that around 15% of Listed Buildings were affected by criminal damage. Disused, unoccupied or already damaged structures are particularly vulnerable as are areas which do not have a regular oversight or are in secluded locations. Interpretation panels are also frequently targeted which threatens the value or understanding of the associated heritage assets.

7.50 Feedback from stakeholders in Folkestone & Hythe District has highlighted damage to cemeteries and churchyards in particular. At the Old Folkestone Cemetery, which has limited security coverage, vandals have damaged headstones and an attempted break in to a family tomb caused damage to its structure. Vandalism and anti-social behaviour have also been highlighted in the graveyard of St Mary and St Eanswythe which, being poorly lit and in an isolated location, is also particularly vulnerable.

7.51 Vandalism is an issue that has been raised in various areas of the District. At Dungeness features on the beach such as old fisherman's boats and sheds that contribute greatly to the historic character of the area are exposed to vandalism. Residents at the Bayle have highlighted that in an isolated location it has attracted criminal activity, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Others have reported vandalism

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<sup>14</sup> "Heritage Crime: The Size of the Problem" March 2012 - Researched by Newcastle University, Loughborough University and the Council for British Archaeology.

<http://content.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/legal/researchsummary.pdf>

to interpretation boards in Folkestone while even the more remote Downs areas of the district experience the problem. The potential for vandalism of disused buildings has been raised by a few in particular has been highlighted concerns for the Leas Pavilion and the presently closed Leas Lift which is reportedly being left in an elevated position to avoid vandalism.

### **Arson**

7.52 While Arson may not be as widespread as other forms of heritage crime (1% of Listed Buildings affected in 2011) the effects can be devastating. Built heritage assets are vulnerable to fire, particularly those which are unoccupied or already in a dilapidated state. Assets located in accessible areas are more vulnerable but those in more remote areas can also suffer as they are less well observed. The 2011 Heritage Crime Survey identified that Listed farm and public buildings are a particular arson risk and suggested that the average material cost was around £500,000.

### **Theft**

7.53 The theft of materials from built heritage assets is a major problem. In the 2011 survey the single biggest threat to Listed Buildings was metal theft with more than 5% of Listed Buildings having suffered. More than 14% of Listed churches and religious buildings were affected by metal theft. Figures produced by Kent Police in 2012 identified 132 places of worship suffering metal theft from their roof in a year with six in the district. Even 3.5% of Scheduled Monuments were affected by metal theft. The theft of metal for its scrap value, particularly from the roofs of historic buildings can lead to substantial repair costs. The exposure of the building to the elements, sometimes for a prolonged time as the theft goes undetected, can lead to additional costly damage or even rendering a structure unsafe.

7.54 Although metal detecting is by and large a legitimate hobby carried out responsibly, metal detecting on property without permission constitutes theft and is also illegal on a Scheduled Monument without consent. Irresponsible detecting can also cause damage to archaeological sites. Laws also cover the recovery and reporting of Treasure and of Wreck in tidal waters of the UK (Merchant Shipping Act 1995) and there are specific protections for military remains including aircraft crash sites (Protection of Military Remains Act 1986) and some historic wrecks (Protection of Wrecks Act) which are vulnerable to illicit diving and theft of artefacts and features.

### **Anti-social behaviour**

7.55 Anti-social behaviour can often go in parallel with criminal damage and vandalism to heritage assets as has been described above. Even where there is no physical damage to a heritage asset anti-social behaviour can still be detrimental. By making areas unwelcoming or even dangerous, people can be discouraged from enjoying and, visiting a heritage asset and it can deter investment. This in turn makes sites vulnerable to other forms of crime as there are fewer visitors likely to discourage

damage or defacement. The 2011 survey found that incidents around heritage assets were commonplace with 12.3% affected and the single most common heritage crime concern for Scheduled Monuments with 15.3% affected.

7.56 Activities such as unauthorised 'off-roading' by motorcycles and cars can cause significant damage to archaeological sites, particularly through erosion of earthworks. Of designated heritage assets Scheduled Monuments are particularly vulnerable. Trespass and unauthorised access onto heritage sites can result in damage. Dungeness residents suffer a particular problem. Their property boundaries are not clearly marked, an aspect of the area's special character, and visitors to the area often unwittingly trespass onto private property raising anti-tourism feelings and resulting in additional signage warning off visitors.

### ***Tackling Heritage Crime***

7.57 Historic England, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service have set up the Heritage Crime Programme to tackle heritage crime. Each of these have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which sets out their responsibilities for tackling heritage crime in a co-ordinated effort. A growing number of local authorities including in Kent, Canterbury and Dover have also signed the MOU.

7.58 Local communities, societies and special interest groups have a valuable role to play in the fight against heritage crime and anti-social behaviour through monitoring the condition of heritage assets and reporting crime in their area. In 2011 a voluntary national network, the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH), was launched to take forward initiatives and galvanise local action. One such initiative in Kent, launched in 2017 by Historic England in partnership with Country Eye, is Heritage Watch<sup>16</sup> an App that enables quick and easy reporting of rural heritage crime that is monitored and passed on to the appropriate authorities via a team of trained volunteers. Increased reporting, analysis and understanding of heritage crime in particular areas can help develop risk profiles and inform targeted actions and initiatives to tackle the problem.

7.59 In Dover the County Council has worked with Kent Police to carry out a heritage crime assessment for the District that has identified a number of vulnerable areas and assets. A similar study would benefit Folkestone & Hythe District in helping to protect the district's heritage and allow police and the community to co-ordinate their efforts to bring this about.

### ***Promotion and Awareness***

7.60 Feedback from a number of stakeholders is that the district's heritage is suffering due to a general lack of awareness and promotion of the rich heritage that it

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<sup>16</sup>"The Extent of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Facing Designated Heritage Assets" March 2012  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/legal/researchpaper.pdf>

has to offer. It is generally felt that greater promotion of the district's heritage will enhance visitor numbers to the district, increase awareness, appreciation, enjoyment and use of the heritage and help with the conservation, maintenance and protection needs of the heritage assets.

7.61 While promotion of the heritage is generally a positive thing, there is a need to ensure that the correct balance is struck as too many visitors can lead to loss of assets, impact on natural heritage and affect the general positive characteristics and attributes of the area.

### ***Accessibility***

7.62 The accessibility of heritage sites in the district is an issue that concerned a majority of the stakeholders consulted. They raised general and specific concerns over matters such as public transport, road and pedestrian access to sites, signage and information, parking and facilities.

7.63 A main point that has come out from the responses is the value of a website or similar central point of contact to provide information about the heritage assets of the district and how to access them. In this way, access to information and understanding would be improved and then, with better signage, transport links and parking, the heritage assets of Folkestone & Hythe District can be better promoted and enjoyed by wider audiences.

7.64 The lack, or poor quality, of visitor facilities at a number of sites has been raised. It is felt that a lack of facilities such as car parks, cafes and toilets discourages potential visitors or reduces the length of their visit although it is recognised that the development of facilities is a matter of careful consideration as construction may impact the heritage of the site itself.

### ***Co-ordination of efforts***

7.65 Stakeholders recognised that there could be improved communication and working together to obtain better outcomes and greater impact for their projects and the district's heritage. As has been explained in Chapter 5 there are numerous groups and individuals with a diverse and extensive range of activities and projects relating to the heritage of the district either underway or in planning.

7.66 It was considered that a system could be put in place to help groups understand what others are doing or planning to do so that opportunities for common aims and aspirations can be realised and limited resources better used. Joint working and its co-ordination can be improved to help develop projects and initiatives that have stronger outcomes and impact. Sharing of skills, experience, knowledge and resources would benefit bidding for, developing and undertaking projects. A good

example of a project that would work well across many areas is the Green Gym, an initiative that undertakes voluntary work on improving heritage assets across the district while providing a healthy activity. At present limited to working on Thursday mornings the Green Gym could extend its activity by linking with other projects in the district that would realise shared benefits.

7.67 The thematic approach to the district's heritage provides a good framework for joining groups, projects and initiatives. The defence heritage is a good example, as there are a number of heritage assets that are managed in isolation and various groups that work to promote specific defence heritage sites. However, if these groups could work together to promote the defence heritage of the district as a collection then awareness of these sites could be improved, the overall understanding and experience of them enhanced, and the impact of positive heritage-led regeneration increased.

7.68 Information regarding heritage related groups and the work being done in the District could also be made available to the public so that there are more opportunities for engagement and involvement, increased understanding and support.

### ***Lack of funding and resources***

7.69 Difficulties in obtaining funding to maintain, conserve, enhance and investigate heritage assets was highlighted by a number of stakeholders in the district. Some very significant heritage features were flagged up as being at risk of deterioration due to funding issues. In particular the Leas Lift has recently been closed as the Community Interest Group that was running the site and opening it for the public benefit through its volunteers has not been able to obtain funds to meet maintenance and safety requirements. The RSPB have flagged the ongoing deterioration of the Sound Mirrors at Dungeness and the need for future funds to maintain them. At East Wear Bay the challenge is to fund sufficient investigation work of the Roman Villa and the Iron Age site there before it is lost over the cliffs. Many local people have been engaged in the work voluntarily, but the funding is needed to maintain a specialist archaeological input to the work.

7.70 It is not just the key heritage assets that are vulnerable to funding difficulties. At a district level the original features of streetscapes such as lamp posts and sign posts need resources for conservation and maintenance. These original features contribute to the distinct local character of places within the district and are considered heritage assets. The district's highway engineer has commissioned a survey to record what currently exists and what resources are needed to maintain these assets and where responsibility for this lies.

7.71 Significant funding for heritage initiatives and projects comes from grants such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. These are generally time limited investments and the challenge following is to maintain impetus through community training and engagement. In general much activity and project work is supported through the

generous time and expertise provided by volunteers. It is only with such support that the limited funding that is available achieves what it can at present. Stakeholders have advised that they would like to see more information available on where funding can be obtained from and assistance and support in applying for it.

7.72 As well as funds for conservation and maintenance it is important that provision is made to celebrate the district's heritage through events such as the Trawlers Race. This not only raises awareness and appreciation of the heritage in the district but also brings income into the local economy.

7.73 In the past the European Union has funded projects in the area and the impact of Brexit on this source of funding for heritage actions in Folkestone & Hythe District is presently not known but needs to be taken into account.

## 8 Stakeholder Engagement

### Introduction

8.1 As part of the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy work, extensive stakeholder engagement was undertaken to identify in detail the various heritage assets that were important to the local community, to highlight related heritage activities that were either active or planned to take place across the district and to obtain the views of the stakeholders on their heritage and its management.

8.2 Following a pre-project workshop in February 2015 organised by the District Council and supported by English Heritage, it was immediately clear that there was a substantial amount of heritage activity throughout the district, and that the local heritage was highly valued by its local community. In recognising this, Folkestone & Hythe District Council were keen that the heritage strategy should examine these heritage activities in detail so that resulting opportunities could be identified such as wider benefits to health, tourism and the local economy.

8.3 Following the commissioning of the Heritage Strategy work, a second workshop was held in June 2016 led by Kent County Council. The June 2016 workshop included a group table exercise focused on highlighting these heritage activities. Tables were asked to identify “*on the map of the district as a group note where heritage related activities or projects are taking place or are planned to take place*”. The information that was collected from this exercise provided the project team with an initial listing of activities broadly across the district which could then be built on through extensive research and stakeholder consultation. The project team was able to go forward and conduct large numbers of discussions with numerous stakeholders in order to clarify their current work, goals and aspirations regarding the local heritage and historic environment. This engagement included email correspondences, telephone conversations, face to face meetings and site visits. Analysis of the activities in the district based on this engagement is described in Chapter 5. A second group exercise focused on identifying key heritage assets for each of the themes.

8.4 A second workshop that was held in October 2016 provided further opportunities for stakeholders to express their views on how the heritage strategy should be used on completion to support, promote and manage the District’s heritage and heritage activities. Specific questions asked at the second workshop were:

*Q1) How can the Heritage Strategy be used to support, promote and manage Shepway's heritage and heritage activities?*

*Q2) What support do you need to take the Heritage Strategy forward?*

8.5 The stakeholders that were consulted ranged from interested residents and historical societies through to larger organised heritage groups, initiatives and

programmes. Engagement has also included with key landowners and managers, heritage professionals, council officers, public health professionals providing a broad spectrum of views and interests.

8.6 A substantial evidence base was collected which has been analysed and incorporated into the Heritage Strategy. Ways in which the activities and groups could be linked were identified in addition to other opportunities arising from their activity such as providing positive benefits for health and wellbeing. The stakeholders also provided their own views on how their work was and could continue to benefit the local heritage offering as well as ways in which they could be enhanced via the heritage strategy.

8.7 The table below summarises the stakeholder organisations who were consulted as part of this process, and the contributions that were made to the overall production of the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy. Please note individual stakeholders have not been listed.

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Means of engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Contribution to FHDHS</b></li> </ul>
BNP Paribas Real Estate (Dungeness Estate)	Emails, Site visit to Dungeness Estate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the Dungeness Estate.</li> </ul>
Canterbury Archaeological Trust	Emails, Site visit to East Wear Bay Roman villa site, Online resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided on East Wear Bay Roman villa site as well as work being done to highlight the positive health benefits of engaging with heritage activities.</li> </ul>
Canterbury Diocese	Emails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided on the religious heritage assets within the district. The possibility of a “Green Pilgrimage Network” to link the churches across the district and beyond was also discussed.</li> </ul>
Coastal Heritage	Emails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information regarding coastal heritage was received.</li> </ul>
Creative Foundation	Emails, Telephone, Site visit to the Creative Quarter and research of archives in offices at the Quarterhouse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided about the Creative Foundation, Creative Quarter and community work in Folkestone. This was used to produce a case study which demonstrates positive heritage regeneration as well as wider opportunities such as economic wellbeing, leisure and tourism.</li> </ul>
Dymchurch & District Heritage Group	Email, Online resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage of Dymchurch</li> </ul>
East Wear Bay Archaeological Project	Site visit to East Wear Bay Roman villa site, Online resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage asset.</li> </ul>
EDF Energy (Dungeness Estate)	Email, Site visit to Dungeness Estate, Phone conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the Dungeness Estate.</li> </ul>
Elham Historical Society	Email, Online resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the Elham.</li> </ul>
Explore Kent	Meeting, Online resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to heritage assets and landscapes.</li> </ul>

Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme	<p>Emails, Site visit to Romney Marsh visitor centre, Romney Marsh churches and wider landscape, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the Romney Marsh landscape and heritage assets.</li> </ul>
Finding Eanswythe: The life and afterlife of an Anglo-Saxon saint	<p>Emails, Telephone, Meeting, Site visit to St Mary and St Eanswythe church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on local archaeological heritage assets and projects/initiatives/groups. Contributions regarding the positive benefits on health and wellbeing through engaging with heritage initiatives and the historic environment have been ongoing. This has contributed to the case study produced to look at the relationship between heritage and improved health.</li> </ul>
Folkestone & District Local History Society	<p>Emails, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to Folkestone.</li> </ul>
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	<p>Emails, Telephone, Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided from various colleagues concerning aspects such as park management, green spaces, heritage assets to be highlighted and wider issues such as tourism.</li> </ul>
Folkestone Festivals Committee	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to Folkestone heritage assets and the local cultural calendar.</li> </ul>
Folkestone Harbour Company	<p>Emails, Meeting, Site visits to Folkestone Harbour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided regarding the coastal heritage of Folkestone and the forthcoming development to the Folkestone Harbour and seafront.</li> </ul>
Folkestone People's History Centre	<p>Meeting, Site visit to Folkestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided regarding the local heritage assets of Folkestone and projects/initiatives/groups.</li> </ul>
Folkestone Research and Archaeology Group (FRAG)	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided relating to Folkestone's local heritage.</li> </ul>
Folkestone Town Council	<p>Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion of the local heritage assets around Folkestone as well as the new Folkestone Museum.</li> </ul>
Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative (FTHI)	<p>Emails, Site visit to Folkestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on the local heritage assets within Folkestone as well as the FTHI scheme. Contributions include the positive benefits on health and wellbeing through engaging with heritage initiatives and the historic environment.</li> </ul>
Folkestone Triennial	<p>Email, Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided relating to Folkestone Triennial.</li> </ul>
Friends of Lydd	<p>Email, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to Lydd</li> </ul>
Friends of St Leonard's Church (Hythe)	<p>Emails, Meeting, Site visit to St Leonard's Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on St Leonard's Church and related social/heritage activities as well as the wider heritage of Hythe town.</li> </ul>
Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe	<p>Site visit to St Mary and St Eanswythe Church, Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on the religious and archaeological heritage of St Mary and St Eanswythe Church.</li> </ul>
Friends of St Nicholas Church (New Romney)	<p>Emails, Site visit to St Nicholas Church, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to St Nicholas Church.</li> </ul>
Friends of St Nicholas Church (Newington)	<p>Email, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to St Nicholas Church.</li> </ul>
Friends of the Leas Pavilion	<p>Emails, Meeting, Site visit to Leas Pavilion</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on the Leas Pavilion and the work of Friends group.</li> </ul>
Friends of the Old Folkestone Cemetery	<p>Emails, Meeting, Site visit to Folkestone Old Cemetery (Cheriton Road Cemetery)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on the Folkestone Old Cemetery and work being done to build links to other defence heritage sites/groups across the district. Contributions include the positive benefits on health and wellbeing through engaging with heritage initiatives and the historic environment.</li> </ul>
Go Folkestone	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided regarding the local heritage assets and other related issues.</li> </ul>
Green Gym Scheme	<p>Emails, Site visit to the Royal Military Canal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided about local heritage and community work. Contributions regarding the positive benefits on health and wellbeing through engaging with heritage initiatives and the historic environment have been received. This has contributed to the case study produced to look at the relationship between heritage and improved health.</li> </ul>
Historic England	<p>Emails, Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion regarding the local heritage and approaches regarding the overall Heritage Strategy. Advice has also been sought on some specific areas of heritage, such as ship wrecks and coastal heritage.</li> </ul>
Hythe Local History Group (Hythe Civic Society)	<p>Emails, Meeting, Site visit to Hythe, Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on the history and heritage assets of Hythe</li> </ul>
IMOS Foundation	<p>Emails, Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on local heritage assets and community projects/initiatives/groups.</li> </ul>
Kent AONB Unit	<p>Emails, Meeting, Online and written sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided on the natural and historic landscape as well as related heritage assets. Use of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan.</li> </ul>
Kent in WW1	<p>Emails, Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the defence heritage of the First World War.</li> </ul>
Kent Wildlife Trust	<p>Emails, Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided relating to landscape, agricultural and farmstead heritage. Detailed information on the Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme was also received as well as online resources which have been utilised. Contributions regarding the positive benefits on health and wellbeing through engaging with heritage initiatives and the historic environment have been received.</li> </ul>
Leas Lift CIC	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided through response to research questions that were sent out during consultation relating to the Leas Lift and local heritage assets.</li> </ul>
Lyminge Archaeological Project	<p>Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the archaeology of Lyminge..</li> </ul>
Lyminge Historical Society	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to local heritage assets.</li> </ul>
Natural England	<p>Emails, Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the landscape heritage and Dungeness Estate.</li> </ul>
New Folkestone Society	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the local heritage.</li> </ul>

New Romney History Society	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of the local heritage and related issues/community feelings around their local historic environment and heritage groups.</li> </ul>
New Romney Parish Council	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided for heritage assets to be considered within the strategy.</li> </ul>
Operation Nightingale Heritage	<p>Emails, Site visit to Graveyard Survey at St Mary and St Eanswythe Church (Folkestone), Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visit allowed for the discussion of the positive benefits that engaging with heritage activities and the historic environment has on health &amp; wellbeing. This feedback has been included in the heritage and health case study.</li> </ul>
Pavement Pounders	<p>Emails, Written and online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the local heritage. Contributions include the positive benefits on health and wellbeing through engaging with heritage initiatives and the historic environment. This has contributed to the heritage and health case study.</li> </ul>
Priors Leas Leaseholders Association	<p>Telephone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local heritage assets discussed for inclusion in the strategy. Issues surrounding vulnerabilities were also raised.</li> </ul>
Radnor Park Community Group	<p>Online resources, District colleagues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to heritage and the group.</li> </ul>
Roger de Haan Charitable Trust	<p>Emails, Meeting, Site visit to Folkestone Harbour, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided regarding various heritage assets, community projects and development work to the Folkestone Harbour and seafront.</li> </ul>
Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway Heritage Group	<p>Email, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the railway heritage.</li> </ul>
Romney Marsh Countryside Project	<p>Emails, Meeting, Site visit to Romney Marsh visitor centre, Romney Marsh churches, wider Romney Marsh and Dungeness Estate, Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided regarding the Romney Marsh landscape, related heritage assets and community projects.</li> </ul>
Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust	<p>Emails, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the church heritage.</li> </ul>
RSPB	<p>Emails, Online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the landscape, local heritage and biodiversity.</li> </ul>
St Peter's Church (Folkestone)	<p>Emails</p> <p>Information provided regarding the church and religious heritage of Folkestone. Contributions include the positive benefits on health and wellbeing through engaging with heritage initiatives and the historic environment. This has contributed to the heritage and health case study.</p>
Saltwood Archaeology	<p>Emails, Telephone, Online resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided regarding the archaeological and defence heritage assets around Saltwood and other local areas.</li> </ul>
Sandgate Heritage Trust	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the local heritage assets.</li> </ul>
Save Princes Parade	<p>Emails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information relating to the local built and landscape heritage assets.</li> </ul>
Sidney de Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health	<p>Emails, Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided regarding communal work within the Creative Quarter that relates to the local heritage. Contributions include the positive benefits on health and wellbeing through engaging with heritage initiatives and the historic environment have been received. This has contributed to the heritage and health case study.</li> </ul>

Shepway HEART Forum	Emails, Telephone, Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided regarding heritage assets and groups/initiatives/projects from across the district.</li> </ul>
Shorncliffe Trust	Emails, Site visit to Shorncliffe Redoubt and Cemetery, Online resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided through response to research questions that were sent out during consultation relating to the local defence heritage and Shorncliffe Garrison site. Site visit provided further information regarding the heritage at Shorncliffe as well as the Trust's work there..</li> </ul>
Stelling Minnis Windmill and Museum Trust	Online resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the windmill and Trust.</li> </ul>
Step Short	Email, Online resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the project and WW1 heritage.</li> </ul>
Taylor Wimpey	Meeting, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion concerning development at Shorncliffe and its related heritage assets.</li> </ul>
The Remembrance Line Association	Email, Online resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the Association.</li> </ul>
"Up on the Downs"	Emails, Meeting, Online resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the landscape and local heritage assets as well as related project/community work.</li> </ul>
Visit Kent	Emails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided regarding local tourism and updated tourism surveys for the district.</li> </ul>
White Cliffs Countryside Partnership	Emails, Meeting, Online resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information regarding landscape heritage and the local historic environment.</li> </ul>

## Feedback

8.8 The engagement has highlighted the wide range of stakeholders and their heritage activities that are taking place or are planned to take place across the district. Stakeholders include:

- community and friends groups, societies and projects;
- institutions such as universities and the church;
- local authorities and parishes;
- heritage professionals at local, county and national level;
- AONB and landscape partnerships;
- the arts and natural heritage sectors;
- property, asset and land owners and managers;
- developers and proposers of change;
- educational sector;
- public health;
- tourism and more;

8.9 The above list is not exhaustive and does not include the numerous individuals in the district who engage with their heritage on a day to day basis.

8.10 The activities range from those that are concerned with a specific asset or local history to those that are concerned with the heritage of entire landscapes and themes. The stakeholders consulted in developing the Heritage Strategy are clearly passionate about the district's heritage. Each stakeholder expressed a great pride in their particular area of heritage and those assets located within the locality. They emphasised the importance of these heritage assets and the historic environment in which they are set as a significant resource for current and future generations.

8.11 Stakeholders have presented their views on the role that they see for the District Council with respect to the district's heritage, including: protecting, promoting and championing the district's heritage; co-ordinating projects; setting up a steering group to take the strategy forward; recruiting a dedicated heritage or conservation officer; and linking with other strategies to create a greater collective impact.

8.12 Development and its effect on heritage in the district has been one of the major issues that has been fed back by stakeholders in response to the Heritage Strategy. A number of stakeholder groups in the district have been set up in response to particular development. Strong feelings on specific development decisions or proposals were expressed in the Heritage Strategy Workshop in October 2016. Matters that have been particularly raised during the stakeholder consultation include: development around the Leas Pavilion; proposals for Princes Parade in Hythe; development at Shorncliffe Garrison and Folkestone Harbour; and proposals for a new garden settlement at Otterpool Park.

8.13 Stakeholders also considered that there was a need to create a Local List of Heritage Assets so that undesignated heritage of the district can be recognised, better promoted and protected.

8.14 Stakeholders felt their activities could benefit from improved co-ordination and communication between existing groups and better access to advice and guidance. This aspect is discussed further in Chapter 5.

8.15 Stakeholders also felt that more joint working with other sectors and disciplines was called for and improved access to information is needed. Some participants considered that further archaeological investigation in some areas of the district could greatly improve understanding about the archaeological and historical development of places such as Hythe and the Romney Marsh. Some highlighted that the Historic Town Surveys could benefit from updating; they felt that such activity could be facilitated through a number of the local archaeological groups and projects that will also present opportunities for wider community participation.

8.16 With respect to the district's tourism and visitor offer the stakeholders were of the view that: physical accessibility to some sites and assets needs to be improved

in order to encourage more people to visit and appreciate them, such as Folkestone Leas and Harbour and the Dungeness Estate; the creation of more heritage trails could be used to appeal to wider audiences, link sites and themes together and raise awareness of the heritage within the district; “heritage packages” could be created that relate to a particular theme, such as defence or religious heritage; and that there is a need for improved facilities at some sites such as benches, heritage interpretation, information boards and picnic areas to encourage visitors and longer stays.

8.17 This aspect is discussed in more detail in Chapter 7.

## 9 Taking the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy Forward

### Introduction

9.1 The Government recognises the role that the historic environment can play in delivering the sustainable development agenda. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that there are three dimensions sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. It goes on to state that part of the planning system's environmental role is 'contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment'. Environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously with economic and social gains through the planning system as the dimensions are mutually dependent and not exclusive.

9.2 The sustainable development agenda needs to be reflected in the Local Plan. The NPPF further states that

*'185. Plans should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:*

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;*
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.'*

9.3 The Heritage Strategy (Chapters 2, 3, 4 and Appendix 1) has described the extraordinarily rich history of the district and its vast and diverse wealth of heritage assets. Alongside the prominent assets such as the outstanding collection of Napoleonic defences, the unique landscapes of Dungeness and the Romney Marshes, the former Cinque Ports of Hythe, New Romney and the town and harbour of Folkestone, numerous sites of national, regional and local importance exist, some designated but many not. Together these heritage assets provide Folkestone & Hythe District with its distinctive historic character and have shaped the place that it is today, a place greatly valued by residents and visitors alike.

9.4 In addition the Heritage Strategy (Chapter 5 & Appendix 3) has identified that the district benefits greatly from a large number of very active heritage related groups and other stakeholders. A substantial amount of heritage activity is already taking place and much more is being planned. This activity extends across the heritage

themes and throughout the district. A key element in the compilation of this Heritage Strategy has been to seek and include the contribution of these stakeholders.

9.5 The historic environment is one of the district's most valuable assets; it can and must play a significant role in the district's future. It should be used in a positive and proactive way and not become seen as an obstacle to the district realising its potential.

9.6 The Heritage Strategy (Chapter 6) has identified how heritage can play a positive role in the district's future, bringing real economic and social benefits. In particular the Strategy has highlighted its role:

- as a catalyst for economic and social regeneration;
- in realising tourism and visitor potential;
- in contributing to improved public health and well-being.

9.7 To realise the potential opportunities and benefits that the district's heritage can provide it is important that it is carefully and appropriately managed, conserved and enhanced. The vulnerability of the district's heritage to both generic and specific activities, processes and issues has been considered in Chapter 7. These include:

- natural processes;
- rural activities;
- development and strategic growth;
- change and disuse;
- policy and management;
- heritage crime;
- promotion and awareness;
- accessibility;
- co-ordination of efforts;
- lack of funding and resources;
- leadership.

9.8 The district's Core Strategy Local Plan demonstrates the Council's understanding that its natural and built heritage is a potentially rich inheritance found across much of the district, that it is often hidden or seen only in disjointed or fragmentary form. The Council has set itself the challenge of addressing its Strategic Need B to "*enhance the management and maintenance of the rich natural and historic assets in Shepway*". The work of the Heritage Strategy has sought to bring together a sound and enhanced evidence base upon which the Council can identify objectives and priorities to take forward and best realise the opportunities that its heritage can bring. This evidence can be used to inform future decision making in the district and can be used by not just the Council but all those involved in shaping the future of the

Folkestone & Hythe District. It is also a resource that helps the community understand its history and heritage and its significance.

## Objectives

9.9 The compilation of the Heritage Strategy has involved a substantial amount of research, consultation and feedback. A large number of issues and opportunities, individual and broad have been identified and which are set out in the preceding chapters and the supporting evidence base papers.

9.10 From the analysis of research, consultation and feedback, the Heritage Strategy has identified four broad objectives to take forward. These are set out in the box below:

The Heritage Strategy's objectives are:

### **Objective 1 - Leadership**

*The District Council to play a leading role in championing and promoting the rich heritage of the district and related activity.*

### **Objective 2 - Heritage Management**

*The district's heritage assets are sustained and enhanced so as to best meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to appreciate their significance; ways are developed to help manage, inform and guide the process of change in the district.*

### **Objective 3 - Place Shaping**

*The district's historic environment and heritage assets are used to enable and inform development, regeneration and place making.*

### **Objective 4 - Capitalising**

*The district realises the economic and social potential of its rich historic environment, heritage assets and heritage activity.*

## Priorities

9.11 The Heritage Strategy has identified a considerable number of potential actions and recommendations at varying scales and levels of importance to delivering the objectives set out above. It would be unrealistic to expect that all of these can be addressed in the short term though some progress can and in fact already is being made on many.

9.12 Folkestone & Hythe District Council have reviewed the Heritage Strategy and have identified eleven priorities that they wish to take forward. These are set out in the following table and discussed below.

Priority	
1	The District Council (the Council) will seek opportunities to co-ordinate, link and support agreed projects of the numerous heritage related groups and activities in the district.
2	The district's heritage and its significance will be recognised and considered at the earliest stages of development, regeneration and plan-making. The Heritage Strategy will be taken into account when developing strategies and policies by the Council.
3	To make heritage information readily available and understood by those involved in the process of change and heritage activities.
4	To undertake a long-term programme of Conservation Area Appraisal and review and develop management plans and guidance for the district's Conservation Areas.
5	The Council will develop and make available to planning applicants, guidance for the compilation and content of Heritage Statements. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A methodology for checking proposals against the district's heritage themes;</li> <li>• Statements that clearly set out the significance of the heritage assets present;</li> <li>• Statements that clearly set out the potential impact of proposals on the significance of heritage assets both physically and on their setting.</li> </ul>
6	The Council will create and maintain a Local Heritage at Risk Register with links to the National Register.
7	The Council will work with Kent Police to undertake a Heritage Crime Risk Assessment, support systems to record and recognise heritage crime and promote reporting initiatives such as Country Eye.
8	The Council will create and maintain a Local List of Heritage Assets. The List shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• include all types of heritage assets - e.g. built heritage, archaeology, landscape features;</li> <li>• have clear and robust criteria for selection of heritage assets on the list;</li> <li>• require supporting statements of significance, condition, vulnerability and potential opportunities for sustainable use.</li> </ul>
9	

	The Council will consider and promote the district's heritage in a thematic way to provide greater opportunities to link assets and co-ordinate activities.
10	Support the heritage-related proposals in the Sustainable Access and Recreational Management Strategy at Dungeness and measures to manage the impact of visitor numbers at the site.
11	Show the ways in which the district's heritage can be used to improve public health.

9.13 The following sections consider each of these priorities.

<b>Priority 1</b>	The District Council (the Council) will seek opportunities to co-ordinate, link and support agreed projects of the numerous heritage related groups and activities in the district.
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9.14 The Heritage Strategy has identified the large number of heritage-related stakeholders and activity that is taking place in the district. This is seen as a particular strength and is an aspect that can be positively built upon. The District Council were keen that the scale of heritage activity and potential connections be examined as part of the Strategy development. Chapter 5 of the Strategy describes the heritage activity and connections, in particular the ways in which the activity can be linked thematically.

9.15 To be able to deliver the Heritage Strategy the Council could engage with, support where possible and help with co-ordinating the district's heritage stakeholders, their activities and projects. Indeed the stakeholders were strong advocates for the heritage strategy at its onset and have been enthusiastic in engaging with its compilation. Stakeholders are keen to engage further and recognise that their co-ordination and co-operation can strengthen their work. With respect to their own activities they advised back that:

- there is a need for better communication between activities to achieve better outcomes and stronger impact;
- activities and projects would benefit from understanding what is going on between them and some level of co-ordination to avoid duplication of effort and identify opportunities for the joint development of projects;
- they see benefits in sharing knowledge, skills and resources between projects;
- they could benefit from joint training initiatives;
- they see value in joint promotion of projects and feel that there is a need to raise awareness of their projects and initiatives with the public;

- they feel that they need support in obtaining up to date advice and guidance on funding opportunities for their activities.

9.16 Many of the opportunities and potential benefits described in this Strategy can be achieved through the active involvement of communities and heritage stakeholders. One of the most effective ways of engaging with local heritage is to become involved in projects and activities and many of those already taking place in the district are open to participation by local people. As well as health and wellbeing benefits from such engagement local people develop a deeper understanding of and connection with aspects of their local heritage, develop their skills and encourages them to support conservation of the heritage through volunteering.

9.17 Given the financial and resource constraints that the local authority has, to deliver better co-ordination of activities it may be that the Council can work with others to identify opportunities for funding and resourcing support. Support for training in heritage skills may be achieved through specific bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund and from Historic England. Many existing projects include training elements and improved communication throughout stakeholders may help bring this training to the wider group. The Heritage Lottery fund can provide help in developing funding bids but the Council may be able to assist in wider support.

9.18 Creation of a single website that promotes and explains the district's rich heritage and the wealth of activity that is taking place will help to promote the work of the stakeholders to the wider public and encourage wider participation. A calendar of activities and events could be included on such a site. The website could also include information on access to assets and visitor sites, guidance to managing the district's heritage and downloadable toolkits to support heritage work.

<b>Priority 2</b>	<b>The district's heritage and its significance will be recognised and considered at the earliest stages of development, regeneration and plan-making. The Heritage Strategy will be taken into account when developing strategies and policies by the Council.</b>
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9.19 The important positive role that the historic environment can play in the district's future is explained in chapter 6 above. The Core Strategy Local Plan recognises the role of quality of life and sense of place in the district's growth and the need to enhance the management and maintenance of its heritage assets. The incorporation of heritage in regeneration can bring about a number of benefits including:

- Creating a sense of place;
- Re-use of heritage assets;
- Adding value to new development;

- Attracting business and commercial activities;
- Creating employment;
- Durability of regeneration;
- Reducing social exclusion.

9.20 The district's heritage can play a key role in helping to create new places, in development and in regeneration.

9.21 Creating a 'sense of place' is very important in regeneration, it provides a place with distinctiveness, contributes to its competitiveness, sense of identity and engenders pride. Heritage plays a fundamental role in providing the unique character and distinctiveness of a place, creating a unique selling point and economic advantage for regeneration and development.

9.22 The creation of the new Otterpool Garden settlement provides an opportunity to use the natural and built heritage strengths of the area to shape a unique and distinctive place and assist regeneration.

9.23 To ensure that heritage plays a key role in place making, regeneration and development the following guiding principles should be adopted:

- The historic environment should be considered as an important element in proposals for new development to help develop a strong 'sense of place' and an identity for existing and new communities.
- Proposals for change should be sensitive to the character of a place, adding to and developing its distinctiveness.
- Proposals for regeneration and development should take account of all its heritage, including that which is undesignated at an early stage and should be reflected in Master Plans.
- The sustainable and beneficial reuse of heritage assets, conserving them in a manner that is appropriate to their significance, should be encouraged in new development and given appropriate weight in making planning decisions.
- The Regeneration Checklist published in Regeneration and the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2005), or any updates, should be taken account of in regeneration proposals.

9.24 To successfully take account of the heritage opportunities in regeneration and development it follows that information about the presence of heritage assets and their significance needs to be accessible and readily understood by all parties. It also follows that those promoting and managing change also need to have access to appropriate heritage advice. This is considered in Priorities 3 following.

9.25 While resources for general provision of advice and support for heritage may be constrained given local authority funding there may be means of obtaining specific focused funding for regeneration and growth proposals through particular funding

streams. An example of such funding could potentially include the Housing Infrastructure Fund where the Government have set aside £2.3 billion pounds of grant funding, competitively sought, for local authorities to develop their housing growth. It may be that a case could be made that resources targeted at the heritage infrastructure of a site could help to unlock its potential and contribute to the high quality housing development that the government aims for.

9.26 As described in chapter 7, the Heritage Strategy was used to assess the sites put forward in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for the Places and Policies Local Plan. Heritage considerations were taken account of in site selection and used to develop site specific policy guidance. It is important that the Heritage Strategy continues to be used proactively, is reviewed and developed and taken into account of in the Council's future plan making, policies and strategies.

<b>Priority 3</b>	<b>To make heritage information readily available and understood by those involved in the process of change and heritage activities.</b>
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9.27 Paragraph 187 of the NPPF identifies that local planning authorities should make information about the historic environment available to the public. Landowners, developers and other stakeholders with an interest in the heritage assets of the district all require accessible information on the assets to be able to manage their proposals and ensure that the significance of heritage assets is sustained and opportunities for beneficial use are recognised and taken.

9.28 The Kent Historic Environment Record should remain as the main repository and source of information concerning the district's historic environment; it should be promoted as a key resource for those involved in the process of change and management of heritage assets. Other key sources of information should be identified, signposted and promoted.

9.29 Programmes to enhance heritage information and access to it should be put in place or supported, especially initiatives to enhance the Historic Environment Record. Many of these can be delivered in association with heritage projects funded from a variety of sources or even from voluntary sector input.

9.30 Enhancement priorities could include:

- Entering the heritage assets identified through the thematic analysis of the district's heritage in this strategy;
- updating of historic town surveys and in particular developing a project to better understand the historic towns and Cinque Ports of Hythe and New Romney;
- a programme of mapping of cropmarks on aerial photographs;

- work with the Kent Gardens Trust to update the Kent Gardens Compendium.

<b>Priority 4</b>	<b>To undertake a long-term programme of Conservation Area Appraisal and review and develop management plans and guidance for the districts Conservation Areas.</b>
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9.31 The district's 21 Conservation Areas are considered in a specific thematic paper (Appendix 1, Theme 13). This has described the Conservation Areas and the issues that surround them and their management. A number of recommendations are made in the theme paper with respect to the objective of preservation and enhancement of these significant heritage areas and their assets.

9.32 A number of the district's Conservation Areas lack Conservation Area Appraisals, others have draft appraisals and the remainder have appraisals that have not been recently reviewed. Without such appraisals it is difficult for decision-makers to understand the special significance of the Conservation Area and make informed management decisions. A priority for the Heritage Strategy must be to undertake a programme of Conservation Area Appraisal for the remaining Conservation Areas that are yet to be covered and to review those that have been published in adopted or draft form.

9.33 Such a programme, as seen elsewhere for example in Dover District, can be developed in conjunction with community and interest groups undertaking the appraisals of their local areas supported by specialist advice, toolkits and guidance. With a strength of the district being its enthusiastic stakeholder groups there is a particular opportunity to draw upon this to help assess and monitor the Conservation Areas.

9.34 Following on from appraisal there is a need to develop management plans for each of the Conservation Areas. These should include guidance that explains how the special interest of the area can be best conserved and enhanced. The guidance should help to explain to property owners what is best practice with respect to maintenance, repair and reinstatement and to explain what may be acceptable in terms of sympathetic change and development. Specific guidance should be supported by more generic guidance to tackle recurring issues. All guidance should be readily accessible to those that need to use it. Where appropriate consideration should be given in management plans to extending Article 4 direction that removes specific permitted rights where specific issues are identified.

<b>Priority 5</b>	<p><b>The Council will develop and make available to planning applicants guidance for the compilation and content of Heritage Statements.</b></p> <p><b>This should include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A methodology for checking proposals against the district's heritage themes;</b></li> <li>• <b>Statements that clearly set out the significance of the heritage assets present;</b></li> <li>• <b>Statements that clearly set out the potential impact of proposals on the significance of heritage assets both physically and on their setting.</b></li> </ul>
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9.35 Paragraph 193 of the NPPF guides that when considering the impact of a development proposal on a heritage asset, great weight should be given to its conservation. The greater the importance of the asset the greater the weight. The impact of proposals on the asset's significance, whether that be through direct impact or affecting its setting needs to be appropriately considered. At individual development site level, the Strategy has developed a methodology for proposals to be rapidly assessed and scored for their impact on the heritage themes identified for the district. It has been recognised that the quality and robustness of Heritage Statements that should accompany planning applications for validation needs significant improvement. The methodology developed for the Strategy could be usefully developed as a checklist to help applicants compile a useful Heritage Statement and recognise the opportunities and benefits that the historic environment can bring to their developments.

<b>Priority 6</b>	<p><b>The Council will create and maintain a Local Heritage at Risk Register with links to the National Register.</b></p>
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9.36 Paragraph 185 of the NPPF details that the positive strategy for the historic environment that should be set out in the Local Plan should include conservation of '*heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats*'. It follows that there is a need to both identify and monitor the assets most at risk. Historic England only include those heritage assets designated at the highest level i.e. Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Grade I Registered Parks and Gardens and Protected Wreck Sites on their Heritage at Risk Register. Many of the district's heritage assets, designated at a lower level or undesignated are not regularly monitored and consequently the risk to them is not understood.

9.37 Alongside supporting initiatives to help reduce the number of designated heritage assets on the national list, it is recommended that Folkestone & Hythe District Council should develop a Local Heritage at Risk Register to monitor the condition of

their wider heritage assets. Local stakeholders, for example heritage interest groups and societies and parish councils could be involved in the management and monitoring of such a list coordinated by the Council.

<b>Priority 7</b>	<b>The Council will work with Kent Police to undertake a Heritage Crime Risk Assessment, support systems to record and recognise heritage crime and promote reporting initiatives such as Country Eye.</b>
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9.38 Many of the district's heritage assets are vulnerable to crime. In particular historic buildings are vulnerable to theft of fixtures and metal, unoccupied structures to vandalism, archaeological sites to illicit metal detecting and wrecks to disturbance and removal of artefacts. A Heritage Crime Risk Assessment would allow the most sensitive heritage assets to be compared with recognised hot spots of criminal activity in the district. This would enable targeted monitoring of key assets at risk by local communities in partnership with the police and authorities.

9.39 Initiatives such as Country Eye / Heritage Watch should be supported and promoted widely to heritage stakeholders and the community. Again there is a key role for the voluntary sector in supporting the council and the Police in tackling heritage crime.

9.40 A Heritage Crime Risk Assessment could link with the Local Heritage at Risk Register to maintain an integrated system of monitoring.

<b>Priority 8</b>	<p><b>The Council will create and maintain a Local List of Heritage Assets.</b></p> <p><b>The List shall:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>include all types of heritage assets - e.g. built heritage, archaeology, landscape features;</b></li> <li>• <b>have clear and robust criteria for selection of heritage assets on the list;</b></li> <li>• <b>require supporting statements of significance, condition, vulnerability and potential opportunities for sustainable use.</b></li> </ul>
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9.41 There are locally important heritage assets that make up the District's heritage and contribute to the sense of place of its historic areas. They also contribute positively to other areas that are considered less historic. Most people in the district interact with undesignated heritage assets, they provide the distinctive character of their places

and defines their perception of the district as much as key sites and landscapes do. When proposals for change come forward there are considerable problems in recognising the value of undesignated heritage assets, often with the result that master-planning and development does not give them due consideration at an early enough stage. The vulnerability to development of the district's undesignated heritage is summarised in Chapter 7 above. The loss of undesignated heritage assets can be a catalyst for adverse reaction to development as well as limit place-shaping opportunities.

9.42 Development of a Local List of Heritage Assets that explains the significance of the heritage assets included on it would help to flag up the value of undesignated heritage assets.

9.43 In developing a Local List it is important that robust criteria for selection are in place and guidance should be provided that sets out the supporting information that is needed to assess applications for inclusion. Application for inclusion can derive from various sources including the undesignated key heritage assets identified in the Heritage Strategy's theme papers. The District Council's emerging Places and Polices Local Plan includes criteria that should be considered for locally important heritage.

9.44 A particular problem with designated heritage assets is the limited information available on their significance. It is important that this is not replicated in a Local List as such omission would reduce the value and usefulness of the List. It is recommended that the List entry should include a Statement of Significance using the heritage values set out in Conservation Principles, a description of the condition, vulnerability and potential opportunities for the heritage asset.

9.45 The development and management of a Local List of Heritage Assets can be enhanced by the participation of stakeholders and volunteers. Communities recognising the heritage assets that they particularly value, and explaining why, can help to guide decision making.

<b>Priority 9</b>	<b>The Council will consider and promote the district's heritage in a thematic way to provide greater opportunities to link assets and co-ordinate activities.</b>
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9.46 The high value of heritage tourism to the district's economy is discussed in Chapter 6. Research commissioned by Visit Kent in 2016 identified that approximately £207 million is spent in the area by tourists and visitors generating a value to the local economy of approximately £242 million and generating approximately 4,800 jobs (12.7% of employment in the district). While there are no readily available figures for the heritage tourism aspect of this, using national ratios, and cautioning that there may

be local variation in doing so, it can be speculated that heritage tourism is worth around £53 million and 1055 jobs.

9.47 The heritage of the district can play a key role in the its branding. In consultation for the Strategy stakeholders have said that they feel the district suffers from not containing an iconic asset like its neighbours with Dover Castle or Canterbury Cathedral. While that may be true the district is rich in heritage and its strength lies in cumulative nature of that heritage in terms of its themes. Prime examples include the outstanding collection of Napoleonic defences along its coastline and the unique landscapes of Romney Marsh and Dungeness. Alongside the key sites is a wealth of background heritage that residents and visitors interact with on a daily basis and defines their perception of the district's heritage character.

9.48 Developing and promoting the heritage of the district in a thematic way can help to:

- create packages that link a number of heritage assets across the district encouraging longer or return visits;
- provide a mix of key heritage assets that are promoted as visitor attractions with heritage that can be found in other publicly accessible locations, thereby drawing visitors into local areas with greater contribution to the local economy;
- provide a suitable mechanism to support and co-ordinate the efforts of stakeholders and their activities;
- provide stories that can be readily understood, marketed and celebrated. Such stories help to provide context for the visitor to the heritage.

9.49 Most of the district's heritage themes can be developed for visitors though some have particular strengths e.g. defence and military heritage especially the Napoleonic defences, church, Romney Marsh and Dungeness (linking with the natural heritage) and Victorian and Edwardian Folkestone.

9.50 In many cases visitors may desire a mix of experiences from their trip rather than simply heritage. It is important therefore that the heritage offer becomes more integrated into the wider offer available in the district and benefits are realised from both directions.

9.51 Part of developing a thematic approach will be to develop the visitor infrastructure that supports it. Improved access, signage, visitor information and interpretation and online access are all important aspects that have been raised by stakeholders and are discussed in Chapter 6. The development of new technologies and the use of social media and a dedicated web site to promote the heritage offer and improve access are also proposed.

9.52 There is potential to create a cultural calendar for the district that promotes celebrations of the heritage. The thematic approach can provide additional

opportunities to develop events focused on the stories of the district adding to a number of events already taking place.

9.53 It is important that promotion and explanation of the heritage of the district is aimed equally at those who live and work there as it is to visitors. They are the people who will interact with the general heritage on a daily basis and in many cases this will not be readily recognised or appreciated. The thematic approach lends itself to presenting the heritage of the district as stories which explains the context of the heritage in an engaging and more readily understood way. Understanding an area's heritage helps to improve a sense of place and pride for those who live and work there.

9.54 There is great potential for the heritage of the district to contribute to the education and learning sector. The heritage themes can fit well into the curriculum and local heritage assets can potentially provide for a more convenient and cheaper resource for school visits. Additional benefits of using local heritage packages for education will be to develop wider appreciation for the district's heritage and encourage students and their families to visit the sites themselves.

<b>Priority 10</b>	Support the heritage-related proposals in the Sustainable Access and Recreational Management Strategy at Dungeness and measures to manage the impact of visitor numbers at the site.
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9.55 While the heritage of the district provides many significant and substantial opportunities to be put to beneficial use in regeneration and the visitor economy it is important that an appropriate balance is reached with the needs of the conservation and maintenance of its significance and special character.

9.56 Many heritage assets, particularly earthworks can be fragile and readily damaged or eroded by visitors and traffic. The introduction of visitors and the infrastructure to manage them can affect the special character of a historic area especially areas that are valued for their remoteness and natural tranquillity. Attracting visitors to heritage sites may also impact on local communities.

9.57 A particular issue identified in the district has been the fragility of the historic and natural environment and the distinctive character of the Dungeness Estate. This has been examined in detail in Case Study 4 (see Appendix 2). One of the biggest challenges at Dungeness is the continued conservation of its unique historic landscape, tranquil character and important flora and fauna whilst in the face of substantial visitor numbers, around a million per year, and increased promotion as a visitor attraction. Issues include visitors deviating from pathways and damaging the sensitive landscape and assets, uncontrolled dogs, littering, trespass on private property and infringing the privacy of residents. Whilst measures can be put in place

to mitigate some of these issues, the provision of visitor infrastructure can itself have a detrimental impact on the distinctive and special character of the place. Items such as litter bins, signage and fencing needs to be carefully considered so that a correct balance is achieved. Part of the distinctive character of Dungeness is the remoteness and isolation of the area. This can be undermined by the introduction of substantial numbers of visitors to the area.

9.58 A number of plans and strategies are being developed to help address the issues faced by Dungeness. These include a Sustainable Access and Recreational Management Strategy for Dungeness, Rye and Camber that aims to ensure that increased visitor numbers do not damage the area's heritage. The owners of the Estate, EDF Energy are developing a Management Plan for Dungeness.

9.59 A number of measures are being proposed that may reduce the impact of visitor pressure on Dungeness. Key amongst these is to better inform the visiting public of the fragility of the area and how it should be respectfully treated. A careful balance of information boards, provision of literature and importantly the presence of wardens who can interact with visitors is needed. The lack of amenities at the site including parking can lead to additional pressures. Improvement of amenities close to but outside the sensitive areas may help to disperse visitor pressure. More use of the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway may help to reduce parking at the site.

<b>Priority 11</b>	<b>Show the ways in which the district's heritage can be used to improve public health.</b>
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9.60 A key finding of the work undertaken for the Heritage Strategy has been the substantial role that the district's heritage related activities are playing in the public health agenda and the considerable potential for heritage to contribute further. This is explained in Chapter 7 above and in a detailed case study (Appendix 2 Case Study 5).

9.61 Public health and well-being is a major issue locally and nationally; the health and social care system is under substantial and increasing budget and resource pressures. To be affordable efforts are needed to reduce the numbers of people who need to access costly health and social services and provide alternative, more cost effective ways of addressing health care problems.

9.62 The district has varying levels of health and includes a number of wards with higher levels of deprivation than the national average and one, the Folkestone Harvey Central Ward with the lowest life expectancy (73 years) in the South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Heart disease is a major contributing factor.

The CCG has the highest proportion of people aged over 65 in Kent and a higher rate of recorded diabetes than the England average. The health priorities for the district have been defined as:

- Increasing physical activity in children and adults;
- Reducing the number of people that smoke and become obese; as a result also preventing and reducing conditions relating to these behaviours;
- Prevention of conditions that relate to an aging population.

9.63 The heritage strategy has explained the number of ways in which engagement with heritage can have a positive impact on health and well-being (Chapter 6 above and Appendix 2 Case Study 5) and that due to the lack of empirical and clinical data that the benefits have not been widely recognised even by health professionals. Awareness is however growing and the study undertaken for the Heritage Strategy is at the forefront in identifying and highlighting the opportunities. The district already has a number of activities which are contributing health and well-being benefits and their value and impact could be greatly increased through targeted health commissioning and support, together with more collaborative and co-ordinated working. The primary challenge is demonstrating to those that hold the considerable (but heavily pressured) health and social care budgets that heritage projects can make significant differences. Evaluation and measurement of health outcomes in a formal and clinical way is essential to establish the recognition of the benefits of heritage in much the same way as the better explored areas of the arts, sport and the natural environment.

9.64 In researching the Heritage Strategy the project team has consulted with public health commissioning bodies and found that there is a strong interest in the findings of the study and taking a project forward. It is recommended that Folkestone & Hythe District Council with Kent County Council develop, through joint commissioning with public health authorities, a project, initially as a pilot, that takes account of the above criteria. Key project partners from the present activities and stakeholders should be identified to help demonstrate and evaluate the benefits through project support. Following evaluation of the impact of a pilot project, consideration should be given to taking it further forward and using it as an exemplar to help support further projects in the district and wider.

9.65 Funding and resources for such a project may be sought from public health commissioning bodies plus interest in the health outcomes of heritage is developing in Historic England and the Heritage Lottery Fund who may be approached for support. Given the present high interest in health and heritage and the momentum provided by the present study it is recommended that addressing this priority should be a short term goal for the Heritage Strategy.

## **Going Forward**

9.66 The Heritage Strategy in its present form provides a sound and enhanced evidence base which can be used for future decision making in the district. It provides a snapshot of the district's heritage taken at this point in time, however it should be seen as a living document that can be regularly monitored, reviewed and updated in response to new findings, challenges and priorities.

9.67 As a result of the work carried out for the Heritage Strategy a considerable number of recommendations have been identified ranging from those that require policy support down to more specific local or asset specific actions. Eleven have been identified by the District Council to initially take forward

9.68 The next stage for the Heritage Strategy, following public consultation, should be to develop a Heritage Action Plan based around the priorities identified subject to the feedback from consultation. This detailed Action Plan should identify:

- who the key stakeholders are and their role in ownership of and helping to deliver the Heritage Strategy;
- a realistic, practical and deliverable programme for carrying out the Action Plan that details how it will be monitored, reviewed and its success measured;
- sources and opportunities for funding and obtaining the resources needed to deliver the Heritage Strategy, recognising the constraints in resources that all organisations are experiencing.

### ***Stakeholders and ownership of delivery***

9.69 At a time of substantial pressure on local authority funding and resources creative solutions need to be sought to take the Heritage Strategy forward. The Strategy has identified the considerable amount of heritage related activity that the district's communities and voluntary sector are presently carrying out and highlights the significant role that they can play in helping to deliver many of aspects of the strategy. The role of the local authorities and their heritage professionals and advisors, town and parish councils wherever possible should be one of acting as a focus, facilitating, coordinating and providing advice, information and support to the community to deliver the desired outcomes.

### ***Programming, monitoring and review***

9.70 The evidence base set out in the Heritage Strategy is a snapshot of the district's heritage at this moment in time and has its limitations. The evidence base will constantly evolve in light of new research and discoveries, consideration of new

themes and as new challenges and opportunities emerge. The Strategy should therefore be considered as a dynamic document that can be updated as it goes along. It is anticipated that the Heritage Strategy will be formally reviewed in parallel with the Local Plan however it should be monitored on an annual basis and adjusted where possible to take account of changing evidence and circumstances. The District Council currently monitors policies in the adopted Core Strategy through the Authority Monitoring Report and this would also be used to monitor the Heritage Strategy.

9.71 The Action Plan should set out a timetable for delivery of its priority actions as far as it is able to and how the actions will be monitored.

9.72 Criteria should be developed which can be used to measure the success of the heritage strategy. The criteria should be clearly set out in the Action Plan and should be readily quantifiable. Examples could include the number of heritage assets that have been removed from national and local 'at risk' registers, conservation area appraisals carried out, review of visitor numbers at heritage attractions, volunteer numbers in delivering strategy actions, heritage assets re-used in regeneration projects etc.

### ***Funding and resources***

9.73 As described in a number of places many of the actions that will emerge from the Heritage Strategy can at least in part be addressed by or with the help of the voluntary sector. As stated above the Council's role should be that of facilitating and helping to co-ordinate the delivery of the strategy or through use of its statutory functions ensuring that those proposing change take appropriate account of the historic environment in accordance with the district's objectives.

9.74 It is inevitable, however, that funding will be needed to support the implementation of the Heritage Strategy either directly or in kind through officer support time.

9.75 The funding landscape is one of constant change. A number of the Council's priorities can be delivered through specific project development. Bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund provide grant funding for suitable projects that range from a few thousand to millions of pounds.

9.76 Grant funding and other support targeted at regeneration can be obtained from various bodies such as Historic England and government initiatives. European funding has been a useful source of funding in the past, particularly where heritage activities have been partnered with tourism, culture, environment and economic development. The future of such funding is likely to be short-lived given Brexit.

9.77 There may be opportunities to deliver some of the recommendations of the Heritage Strategy through partnership working with other public sector bodies or the

private sector. A significant opportunity lies with working with public health bodies to develop initiatives and projects that enable heritage to contribute to health and well-being. Demonstrating that investing in such initiatives can have a positive economic benefit on health budgets may encourage investment in heritage initiatives by those holding under pressure health budgets.

## 10 Sources and Consultation

### Acknowledgements and authorship

10.1 The Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy was compiled by the Heritage Conservation group at Kent County Council on behalf of Folkestone & Hythe District Council. Principal authors were Francesca Clark, Ben Found and Simon Mason. The project was managed on behalf of the District Council by Piran Cooper and David Whittington.

10.2 A feature of the production of this heritage strategy has been the substantial role that stakeholder consultation has played in its development. Numerous stakeholders including individuals, groups and organisations with an interest in the District's heritage have enthusiastically provided valuable advice and information to the project team demonstrating a real passion for their heritage.

10.3 The Strategy has been informed by valuable feedback at three stakeholder workshops before and during the work. On top of that the project team have undertaken a large number of meetings with individuals and groups, been provided with access to and had conducted tours of key sites.

10.4 The project team would like to offer thanks to all who have provided advice and assistance during the production of the Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy.

### Sources and information

10.2 A wide range of guidance and source material has been consulted during the production of the Heritage Strategy. These have included both printed and web-based material as well as local knowledge and expertise. A list of sources and useful information is provided at the end of each of the Theme Papers in Appendix 1.

10.3 During the production of the Heritage Strategy a number of key sources of information and guidance were identified which should be used to guide and inform any future development or regeneration proposals in the District:

### ***Policy***

- National Planning Policy Framework  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2116950.pdf>
- Shepway District Council's Core Strategy (2013)

[https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core\\_Strategy\\_Local\\_Plan\\_2013\\_v2.pdf](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/media/1811/Core-Strategy-Local-Plan-2013/pdf/Core_Strategy_Local_Plan_2013_v2.pdf)

## Historic Environment Information

- Kent Historic Environment Record <http://www.kent.gov.uk/HER>
- The National Heritage List for England <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk>
- Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>
- Heritage at Risk – Historic England  
<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk>
- Conservation and Heritage - Folkestone & Hythe District Council  
<http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning/heritage>

## Guidance & Principles

- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance – Historic England  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesguidanceapr08web.pdf>
- National Heritage Protection Plan – Historic England  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/nhpp-plan-framework/nhpp-plan-framework.pdf/>
- Heritage Counts – Historic England  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/heritage-counts/>
- Heritage Lottery Fund Guidance Notes & Documents – Heritage Lottery Fund  
<http://www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/Pages/allourpublications.aspx>
- Local Heritage Listing – Historic England Advice Note 7  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7/heag018-local-heritage-listing.pdf/>
- Understanding Place: Historic Area Assessments - Historic England  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-place-historic-area-assessments/heag146-understanding-place-haa.pdf/>

- Building Sustainable Communities: Actions for Housing Market Renewal – CABE  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118195515/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/building-sustainable-communities-hmr.pdf>
- Heritage Works: The use of historic buildings in regeneration – a toolkit of good practice – RICS, BPF & English Heritage <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/imported-docs/f-j/heritageworks.pdf>
- Affordable Rural Housing and the Historic Environment – English Heritage  
<http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/ARH3.pdf?1337937273>
- Knowing Your Place: Heritage and Community-Led Planning in the Countryside – English Heritage and ACRE  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/knowning-your-place/knowning-your-place12.pdf/>
- Archaeology and Development: a good practice guide to managing risk and maximising benefit – CIRIA
- Regeneration in Historic Coastal Towns – English Heritage  
[http://www.tourisminsights.info/ONLINEPUB/RESORTS/RESORT\\_PDFS/English%20Heritage%20\(2007\),%20Regeneration%20in%20Historic%20Coastal%20Towns,%20English%20Heritage,%20London.pdf](http://www.tourisminsights.info/ONLINEPUB/RESORTS/RESORT_PDFS/English%20Heritage%20(2007),%20Regeneration%20in%20Historic%20Coastal%20Towns,%20English%20Heritage,%20London.pdf)
- Vacant Historic Buildings: Guidelines on Managing Risk - Historic England  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/vacanthistoricbuildings/heag183-vacant-historic-buildings.pdf/>
- Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice – Historic England  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-historic-buildings/heag099-understanding-historic-buildings.pdf/>
- Wind Energy and the Historic Environment – English Heritage  
<http://www.michaelhornsby.co.uk/files/documents/advice/wind-energy-in-the-historic-environment.pdf>
- The Setting of Heritage Assets – Historic England  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets.pdf/>
- Streets for All: South East – Historic England

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/streets-for-all-south-east/heag149f-sfa-south-east.pdf/>

- Kent Farmstead Guidance (Consultation Draft) – Kent County Council, English Heritage & Kent Downs AONB

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/community-and-living/Regeneration/Kent%20Downs%20AONB%20Farmsteads%20Guidance.pdf>

- Valuing our Heritage: The case for future investment in the historic environment – The Heritage Alliance

<http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/docs/Valuing%20our%20Heritage%2010%20Jan%2007.pdf>

- Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management - Historic England

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/heag040-conservation-area-designation-appraisal-and-management.pdf/>

- Stopping the Rot - Historic England

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/stoppingtherot/heag046b-stopping-the-rot.pdf/>

- Preserving Archaeological Remains - Historic England

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/preserving-archaeological-remains/>

- Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment - Historic England

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2.pdf/>

# Annex 1 Heritage Assets

## *Scheduled Monuments*

A1.1 Scheduled Monuments are those archaeological sites which are considered to be nationally significant and as such have been given legal protection by being placed on a list by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 provides the legislative framework for this list. Scheduling is legal protection afforded specifically to archaeological sites.

A1.2 There are sixty five Scheduled Monuments spread across the district's landscapes and main towns. The most prolific category of Scheduled Monuments relates to defence and in particular the impressive collection of post medieval coastal defences of Martello towers, redoubts and artillery forts and the largest monument, the Royal Military Canal, that extends out of the district into Ashford Borough. The post medieval defences account for twenty two of the thirty two defensive monuments in the district and are generally found along the coastline. Other defensive Monuments include five 20th century defences including the fine collection of inter-war sound mirrors at Greatstone and the remains of the WW2 Phoenix Caisson, a relic of the D Day operations off the coast at Littlestone-on-Sea. Earlier fortifications include the medieval ringwork or motte and baileys at Castle Hill and Stowting, Saltwood Castle and the medieval and later fortified house at Westenhanger. The earliest defensive site designated as a Scheduled Monument is Stutfall Castle, the Roman fort of the Saxon Shore at Portus Lemanis (Lympne).

A1.3 The second largest category of Scheduled Monuments is the outstanding collection of prehistoric barrows found in the North Downs. Bronze Age bowl barrows are designated in twenty separate Scheduled Monuments, a further monument is an oval barrow and one of the most complete Roman barrows in south east England another. An Iron Age urnfield and Roman villa at East Wear Bay in Folkestone is the only other pre-medieval Scheduled Monument in Folkestone & Hythe District.

A1.4 The remaining twelve monuments are all of medieval date and include seven associated with the church theme: a chapel, four churches and two priories; two are moated sites and another an abandoned farmstead, all with attached field systems and enclosures. The final two monuments are a medieval flood defence at West Hythe and part of the Rhee Wall, a medieval canal in the Romney Marshes.

A1.5 The earliest designation of Scheduled Monuments in the district dates to the 18th August 1938 with the designation of the Roman Shore Fort Stutfall Castle, Lympne and the medieval ringwork and bailey at Castle Hill, Folkestone. The 1940s and 50s saw further additions of monuments including the Roman villa at East Wear Bay, Sandgate Castle, Martellos 4 and 5, Westenhanger and a couple of bowl barrows. It was not until the 1970s and 1980s that a major programme of designation was undertaken with twenty two and twelve Scheduled in those decades respectively.

A1.6 The most recently designated Scheduled Monument is that of the Shorncliffe Redoubt, which was added in 2013 in advance of the programme of change proposed for that area.

### **Listed Buildings**

A1.7 Significant historic buildings or structures are provided with statutory protection by being placed upon the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Buildings which have been placed upon this statutory list are known as Listed Buildings and are graded using the following criteria:

- Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, sometimes considered to be internationally important; only 2.5% of Listed Buildings are Grade I
- Grade II\* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; 5.5% of Listed Buildings are Grade II\*
- Grade II buildings are nationally important and of special interest; 92% of all Listed Buildings are in this class and it is the most likely grade of listing for a home owner.

A1.8 Listed Building Consent is required from the local planning authority for any alteration, extension or demolition works which may affect the character or significance of the building. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides the legislative framework for the Listed Building process.

A1.9 The district has at present nine hundred and thirteen Listed Buildings. Broadly comparable to the national picture thirty (3.3%) of these are Listed Grade I, thirty nine (4.35%) Grade II\* and eight hundred and forty four (92.4%) Grade II. The earliest designated was Enbrook Manor in 1949 while the majority were designated in annual campaigns mainly in the 1970s and 1980s. Prominent amongst more recent additions include the designation of the new Dungeness Lighthouse (II\* 2003), the upgrading of the designation of the Leas Lift (II\* 2016) and the designation of St John's Commandery in 1998 (II\*). Recent designations have largely emerged from designation assessment exercises by Historic England where major change is proposed (e.g. Shorncliffe Garrison) or as a result of national thematic listing programmes (e.g. war memorials). This illustrates the broad potential for heritage assets of an importance sufficient to meet national designation criteria to lie amongst the districts unassessed non-designated heritage assets.

A1.10 Without careful analysis, dating can often be problematic with Listed Buildings which often contain evidence of their long term evolution within their fabric. In broad terms the vast majority of the Listed Buildings date between the Norman Conquest and the end of the 19th century with almost two thirds dating to the 17th,, 18th and 19th centuries. Compared to national averages however the district is notable in having a significantly higher percentage of pre-1600 buildings at 24% (compared to 15% nationally). Only five Listed Buildings are considered pre-conquest, four Anglo-

Saxon churches and Saltwood Castle, though the latter has only had fabric identified to post-conquest and the early date relies on its manorial record. There are forty two 20th century buildings of which three post-date the Second World War including the new Dungeness Lighthouse, the Roman Catholic Military Chapel at Shorncliffe and a K8 Telephone Kiosk at New Beach Holiday Park in Dymchurch. Those dating prior to and from the Second World War include further telephone kiosks and war memorials but also buildings such as the mansion house at Port Lympne, the Leas Club and Leas Cliffe Hall in Folkestone.

### ***Conservation Areas***

A1.11 Conservation Areas are designated where a place is of special historic or architectural interest, and where it is desirable to preserve or enhance the character and appearance. Conservation Areas are mostly designated by the Local Planning Authority. Owners or users of a property in a Conservation Area require permission to carry out certain types of alterations to that property, to demolish or substantially demolish a building and to notify their intention to cut down or prune trees in the area. Additional restrictions on small scale development and alterations within a Conservation Area can be secured through the application of Article 4 and in particular Article 4(2) Directions which can be used to remove permitted development rights.

A1.12 There are twenty one designated Conservation Areas dispersed across the District with eleven located in the Romney Marsh and Dungeness, six amongst the North Down's villages and hamlets, and four concentrated on the major towns and settlement areas of Folkestone, Hythe and Sandgate. The Conservation Areas principally concentrate on the historic cores of the district's settlements, many are villages or coastal settlements. Those in the historic towns such as Folkestone and Hythe are subdivided into specific character areas reflecting the size of and variety within the Conservation Area or as in Sandgate, New Romney and Dymchurch have split areas reflecting the separation of locations of special interest and character. In places the Conservation Areas are not solely focused on the historic settlement cores, for example Saltwood Conservation Area includes the medieval castle and a grange, Dungeness is designated for its landscape and natural value as well as its distinctive settlement and coastal heritage assets, the Hythe Conservation Area extends to take in part of the Royal Military Canal and Sandgate its defences and esplanade.

A1.13 The earliest designation of a Conservation Area in the district is that of Hythe in November 1969. Another seventeen were designated in the next five years. Dungeness was added in 1985 and the last two at Littlestone and Frogholt in 1990. Compared to many other local authorities, the District Council has performed well in reviewing its Conservation Areas and completing Conservation Area Appraisals that explain the special interest, condition and vulnerabilities of the Conservation Area. Since their original designation ten of the Conservation Areas have been amended. A programme of drafting and adopting Conservation Area Appraisals has been in process over the last ten years. At present seven Appraisals have been adopted

covering eight Conservation Areas, four more (covering five5 CAs) have been drafted and are out for public comment (at Feb 2017) and a draft appraisal covering the Old Town Character Area of the Folkestone Conservation Area is also available. Additional protection has been afforded to the Dungeness Conservation Area through an Article 4(2) Direction.

### ***Registered Parks and Gardens***

A1.14 Since 1983 English Heritage has maintained a Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. This Register is specifically concerned with gardens, grounds and planned open-spaces and the emphasis is on the significance of the place as a designed landscape, rather than its botanical importance. Registration is a 'material consideration' in the planning process, meaning that planning authorities must consider the impact of any proposed development on the landscape's special character. As with Listed Buildings, the Registered Parks and Gardens are graded as per the following criteria:

- Grade I sites are of exceptional interest
- Grade II\* sites are particularly important, of more than special interest
- Grade II sites are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them

A1.15 There are two Registered Parks and Gardens in the district; Grade II\* Port Lympne, an early 20th century formal terraced garden and woodland; and Grade II Sandling Park, a 19th century formal and ornamental garden set in parkland, woodland and farmland extending to around 177 hectares. Both were designated in May 1986.

### ***Protected Wreck Sites***

A1.16 The Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) provides the legislative framework for designating the remains of vessels (or their contents) which are of historical, artistic or archaeological importance. It is a criminal offence for anyone to tamper with, damage or remove any part of a protected wreck or its contents.

A1.17 There is one Protected Wreck Site off the local coastline, that of U-8, a First World War German U-Boat that was scuttled during capture by the Dover Patrol in March 1915. SM U-8 was designated following survey in 2016.

A1.18 All military aircraft found in the UK or its territorial waters are also protected by the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Under this Act it is an offence to tamper with, damage, move or unearth remains without licence from the Ministry of Defence. At present there are ninety four aircraft crash sites recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) of which none are in the coastal waters off the district. Given the prominence of the area in the Battle of Britain the potential for discovery of aircraft crash sites in the local coastal waters is however high.

### ***Non- designated heritage assets***

A1.18 The majority of heritage assets will not be designated. Some heritage assets may be of a level of significance which would not warrant formal designation, whilst other assets may not currently be designated either because their significance has only recently been revealed or has never been formally considered. Some of the undesignated heritage assets are of equivalent significance to those that are.

A1.19 Some assets may have a locally-defined designation; these do not have any statutory framework underpinning them but represent recognised heritage assets of local significance or value. As there is no currently adopted local list of buildings for the district, the only locally-defined heritage assets are the Historic Parks and Gardens included in the Kent Gardens Compendium 1996. As well as the two Registered Parks and Gardens at Sandling Park and Port Lympne, the Compendium includes an additional seventeen sites in Folkestone & Hythe District. These range from the extensive 18th and 19th century parklands of the Acrise and Beachborough estates, public spaces such as the Leas in Folkestone, down to small specialist gardens including a number of recent date such as the garden at Prospect Cottage in Dungeness.

A1.20 Non-designated heritage assets are all those recognised elements of the historic environment not covered by one of the above designations. These include standing buildings and structures, below-ground archaeology and archaeological findspots, earthworks, maritime features (principally shipwrecks) and aircraft crash sites (though most of the latter are covered by the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986).

A1.21 The Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER), maintained by Kent County Council is the county's record of its heritage assets. This is constantly being updated with new records and existing records are regularly amended and enhanced with new data and more accurate locations. The source of new records can be the result of individual contributions or from more extensive surveys and targeted thematic studies. Parallel recording schemes such as the Portable Antiquities Scheme also feed into the KHER. The NPPF (para 128) requires that as a minimum the Historic Environment Record should be consulted by applicants to understand the impact of their proposals on heritage assets. It should be noted that as the database is an evolving record there are many heritage assets, including some of great significance that have yet to be included in the record. The Kent Historic Environment Record is available on line through the website Exploring Kent's Past .The web based version is however in a limited form for general use only and for planning use contact should be made direct to KCC Heritage Conservation.

# APPENDICES

- 1 Theme Papers
- 2 Case Studies
- 3 Activities in Folkestone & Hythe District
- 4 SHLAA Assessment