

Visitor Attraction Trends in England 2024

Annual Report for Heritage Counts

Prepared for Historic England



**Historic
England**

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1. Introduction and Background

This report presents key tables from the ‘historic sites’ element of the Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions undertaken in England by VisitEngland. The report provides a comprehensive England-wide analysis of attractions and visits in 2024 and trend data.

1.1 Visitor Attraction Definition

For the purposes of the survey, the definition of a visitor attraction is:

“An attraction where it is feasible to charge admission for the sole purpose of sightseeing. The attraction must be a permanently established excursion destination, a primary purpose of which is to allow access for entertainment, interest, or education and can include places of worship (but excludes small parish churches); rather than being primarily a retail outlet or a venue for sporting, crafts, theatrical, music or film performances. It must be open to the public, with or without prior booking, for published periods each year, and should be capable of attracting day visitors or tourists as well as local residents. In addition, the attraction must be a single business, under a single management, so that it is capable of answering the economic questions on revenue, employment etc.”

1.2 Research Objectives

The purpose of the survey is to monitor trends in the visitor attraction sector in England and to improve understanding of the dynamics of the sector. The findings contribute to regional and national estimates of the economic impact of tourism and inform regional development and planning work. The results of the survey allow operators to benchmark their operation within their category, within their region and across the sector as a whole.

1.3 Survey Method

Since the 2008 survey, attractions have had the option of online survey completion in addition to the postal self-completion survey. All attractions for whom email contacts were held were sent an email invitation to take part, with a link to their attraction’s online questionnaire. Attractions not responding were subsequently sent a postal questionnaire alongside attractions for whom no email contacts were held. Most attractions now choose to complete the survey online.

Initial survey invitations were sent out in February 2025, with reminders sent over subsequent months. The survey was closed, and final responses were collated at the end of April 2025.

BVA-BDRC holds the contract for the survey in England and is responsible for the preparation of this report.

The questionnaire undergoes an annual review process. The postal version of the questionnaire is confined to two sides of A4 paper, so the majority of questions remain consistent to allow analysis of historical trends. However, there is more flexibility in the online survey where we include additional topical questions. In 2025 this included questions relating to the cost-of-living crisis, recruitment challenges, the environment and sustainability/ energy efficiency practices and awareness of UK government funding options, and accessibility.

1.4 Sample

The following English visitor attraction subcategories were defined as historic sites:

- Castle/fort
- Garden
- Historic house/house and garden/palace
- Historic monument/archaeological site
- Heritage/visitor centre
- Place of worship
- Other historic site

A total of 1,320 English visitor sites were open and participated in the survey about attraction performance during 2024. Of these, 628 sites were classified as historic sites, as detailed in Table A.1. Some historic monuments were excluded as they are not physically ‘manned’, therefore unable to provide visitor numbers.

Table A.1 Response by Attraction Category

Category	Number of attractions that provided data					
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Castles/forts	81	84	88	88	81	81
Gardens	73	78	91	81	76	91
Historic houses	231	249	230	245	251	255
Historic monuments	43	47	48	51	55	52
Visitor/heritage centres	84	86	92	85	71	70
Places of worship	43	51	49	48	36	34
Other historic sites	73	78	72	62	83	91
Total	628	673	670	660	653	674

Given that the value of this report lies predominantly in the assessment of trends over time, perhaps the more important sample size measure is the number of attractions providing admissions information for both 2024 and 2023. In 2024 there were 597 such historic sites. Previous years comparators: 2023 (622), 2022 (594), 2021 (483), 2020 (490), 2019 (586).

1.5 Survey Definitions

Attractions were asked to categorise themselves using the following definitions. Guidelines were sent to each attraction along with the questionnaire to assist with this process. In the tables, an asterisk is used to indicate where a finding is less than 0.5%. A plus or minus sign indicates whether the value is positive or negative.

Abbreviation	Category	Description
C	Castles/forts	Castles, forts, citadels, defence towers
G	Gardens	Gardens, arboretums and botanical gardens
HH	Historic houses	Historic houses, historic houses and gardens, palaces, royal residences
HM	Historic monuments	Historic monuments, archaeological sites, standing stones
VC	Visitor/Heritage Centres	Visitor centres, heritage centres, information/orientation centres, park ranger centres, cultural interpretation centres
WO	Places of Worship	Cathedrals, churches, chapels and other attractions of any religion that are still in use as places of worship
OHP	Other historic sites	Historic ships, lighthouses, windmills, watermills, historic workplaces

Abbreviation	Government Office Region	Counties/unitary authorities within region
EAST	East	Counties: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk UAs: Luton, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock
EM	East Midlands	Counties: Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire UAs: Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Rutland
LON	London	All Greater London boroughs
NE	North East	Counties: County Durham, Northumberland UAs: Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees Former Met.: Tyne and Wear (<i>Gateshead, Newcastle, N Tyneside, S Tyneside, Sunderland</i>)
NW	North West	Counties: Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire UAs: Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Halton, Warrington Former Met.: Greater Manchester (<i>Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan</i>), Merseyside (<i>Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral</i>)
SE	South East	Counties: Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, West Sussex UAs: Bracknell Forest, Brighton & Hove, Isle of Wight, Medway, Milton Keynes, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton W. Berkshire, Windsor & Maidenhead, Wokingham
SW	South West	Counties: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Isles of Scilly UAs: Bath & NE Somerset, Bournemouth, Bristol, N Somerset, Plymouth, Poole, Swindon, Torbay, S Gloucestershire
WM	West Midlands	Counties: Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire UAs: Herefordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford & Wrekin Former Met.: West Midlands (<i>Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton</i>)
Y&H	Yorkshire/ The Humber	Counties: North Yorkshire UAs: East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston-upon-Hull, NE Lincolnshire, N Lincolnshire, York Former Met.: South Yorkshire (<i>Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield</i>) West Yorkshire (<i>Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield</i>)

2. Executive Summary

VISIT VOLUME

Historic attractions in England reported a 3.1% increase in total visits from 2023 to 2024 – slightly more than the 1.4% increase reported by the wider England attractions market. This represents slower, but continued, growth following the significant drop in admissions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

England's historic attractions benefitted from the continued recovery in inbound tourism in 2024, reporting a 15% increase in Overseas visits compared with 2023, however, visits from the Domestic market were down 1%.

Limited growth in visits to attractions in 2024 is set against the backdrop of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and, with Domestic visits continuing to account for around three-quarters of admissions to historic attractions in 2024, is consistent with the wider market trend reporting a decrease in both England Domestic tourism day visits and Domestic overnight trips in England (*source: VisitEngland GBTS*).

Historic attractions remain short of 2019 visit levels, down 9%, however, they do outperform the wider attractions sector which remained down 27% on 2019 levels.

Family visits accounted for around a quarter of visits to historic attractions in 2024 but this was notably higher among Castles/Forts, where 40% of visits are estimated to be families.

Overall, there was a 10% increase in the number of school visits to historic attractions. This is higher than observed in the wider attractions sector and is a continued increase despite challenging market conditions, albeit at a slower rate than other years of post-pandemic recovery.

REVENUE & ADMISSIONS PRICING

Gross revenue at historic attractions increased by 5% in 2024, however, continuing the observation made in 2023, the impact of rising costs (staff, energy, supplier costs etc.) will continue to somewhat offset the higher revenue meaning the impact on profit margins is likely to be more modest.

Adult peak season entrance prices rose by 7% in 2024 to an average price of £12.42. Historic attractions were more likely to charge for entry compared with the wider attractions sector, with 79% of sites doing so compared with 66% among all attractions. Adult entrance prices averaged £12 or less in the Midlands and the North of England whilst prices were higher in the South and East, averaging almost £13. The average adult admission charge for historic attractions in London continued to stand out, averaging £17.49. Child admission charge at historic attractions in 2024 averaged £7.20, around £1 lower than the wider attractions sector average.

MARKETING & DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

The proportion of historic attractions reporting marketing spend had increased in 2024 compared to 2023 is lower than in other post-pandemic years. 22% of attractions reported an increase compared to their marketing budgets in 2023, 9% reported a decrease.

Most historic attractions used some form of social media in 2024 (93%). Facebook continues to be the most commonly utilised (87%), followed by Instagram (72%) and E-newsletters (58%). Use of X (formerly Twitter) declined in 2024.

Overall 'Online booking' is offered by just over half of attractions, though this did vary across attraction categories, ranging between 42% to 89%.

IMPACT OF RISING COSTS

2024 saw increased proportions of historic attractions, compared to in 2023, report they had been affected by each of: rising energy costs (74%), rising supplier costs (80%) and rising staff costs (69%). Sites have continued to find it difficult to absorb these costs with 'increasing costs to visitors' and 'reduced income for site' reported as key impacts.

EMPLOYMENT

Around two-thirds of historic attractions engaged in recruitment in 2024, and of those just under half experienced difficulty recruiting the right people for the roles. 'Strain on existing staff members' was a key impact of recruitment challenges, with some reports impacts extended directly to visitors too through the resulting reduced services sites were able to offer.

ACCESSIBILITY

Notable proportions of historic attractions are striving to enhance their accessibility provisions. For each of: 'Improving the built environment, amenities and services'; 'Providing staff with specific training' and 'Improving the information, marketing and digital inclusion'. Around a quarter of historic attractions reported each of these had been implemented within the last 12-months and around a further quarter said they had clear plans to include them in the future.

SUSTAINABILITY

In terms of the broader impact of their organisation, over three-quarters of historic attractions across England reported having one or more strategies in place to embed regenerative tourism / sustainable practices. Having an 'Environmental Strategy' was the most commonly reported (63%), but also 'social' and 'governance' strategies are each in place at around half of attractions.

In terms of specific sustainability measures at historic attractions the most common measure that attractions have already implemented is low energy lighting (76%), followed by adjustable thermostats (61%). Compared to 2023, significantly more sites are already encouraging staff/visitors to travel via public transport and/or have implemented draft proofing/ stripping.

Overall, just over a third of historic attractions invested in changes to save energy or reduce their carbon footprint in 2024 (36%). Among historic attractions who invested in energy saving/ carbon footprint reduction measures, the proportion that did so using public funding / grants increased to around a quarter in 2024, from 14% in 2023, although the majority did still self-finance.

Almost half of respondents who had not used public funding/grants in 2024 said were not aware of the government funding available to support sites investing in energy saving measures. While it is possible that others within the organisation who did not contribute to the survey may know about this funding, there remains an opportunity to promote this funding more widely.

3. Context

3.1 Weather Summary

According to MET Office data, 2024 was a warm and unsettled year for the UK. Much like 2023, 2024 broke both temperature and rainfall records, with storms and snow also hitting the headlines and having real-life impact.

Spring 2024 was the warmest on record despite appearing cloudy. It was also exceptionally wet, with rainfall 32% above normal, making it the UK's sixth wettest spring. Summer 2024, was the coolest summer the UK has experienced since 2015, with an average temperature slightly below the long-term average. It was a relatively calm season, lacking major heatwaves or notable extremes, a contrast to recent hotter summers. Autumn 2024 began with record-breaking rainfall in parts of England, including the wettest September ever for ten counties. Winter 2023/24 was in the top 10 warmest and wettest for the UK. Winter 2024 delivered three named storms in just three months, with Storms Ashley, Bert, and Darragh bringing heavy rain, strong winds, and snow, resulting in widespread flooding in parts of southern and central England.

3.2 Inbound Tourism

According to the International Passenger Survey (IPS), in the first half of 2024 inbound visits were up 11% on 2023 and up 4% on 2019 levels. At the time of writing Q3 and Q4 2024 IPS data is not available for the full 2024 year, but forecasts¹ predict inbound visit numbers will continue to be higher than in 2023.

Visitor spend among inbound visitors was down 1% compared to 2023 and whilst being up 15% on 2019 in nominal terms, in real terms was also down when inflation is accounted for.

According to IPS, spend was slow from long haul markets in particular in the first half of 2024, driven in part by a decline in length of stay. IPS reported a decline in spend among many markets and across all journey purposes.

¹SOURCE: VisitBritain model and forecasts for 2024/25.

3.3 Domestic Tourism

Table A.2a illustrates Domestic tourism day visits in England* SOURCE: Visit England GBTS: 2024

Table A.2b illustrates Domestic overnight trips in England SOURCE: Visit England GBTS: 2024

Table A.2a Domestic tourism day visits*: England SOURCE: Visit England GBTS: 2024

Total figures	2022	2023	2024	Change vs 2023
Visits (million)	951	1,030	906	-12%
Spend (£ million)	£39,523	£45,579	£48,405	+6%
Average spend per trip	£42	£44	£53	+21%

*Definition Tourism Day visits: Lasted 3 hours or more (including travel time), undertake 1 or more eligible leisure activities, not overnight, Undertaken less often than once a week, includes a visit to a place outside of the local authority where the trip started, with the exception of visits where the main activity is a visitor attraction, attending a public event or to watch live sport.

There were 906 million **tourism day visits** in England in 2024, a decrease of 12% when compared to 2023. Spend on tourism day visits in England in 2024 rose by 6% in the same time period, to £48.4 billion. Average spend per visit (per person) saw an increase from £44 in 2023 to £53 in 2024.

Table A.2b Domestic overnight trips: England *SOURCE: Visit England GBTS: 2024*

Total figures	2023	2024	Change vs 2023
Trips (million)	99.4	89.6	-10%
Spend (£ million)	£26,045	£27,336	+5%
Average spend per trip	£262	£305	+16%

In terms of Domestic overnight trips in England, there were 89.6 million domestic overnight trips in England in 2024, 10% below 2023 level. Trip spend in England in 2024 was £27.3billion, representing an increase of 5% since 2023.

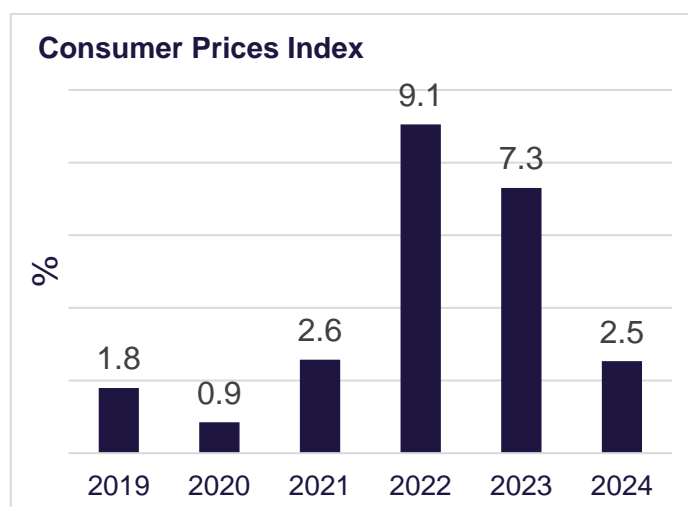
3.4 Cost of living

Chart B.1 illustrates price inflation over time, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

During the first half of 2024 the UK inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) continued to decline and by May 2024 had fallen to 2.0% (the Bank of England's target) for the first time since July 2021. Inflation rates began to increase in the final quarter of 2024.

UK consumers feelings about their personal financial situation throughout 2024, measured in VisitBritain's Domestic Sentiment Tracker (Dec 2024), saw a slightly lower proportion, compared to a year prior, report they were negatively affected by the cost-of-living crisis. However, two-thirds remained either 'cautious and being very careful' or 'hit hard and cutting back'.

Chart B.1 Consumer Prices Index, from 2019-2024



4. Main Tables

4.1 Geographical Distribution of Historic Sites

Table A.3 illustrates the distribution of historic sites by category type within each Government Office Region (GOR).

Almost half (45%) of historic sites responding to the survey lie in the South of England, with the majority based outside of London. A quarter are in the North of England and just over a quarter lie in the Midlands + East of England.

Table A.3 Geographic Distribution of Historic Sites – by GOR

% in each category	TOTAL	N.E	N.W	Y&H	E.M	W.M	East	Lon	S.E	S.W
Castles/forts	13	29	6	17	13	13	5	2	14	16
Gardens	12	8	8	12	6	12	9	7	17	15
Historic houses	37	21	38	27	42	52	38	49	39	29
Historic monuments	7	26	2	12	4	4	9	7	3	6
Visitor/heritage centres	13	3	21	8	26	6	16	5	12	17
Places of worship	7	8	10	14	4	6	5	7	7	5
Other historic sites	12	5	16	10	6	7	19	23	9	12
TOTAL base size	(628)	(38)^	(63)	(59)	(53)	(69)	(64)	(43)^	(114)	(125)
Total % of attractions	100	6	10	9	8	11	10	7	18	20

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

4.2 Visitor Numbers to Historic Sites

Table A.4a illustrates number and profile of visits across all historic sites by category type among attractions providing admissions figures for 2024. It is based on all historic sites giving admissions data for 2024. The trend data (% change 23/24) reports the change in visits among attractions that have provided visits figures for both 2023 and 2024.

Visits to historic attractions in England saw a slightly bigger year on year increase (+3%) in visitor numbers compared to 2023 than England attractions overall (+1%). Nearly all historic attraction categories saw an increase in visitor numbers in 2024 when compared against 2023, the exception was Castles/forts which saw a change less than 0.5%. Among historic attractions, visitor/heritage centres saw the highest growth in admissions of 6% – double the average.

Table A.4a Visits to Historic Sites

	Sample	% of sites	% of visits	Average no. of visits	Total visits	% change 23/24
Castles/forts	(80)	13%	12%	117,506	9,401,000	*
Gardens	(69)	11%	16%	174,087	12,012,000	+2
Historic houses	(230)	38%	38%	124,117	28,547,000	+4
Historic monuments	(42)^	7%	7%	124,888	5,245,000	+1
Visitor/heritage centres	(79)	13%	7%	68,210	5,389,000	+6
Places of worship	(41)^	7%	11%	204,023	8,365,000	+5
Other historic sites	(72)	12%	9%	90,599	6,523,000	+5
TOTAL HISTORIC	613	100%	100%	123,134	75,481,000	+3
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	1,290	100%	100%	157,314	202,935,000	+1

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.4b shows the change in visits to historical attractions over the last 5 years. It is based on attractions providing admissions data in both of the last two years.

Admissions to England's historic attractions continued to increase in 2024 but at a slower rate than in the previous three years, with an average growth of 3%. This means admissions at historic attractions were still short of 2019 levels (-9%). However, historic attractions are outperforming the wider attractions sector which remained down (-27%) on 2019 levels.

Table A.4b Visits to Historic Sites

	Sample	% change vs. previous year	% difference from 2019
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS 2024	(1247)	+1	-27
TOTAL HISTORIC 2024	(597)	+3	-9
TOTAL HISTORIC 2023	(622)	+11	-12
TOTAL HISTORIC 2022	(594)	+35	-21
TOTAL HISTORIC 2021	(483)	+43	-41
TOTAL HISTORIC 2020	(490)	-59	-59
TOTAL HISTORIC 2019	(584)	+5	N/A

Table A.5 examines numbers of visits to historic site types for each Government Office Region.

Nearly all Government regions saw an uplift in visitor numbers at historic attractions compared to the previous year, the exceptions were the East of England, which reported a 1% decrease and the South West which reported less than a 1% change.

London saw the most notable uplift in visits to historic attractions, up 8% compared to 2023. Visits to historic attractions in the East Midlands were also up (7%), a particularly marked increase compared to the 2% increase in visits within the region for the attractions market overall.

Table A.5 Visits to Historic Sites – by GOR

<i>Visits in 000s</i>	Total	N.E.	N.W.	Y&H	E.M.	W.M.	East	Lon	S.E.	S.W.
Castles/forts	9,401	413	137	579	861	485	110	2,902	2,668	1,245
Gardens	12,012	274	638	699	60	1,041	801	2,358	3,681	2,462
Historic houses	28,547	1,216	2,429	1,561	2,358	3,401	2,320	5,694	5,618	3,951
Historic monuments	5,245	356	13	285	73	41	1,566	139	151	2,620
Visitor/heritage centres	5,389	-	1,750	656	332	341	64	965	535	745
Places of worship	8,365	394	872	950	173	423	90	3,230	1,177	1,057
Other historic sites	6,523	29	517	523	3	121	758	3,136	97	1,338
TOTAL HISTORIC	75,481	2,681	6,356	5,252	3,860	5,854	5,710	18,423	13,926	13,418
Total % of visits	100%	4%	8%	7%	5%	8%	8%	24%	18%	18%
% change 23/24	+3	+4	+4	+4	+7	+1	-1	+8	*	+1
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	202,935	5,986	21,375	14,143	9,325	13,137	19,978	60,371	35,601	23,019
Total % of visits	100%	3%	11%	7%	5%	6%	10%	30%	18%	11%
% change 23/24	+1	+3	-1	+2	+2	-2	-3	+5	+1	*

4.3 Origin of Visitors to Historic Sites

Attractions were asked to estimate what proportion of their visits were overseas visitors and what proportion were domestic visitors.

Table A.6 illustrates the year-on-year changes by visitor type. Not all sites collect visitor profiling information, so these results are based on a smaller number of attractions (116 for 2024).

England's historic attractions have benefitted from the continued recovery in inbound tourism in 2024¹ reporting a 15% increase in overseas visits compared with 2023.

In contrast, domestic visits to historic attractions saw a slight decrease compared to 2023 (-1%), however, with England domestic tourism day visits down 12% and overnight trips down 10% in 2024² attractions have done well to sustain volume of Domestic visits at this level.

¹SOURCE:IPS (International Passenger Survey) and VisitBritain model and forecasts for 2024/25.

²SOURCE: Visit England GBTS:2024

Table A.6 Trends in Origin of Visitors to Historic Sites

	Overseas % change	Domestic % change
2008-09	-3	+17
2009-10	+11	+4
2010-11	+12	+5
2011-12	-1	-6
2012-13	+2	+11
2013-14	-*	+7
2014-15	+2	+7
2015-16	+1	+7
2016-17	+7	+7
2017-18	+3	-1
2018-19	+2	+7
2019-20	-92	-45
2020-21	-42	+33
2021-22	+572	+18
2022-23	+76	+1
TOTAL HISTORIC 2023-2024	+15	-1
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS 2023-2024	+6	-1

Table A.7 illustrates the results within each historic site category. Sample sizes shown are based on all providing data for 2024.

Table A.8 examines the origin of visitors to Historic Sites over time.

Broadly three-quarters of visits to historic attractions were from the domestic market, with around a quarter from Overseas, this is similar to the origin profile of visits to historic attractions in 2023 and a return to the profile in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was some variation by attraction category, with Gardens and Historic Houses reporting a lower share of their visits made up by Overseas audiences compared to Visitor/ Heritage Centres, Places of Worship and Other Historic sites.

Sample sizes are low, so please treat data for specific attraction categories with caution.

Table A.7 Origin of Visitors to Historic Sites

	Sample	% Overseas 2024	% Domestic 2024
Castles/forts	(10)^	^^	^^
Gardens	(30)^	7%	93%
Historic houses	(57)	16%	84%
Historic monuments	(7)^	^^	^^
Visitor/heritage centres	(57)	39%	61%
Places of worship	(20)^	40%	60%
Other historic sites	(30)^	31%	69%
TOTAL HISTORIC	(211)	27%	73%
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	(586)	21%	79%

^(*<50*) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution)

^^(*<10*) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.8 Origin of Visitors to Historic Sites – over time

	% Overseas	% Domestic
TOTAL HISTORIC 2024	27	73
TOTAL HISTORIC 2023	25	75
TOTAL HISTORIC 2022	17	83
TOTAL HISTORIC 2021	3	97
TOTAL HISTORIC 2020	7	93
TOTAL HISTORIC 2019	23	77

4.4 Family Visits to Historic Sites

Attractions were asked to estimate the proportion of visits accounted for by family groups (i.e. parties with children aged under 18), and whether this was higher, lower or similar to the previous year. Tables A9 and A10 illustrate the results within each historic site category and over time.

Table A.9 shows that family visits accounted for around a quarter of visits to historic attractions in 2024, this is lower in comparison with the wider attractions market where family visits account for around one-third. Castles/Forts, are the exception, with 40% of visiting parties estimated to be families.

Table A.9 Family Group Visits to Historic Sites, by Historical Category

	Sample	% Increase	% Similar	% Decrease	Proportion of total visits
Castles/forts	(17)^	24	71	6	40%
Gardens	(39)	23	69	8	27%
Historic houses	(78)	21	74	5	25%
Historic monuments	(13)^	-	85	15	25%
Visitor/heritage centres	(73)	23	73	4	28%
Places of worship	(30)^	7	87	7	22%
Other historic sites	(41)^	12	78	10	29%
TOTAL HISTORIC 2023-24	(291)	18	75	7	27%
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS 2023-24	(799)	18	72	10	35%

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

The family audience was one of the first to return after the pandemic, with large year on year increases in 2021 and 2022. In 2024 18% of historic sites reported a year on year increase in volume of family visits, in line with the wider attractions market.

Table A.10 Family Group Visits to Historic Sites, over time

	Sample	% Increase	% Similar	% Decrease	Proportion of total visits
TOTAL HISTORIC 2023-24	(291)	18	75	7	27%
TOTAL HISTORIC 2022-23	(400)	18	76	6	30%
TOTAL HISTORIC 2021-22	(431)	46	50	4	32%
TOTAL HISTORIC 2020-21	(322)	55	34	11	28%
TOTAL HISTORIC 2019-20	(338)	28	32	40	27%

4.5 Free/Paid Admission to Historic Sites

Attractions were asked whether they charged admission to the main attraction. Table A.11 illustrates the proportions of attractions and visits that were paid or free within each site type.

Historic sites are more likely to charge for entry compared with the wider attractions sector, with 79% of sites doing so, compared with 66% of all attractions. Most Castles/Forts, Gardens and Historic houses charge for entry (98%, 93% and 94% representatively).

Places of worship are most likely to offer free entry (74%), however, in terms of volume of visits only 34% of visits made to Places of worship are done so on free entry.

Table A.11 Free/Paid Admission to Historic Sites, by Historical Category

	% of historic attractions that are free/ paid entry		Volume visits to historic attractions that are free/ paid sites (%)	
	Free sites	Paid sites	Free sites	Paid sites
Castles/forts	2	98	6	94
Gardens	7	93	1	99
Historic houses	6	94	13	87
Historic monuments	14	86	27	73
Visitor/heritage centres	58	42	57	43
Places of worship	74	26	34	66
Other historic sites	29	71	15	85
TOTAL HISTORIC	21	79	17	83
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	34	66	43	57

Table A.12 illustrates the proportions of attractions and visits that were paid or free admission within each region.

We see some variations across different regions. The proportion of historic attractions with free entry ranges from 35% in the North West and 30% in the East of England, to 15% in both South East and South West regions.

Sites that charge an entrance fee tend to attract more visitors. 79% of historic attractions charge for entry, but these sites account for 83% of visitor admissions.

Table A.12 Free/Paid Admission to Historic Sites, by GOR

	% of historic attractions that are free/ paid entry		Volume visits to historic attractions that are free/ paid sites	
	Free sites	Paid sites	Free sites	Paid sites
North East	18	82	15	85
North West	35	65	43	57
Yorkshire and The Humber	27	73	22	78
East Midlands	23	77	18	82
West Midlands	16	84	14	86
East	30	70	27	73
London	16	84	20	80
South East	15	85	4	96
South West	15	85	8	92
TOTAL HISTORIC	21	79	17	83
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	34	66	43	57

4.6 Admission Prices to Historic Sites

Table A.13 examines the average admission prices charged by attractions in each historic site category type in 2024. Prices for both adults and children exclude free attractions. N.B. Attractions that charged for adults but not children are included within the adult category but excluded from the child category.

Average adult admission charges for historic attractions are consistent with the wider sector average for all visitor attractions, but child admission charges are around £1 lower on average at historic attractions. Among historic attractions, Historic houses commanded the highest admission charges, averaging £14.31 for adult entry and £8.25 for child entry.

Table A.13 Average Admission Price to Historic Sites (Excludes free attractions)

	Sample (adult paid attractions)	Average adult admission charge	Average child admission charge	Child as % of adult charge
Castles/forts	(68)	£12.41	£7.21	58
Gardens	(48)^	£12.02	£6.13	51
Historic houses	(105)	£14.31	£8.25	58
Historic monuments	(33)^	£11.29	£7.10	63
Visitor/heritage centres	(30)^	£9.18	£5.51	60
Places of worship	(7)^	^^	^^	^
Other historic sites	(32)^	£10.81	£6.78	63
TOTAL HISTORIC	(323)	£12.42	£7.20	58
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	(615)	£12.21	£8.04	66

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.14 shows the average admission prices charged by attractions in each region in 2024.

Adult entrance prices averaged £12 or less in the Midlands and the North of England whilst prices were higher in the South and East, averaging almost £13. The average adult admission charge for historic attractions in London continued to stand out, averaging £17.49.

Table A.14 Average Admission Price by GOR (Excludes free attractions)

	Sample (adult paid attractions)	Average adult admission charge	Average child admission charge	Child as % of adult charge
North East	(25)^	£12.00	£6.71	56
North West	(25)^	£10.10	£5.82	58
Yorkshire and The Humber	(34)^	£11.73	£6.93	59
East Midlands	(28)^	£11.72	£6.25	53
West Midlands	(36)^	£11.01	£6.33	57
East	(31)^	£12.48	£8.87	71
London	(24)^	£17.49	£9.66	55
South East	(53)	£12.82	£7.41	58
South West	(67)	£12.68	£7.10	56
TOTAL HISTORIC	(323)	£12.42	£7.20	58
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	(615)	£12.21	£8.04	66

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.15 shows the trends in adult admission fees since 2008-09.

The price increase for adult entry at historic attractions in 2023-24 was on par with the rest of the sector, both increasing by 7%. This increase in 2024 adult admission fees was higher than the rate of inflation at the end of 2023 (when most prices would have been set).

Table A.15 Trends in Average Adult Admission Prices to Historic Sites

Historic attractions	Adult admission fees % change
2008-09	+4
2009-10	+5
2010-11	+6
2011-12	+5
2012-13	+4
2013-14	+4
2014-15	+5
2015-16	+8
2016-17	+5
2017-18	+6
2018-19	+6
2019-20	-11
2020-21	+14
2021-22	+5
2022-23	+9
2023-24	+7
Total attractions 2023-24	+7

4.7 Revenue of Historic Sites

Attractions were asked to indicate whether their gross revenue had increased, decreased, or remained similar to levels seen in 2023. Table A.16 shows results by historic site category type.

At an overall level, the gross revenue at historic attractions increased by 5% in 2024, slightly below the wider attractions market increase of 8%.

Overall, half of historic attractions reported an increase in gross revenue (16% reported a decrease).

There are some variations across historic categories, though where there are small base sizes results should be treated with caution.

Table A.16 Gross Revenue Trend at Historic Sites 2023-2024

	Sample	% Increase	% Similar	% Decrease	% change since 23/24
Castles/forts	(19)^	53	26	21	+1
Gardens	(48)^	56	25	19	+5
Historic houses	(97)	46	37	16	+4
Historic monuments	(14)^	36	43	21	+9
Visitor/heritage centres	(76)	51	36	13	+5
Places of worship	(35)^	51	34	14	+7
Other historic sites	(46)^	48	37	15	+6
TOTAL HISTORIC	(335)	50	34	16	+5
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	(888)	46	37	17	+8

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.17 examines the gross revenue trends of historic sites within each Government Office Region.

Across the different regions, the greatest increase in revenue among historic sites was in the South West, with an average 9% uplift on 2023 gross revenue. A high proportion of sites in this region are paid-for attractions.

Yorkshire and The Humber, West Midlands, East of England and South East all reported an average gross revenue change of 3%, placing them below the historic sites average 5% increase.

Table A.17 Gross Revenue Trend at Historic Sites 2023-2024 – by GOR

	Sample	% Increase	% Similar	% Decrease	% 23/24 change
North East	(15)^	33	67	-	+4
North West	(33)^	45	36	18	+7
Yorkshire and The Humber	(36)^	58	33	8	+3
East Midlands	(31)^	48	42	10	+5
West Midlands	(36)^	53	25	22	+3
East	(39)^	44	33	23	+3
London	(20)^	65	25	10	+5
South East	(62)	47	31	23	+3
South West	(63)	51	35	14	+9
TOTAL HISTORIC	(335)	50	34	16	+5
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	(888)	46	37	17	+8

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

4.8 School and Educational Visits to Historic Sites

Sites were asked to record the number of school children visiting their site in 2024. Table A.18 below illustrates results for the attractions with visiting school children who responded to the question.

The (mean) average number of school children visiting historic attractions in 2024 was 2,965. However, this average is skewed by a small number of large attractions with very high numbers of school visits. A better reflection of a 'typical' number of school visits to an average attraction is provided by the median number of visits (i.e. the midpoint across all sites when ordered from lowest to highest), which is 400.

The percentage change in school visits examines those attractions responding to this question in both 2023 and 2024, reflecting the overall shift in school visits during this period. Overall, there was a 10% increase in the number of school visits to historic attractions. This is higher than the wider attractions sector – continuing to increase, despite challenging market conditions, and albeit at a slower rate than other years of recovery post-pandemic.

Table A.18 School Visits to Historic Sites – by Site Type

	Sample	Average (mean) no. of school children visits	Median no. of school children visiting	Total school children visits across all sites responding in each category	% Change 23/24
Castles/forts	(65)	4721	954	307,000	+19
Gardens	(33)^	3759	187	124,000	+11
Historic houses	(101)	2193	400	222,000	+13
Historic monuments	(34)^	3181	366	108,000	-5
Visitor/heritage centres	(63)	2488	120	157,000	+8
Places of worship	(29)^	2715	1500	79,000	+3
Other historic sites	(33)^	1983	250	65,000	+3
TOTAL HISTORIC	(358)	2965	400	1,061,000	+10
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	(838)	4247	510	3,559,000	+5

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.19 illustrates both the average and total numbers of school children visiting each region among the 358 attractions with visiting school children answering the question.

London and the South East continue to attract the highest number of school visits and saw the greatest percentage uplifts in school children admissions (up by 22% and 11% respectively). Overall year on year changes showed considerable variation between regions.

Table A.19 School Visits to Historic Sites – by Region

	Sample	Average (mean) no. of school children visits	Median no. of school children visiting	Total school children visits across all sites responding in each region	% Change 23/24
North East	(25)	1398	810	35,000	-15
North West	(31)	2436	270	76,000	+3
Yorkshire and The Humber	(39)	1515	976	59,000	+7
East Midlands	(30)	910	135	27,000	+5
West Midlands	(40)	2686	478	107,000	-9
East	(39)	1143	150	45,000	+6
London	(23)	11551	1575	266,000	+22
South East	(58)	4111	303	238,000	+11
South West	(73)	2856	382	209,000	+8
TOTAL HISTORIC	(358)	2965	400	1,061,000	+10
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	(838)	4247	510	3,559,000	+5

4.9 Expenditure on Marketing by Historic Sites

Table A.20 shows the trends in marketing expenditure since 2008-09.

Likelihood of attractions reporting marketing spend was up in 2024 (compared to 2023) is lower than in other post-pandemic years. Looking at year on year net changes (% increased 'minus' % decreased), a net increase of 13% is reported, with just over 2 in 10 attractions reporting an increased marketing spend for 2024, compared to only around 1 in 10 reporting marketing spend had gone down.

Table A.20 Trends in Marketing Spend by Historic Sites

	% Up	% Down	NET change (% up minus % down)
2008-09	19	7	+12
2009-10	16	9	+7
2010-11	16	10	+6
2011-12	16	15	+1
2012-13	15	10	+5
2013-14	13	8	+5
2014-15	17	7	+10
2015-16	17	10	+7
2016-17	14	10	+4
2017-18	11	9	+2
2018-19	13	7	+6
2019-20	1	84	-83
2020-21	51	15	+36
2021-22	46	5	+41
2022-23	39	8	+31
2023-24	22	9	+13

Table A.21 examines the trends in marketing spend at historic sites between 2023 and 2024. Attractions were asked to indicate whether spend had increased, decreased or remained similar compared with 2023.

Gardens (36%) and Castles/forts (30%) were the most likely historic attraction categories to have increased their marketing budget in 2024. While Visitor/heritage centres and Other historic sites reported the smallest net change for marketing spend (% increased 'minus' % decreased).

Table A.21 Movement in Spend on Marketing at Historic Sites 2023-2024

	Sample	% Increase	% Similar	% Decrease	NET change (% up minus % down)
Castles/forts	(20)^	30	70	0	+30
Gardens	(47)^	36	55	9	+27
Historic houses	(98)	22	69	8	+14
Historic monuments	(13)^	15	77	8	+7
Visitor/heritage centres	(76)	16	74	11	+5
Places of worship	(33)^	15	79	6	+9
Other historic sites	(45)^	20	64	16	+4
TOTAL HISTORIC	(332)	22	69	9	+13
TOTAL ATTRACTIONS	(887)	21	69	10	+11

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

4.10 Provision of Digital Communications by Historic Sites

Table A.22 Details attractions responses when asked about the digital communications that they offered in 2024.

The vast majority of historic attractions used some form of social media. Usage of specific channels broadly follows the wider attractions market, with Facebook the most commonly utilised (87%), followed by Instagram (72%) and E-newsletters (58%). Use of X (formerly Twitter) also declined in 2024.

‘Online booking’ is offered by just over half of attractions.

Table A.22 Provision of Digital Communications in 2024 by Attraction Category (%)

Category	Castles / forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	Total Attractions
Sample	(21)^	(51)	(102)	(13)^	(76)	(36)^	(46)^	(345)	(926)
ANY (*excl. website/ online booking)	100	98	96	92	87	92	89	93	94
Facebook page	95	88	92	92	84	83	76	87	90
Instagram	90	86	88	54	53	64	57	72	71
E-newsletters	71	65	61	54	51	61	48	58	59
X (formerly Twitter)	33	35	43	54	29	44	26	37	40
YouTube	38	31	25	31	24	39	20	28	32
TikTok	14	22	15	8	7	17	9	13	16
Other social media	10	8	7	8	9	22	9	10	12
Mobile apps	14	18	11	15	5	6	7	10	8
Online booking*	86	65	60	62	42	53	46	56	57

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

4.11 Impact of Rising Costs

Attractions were asked about the impact of rising costs on their attraction in both 2023 and 2024. Table A.23 shows how the impact has changed across the two years.

The proportions of historic attractions saying they had been affected by rising costs in 2024 were all up year on year. Notable numbers were affected by rising energy costs (74%), supplier costs (80%) and staff costs (69%). Sites have continued to find it difficult to absorb these costs with 'increasing costs to visitors' and 'reduced income for site' the reported as key impacts.

Table A.23 Impact of rising costs (%)

%	Rising energy costs		Rising supplier costs		Rising staff costs / wages*	
Year	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Sample	(324)	(332)	(319)	(331)	(318)	(329)
No Impact/ Not Relevant	26	32	20	30	31	39
Had to increase cost to visitors	30	25	41	35	34	26
Reduced Income for site	49	47	46	39	39	37
Had to remove/ reduce certain services	6	7	8	10	10	8

*NOTE Question wording changed in 2024 to ask about 'rising staff costs', 2023 asked about 'rising wages'

Table A.24 looks at the impacts of the rising energy costs across the attraction categories.

A higher proportion of historic attractions (74%) have been affected by rising energy costs than among the wider attractions sector (69%). Gardens are most likely to have felt the impact of rising energy costs (85%).

Table A.24 Impact of rising costs – Rising Energy Costs (%)

Category	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	Total Attractions
Sample	(20)^	(41)^	(92)	(14)^	(77)	(33)^	(47)^	(324)	(864)
No Impact/ Not Relevant	20	15	21	50	32	30	30	26	31
Had to increase cost to visitors	20	49	40	29	17	15	28	30	28
Reduced Income for site	60	46	52	21	49	55	47	49	45
Had to remove/ reduce certain services	5	5	7	0	8	3	11	6	6

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.25 looks at the impacts of the rising supplier costs in the UK across the attraction categories.

Rising Supplier costs affected 8 in 10 Historic Attractions overall, with even higher proportions of Gardens and Historic Houses reporting they were affected. This led to 41% of historic attractions overall needing to increase costs to visitors, rising to almost two thirds of gardens.

Table A.25 Impact of rising costs – Rising Supplier Costs (%)

Category	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	All Attractions
Sample	(20)^	(41)^	(90)	(14)^	(74)	(33)^	(47)^	(319)	(856)
No Impact/ Not Relevant	15	10	12	36	26	27	30	20	24
Had to increase cost to visitors	45	63	44	50	35	18	34	41	39
Reduced Income for site	40	46	51	21	47	52	38	46	42
Had to remove/ reduce certain services	10	10	12	0	4	3	9	8	9

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.26 looks at the impacts of the rising staff costs* in the UK across attraction categories.

Around 7 in 10 historic attractions are feeling some impact from rising staff costs (69%), which resulted in reduced income for over a third of historic sites (39%), and particularly notable at Historic Houses (52%). Likelihood of sites absorbing these costs varied by category, with proportions saying they had to increase costs to visitors ranging from 60% of Gardens (who have mainly paid entry) down to 9% of Places of Worship (only a quarter of sites have paid entry).

Table A.26 Impact of rising costs – Rising Staff Costs (%)

Category	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	All Attractions
Sample	(20)^	(40)^	(91)	(14)^	(72)	(34)^	(47)^	(318)	(853)
No Impact/ Not Relevant	20	10	16	36	49	38	47	31	37
Had to increase cost to visitors	40	60	43	50	25	9	21	34	32
Reduced Income for site	30	43	52	21	29	47	32	39	33
Had to remove/ reduce certain services	15	10	12	0	7	9	13	10	11

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

*Question wording changed in 2024 to ask about 'rising staff costs', 2023 asked about 'rising wages'

4.12 Staff Recruitment

Attractions were asked a few questions about staff recruitment and the impact of any challenges. Tables A.27-29 summarise the proportion of historic attractions that engaged in staff recruitment, either to replace or supplement their existing staff, along with the impact if they experienced any difficulty recruiting the right people.

Overall, around two-thirds of historic attractions engaged in recruitment in 2024, with levels broadly in line with those reported by the wider attraction sector. There were, however, some notable variations by attraction category.

Table A.27 2024 Recruitment summary (i), by category (%) base = all historic attractions answering

Category	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	All Attractions
Sample	(19)^	(42)^	(90)	(13)^	(57)	(32)^	(42)^	(295)	(789)
Engaged in any recruitment in 2024	79	81	76	46	42	53	50	63	66

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Of those attractions who engaged in recruitment, just under half experienced difficulty recruiting the right people for roles.

Table A.28 2024 Recruitment summary (ii), by category (%), base = those who recruited

Category	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	All Attractions
Sample	(15)^	(30)^	(66)	(6)^^	(24)^	(17)^	(21)^	(179)	(508)
Experienced any difficulty recruiting the right people for the role(s)	60	43	41	(<10)	50	41	62	46	43

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

The primary impact of recruitment challenges from the list of options shown was strain on existing staff members, but there were also some reports of impact through reduced services for visitors too. This is broadly in line with wider attraction sector responses.

Table A.29 2024 Recruitment summary (iii), by category (%) base = those who recruited and experienced any difficulties (%)

Category	Total Historic	All Attractions
Sample	(79)	(214)
NET: Any Impact	86	86
Strain on existing staff members	77	80
Not possible to complete planned work/ developments	34	30
Reduction in exhibits/activities available to visitors	15	18
Longer wait times	18	16
Reduced opening hours	11	13
Other	10	7

4.13 Sustainability

Attractions were asked some questions related to sustainability. Table A.30 shows the proportion of historic attractions that have strategies in place to embed regenerative tourism / sustainable practices.

In terms of the broader impact of their organisation, at the time the survey fieldwork was conducted (Feb-Apr 2025), over three-quarters of historic attractions across England reported having one or more strategies in place to embed regenerative tourism / sustainable practices.

Having an 'Environmental Strategy' is the most commonly reported (63%), but also 'social' and 'governance' strategies are each in place at around half of attractions.

Castles were the least likely to report having any of the strategies in place, though caution should be applied around this figure due to the small base size.

Table A.30 Environmental strategy in 2025, by category (%)

Category	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monume nts	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	Total attractio ns
Sample	(14)^	(23)^	(48)^	(12)^	(45)^	(24)^	(21)^	(187)	(515)
Net: Any regenerative tourism /sustainable practices	57	74	83	83	80	83	71	78	77
Environmental strategy (e.g. environmental restoration and conservation)	57	65	71	75	56	63	57	63	61
Social strategy (e.g. community engagement and support)	57	39	54	75	62	71	33	56	55
Governance strategy (e.g. ethical and responsible business practices and legal compliance)	43	48	58	58	49	46	33	49	49

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.31a details which sustainable actions have been completed or would be considered by historic attractions.

The most common measure that attractions have already implemented is low energy lighting (76%), followed by adjustable thermostats (61%). Compared to 2023, significantly more sites are already encouraging staff/visitors to travel via public transport and/or have implemented draft proofing/ stripping.

Listed/ Historic building status is likely a limiting factor to updating window glazing with over half of historic sites saying, for each of double/triple and/or secondary glazing, they are not possible/relevant.

Table A.31a Actions historic attractions are taking to increase energy efficiency

		2024					2023
Sample		Unlikely to implement for other reasons	Not possible/ relevant at this site	Would consider in the future	Already planned implementation	Already installed/ implemented	Already installed/ implemented
Low energy lighting	(178)	3%	6%	11%	4%	76%	84%
Adjustable thermostats	(176)	5%	20%	11%	3%	61%	72%
Smart meters	(180)	11%	22%	21%	7%	39%	28%
Encouraging staff/visitors to travel via public transport	(180)	17%	17%	20%	6%	41%	22%
Draft proofing/ stripping	(172)	8%	35%	20%	5%	31%	18%
Other renewable electricity or heating	(174)	14%	25%	33%	7%	20%	14%
Solar panels	(182)	16%	34%	31%	4%	14%	10%
Double or triple glazed windows	(178)	13%	65%	6%	1%	16%	9%
Electric charging points for staff / visitors	(176)	17%	38%	27%	8%	11%	7%
Secondary glazing	(176)	13%	56%	16%	1%	14%	4%

A.31b shows measures which attractions have already installed or have clear plans to install in the near future.

The table below shows the levels of adoption of sustainability measures at Historic attractions are generally in line with the wider attractions sector. The exceptions are double/ triple glazed windows and solar panels, which as mentioned above, may not be easily permitted at historic sites. Historic sites are also slightly ahead of the attractions sector overall in terms of adopting other renewable electricity or heating, primarily driven by actions taken at Historic houses, Visitor/heritage centres and Gardens.

Table A.31b Actions historic attractions are taking to increase energy efficiency

Category %	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	Total attractions
Sample	(13)^	(22)^	(44)^	(11)^	(43)^	(22)^	(21)^	(176)	(489)
Adjustable thermostats	69	73	73	64	58	59	52	64	66
Energy efficient lighting	77	83	84	73	77	91	71	80	81
Draft proofing/ stripping	50	43	51	18	39	-	30	37	37
Double or triple glazed windows	25	30	4	36	18	-	24	16	25
Secondary glazing	46	14	15	9	17	5	5	15	14
Solar panels	38	25	15	9	18	27	-	18	22
Smart meters	69	46	46	55	40	48	45	47	48
Other renewable electricity or heating	25	33	33	10	33	18	11	27	22
Electric charging points for staff/ visitors	25	33	27	-	12	9	16	19	17
Encouraging staff/ visitors to travel via public transport	67	54	50	27	50	36	29	46	45

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.32a shows the proportion of historic attractions that measured their carbon footprint in 2024.

44% of historic attractions reported that they measure their carbon footprint, slightly more compared to 39% of the wider attractions sector and highest among Historic Houses, Historic monuments and Places of Worship – where over half report measuring their carbon footprint.

Table A.32a Organisations measuring their carbon footprint

Category	Castles / forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	Total attractions
Sample	(14)^	(25)^	(47)^	(12)^	(45)^	(23)^	(20)^	(186)	(517)
% measuring carbon footprint	43%	44%	60%	58%	29%	57%	15%	44%	39%

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

Table A.32b shows the proportion of historic attractions that invested in changes to the fabric of their building or specialist equipment to save energy or reduce their carbon footprint in 2024.

Overall, just over a third of historic attractions invested in changes to save energy or reduce their carbon footprint in 2024 (36%), again this is slightly higher than the average for the wider attractions sector (32%). Variation between attraction types shows Places of Worship were the most active in investing in changes to the fabric of their building and/or specialist equipment to save energy or reduce their carbon footprint in 2024. Investment was less common for 'other historic sites' (21%) where the nature of the sites may make this less relevant or more difficult to achieve.

Table A.32b Investment to reduce carbon footprint in 2024

Category	Castles / forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	Total attractions
Sample	(13)^	(23)^	(41)^	(12)^	(45)^	(23)^	(19)^	(176)	(498)
% investing in changes	46%	35%	37%	33%	36%	48%	21%	36%	32%

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

A.32c shows how attractions investing in measures to save energy/ reduce their carbon footprint funded these changes.

Among historic attractions who invested in energy saving/ carbon footprint reduction measures, the proportion that did so using public funding / grants increased to around a quarter in 2024, from 14% in 2023, although the majority did still self-finance.

Among the 26% historic attractions who used public funding/grants, these included:

- Council funded
- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)
- Arts Council England Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND)
- South East Museum Development Going Green grant

Table A.32c – Financing of energy saving/ carbon footprint reduction investments

Category	All historic attractions	All attractions
Sample	(61)	(154)
Self-financed	62%	62%
Public funding/ grants	26%	26%
Other sources	11%	12%

Table A.33 shows the proportion of attractions (who answered the questions) who had not used public funding/grant, that were aware of the funding options provided by the UK government to support installation of energy saving measures.

Almost a half of respondents were not aware of the government funding available to support sites investing in energy saving measures. While it is possible that others within the organisation who did not contribute to the survey may know about this funding, there remains an opportunity to promote this funding more widely.

Only a slightly higher proportion of historic attractions are aware of this funding when compared to the wider attractions sector.

Table A.33 – Awareness of government funding for energy saving measures

Category	All historic attractions	All attractions
Sample	(155)	(429)
% aware of government funding for energy saving measures	52%	48%

4.14 Accessibility provisions

Attractions were asked about accessibility provisions on site.

Table A.34a shows which accessibility provisions have been implemented or would be considered by historic attractions.

Within the 12 months prior to responding to the survey, each specific accessibility provision respondents were shown had been implemented by around a quarter of historic attractions, and around a further quarter said they had clear plans to include them in the future.

There is potential for encouraging more staff training as around half of historic sites currently have no firm plans for to action this.

Table A.34a Actions historic attractions are taking to strengthen accessibility provisions

Base	Have done in previous 12 months	Clear plans for the next 12 months	Clear plans for further ahead	Are considering, but no firm plans	No plans to consider this at the current time
Improve the built environment, amenities and services for visitors with accessibility requirements (185)	27%	14%	15%	19%	25%
Provide staff with specific training on welcoming and interacting with visitors with accessibility requirements (184)	26%	13%	10%	22%	29%
Improve the information, marketing and digital inclusion for visitors with accessibility requirements (184)	28%	18%	9%	24%	21%

A.34b shows actions which attractions have already done or have clear plans to do this in the next 12 months.

Notable proportions of historic attractions are striving to enhance their accessibility provisions. The proportion providing staff training in this area is highest among Places of Worship and Castles/Forts. The overall proportion of historic sites taking action to improve the built environment, amenities and services for accessibility provision is on a par with the wider attractions sector.

Improving information, marketing, and digital inclusion as a tool to strengthen accessibility provision varies between attraction categories. 'Other Historic Sites' report the lowest action levels across measures.

Table A.34b Actions historic attractions are taking to strengthen accessibility provisions

Category	Castles / forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total Historic	Total attractions
Sample	(14)^	(23)^	(45)^	(12)^	(45)^	(24)^	(22)^	(185)	(516)
Improve the built environment, amenities and services	50	48	45	33	47	38	18	41	42
Provide staff with specific training	50	39	43	42	38	55	10	39	44
Improve the information, marketing and digital inclusion	64	30	54	58	49	42	23	46	44

^(<50) Base size below 50 (please treat with caution) ^^(<10) Base size below 10 (data not shown)

5. Appendix

As responding historic sites tend to vary between years, operators are asked in each survey year to provide the number of visits for both the survey year and the previous year. This enables the trend between any two years to be calculated based on the same historic sites.

Table A.35 shows the indexed trend based on the visits given by responding historic sites. Because the number of responding historic sites differs each year (see Table A.39), the percentage change between any two years is applied each time to the previous year's index to take account of the varying sample sizes each year.

A base index of 100 was set in 1989, both overall and for each attraction category. The table shows percentage increases year-on-year from that point onwards. For example, visits to castles / forts increased by +3% between 1989 and 1990 (among the sample of castles / forts responding in both 1989 and 1990), therefore increasing the index from 100 to 103. The following year, visits to castles / forts decreased by -7% (among the sample of castles / forts responding in both 1990 and 1991), therefore bringing the index down from 103 to 96.

In this way, long term trends within each category can be established by comparing any individual year with any other year. Basing these indices on pairs of years, rather than a constant sample over many years, is a better reflection of the actual state of the industry, since this method constantly takes into account the opening of new attractions and the closing of old ones ensuring that base sizes for each year are kept at a robust level.

Table A.35 Index – By Historic Site Category

Data Year	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total historic	Total attractions
1989	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1990	103	105	100	102	103	103	101	102	102
1991	96	104	100	98	112	95	105	99	102
1992	99	104	99	99	124	97	100	100	103
1993	102	111	100	101	132	96	102	102	104
1994	106	113	99	99	134	97	97	103	106
1995	111	122	103	99	142	90	102	104	107
1996	113	121	105	103	151	94	97	107	108
1997	113	121	105	108	141	89	97	105	106
1998	115	112	102	107	140	87	95	103	104
1999	111	118	105	108	148	72	95	100	104
2000	106	115	100	108	140	70	90	96	103
2001	98	132	94	86	130	66	93	92	100
2002	99	154	107	98	143	66	93	99	109
2003	102	162	113	97	152	62	99	102	112
2004	103	151	111	96	156	63	106	101	113
2005	98	163	109	94	162	65	110	102	113
2006	99	159	110	96	163	67	121	104	117
2007	97	167	113	124	182	67	117	106	120
2008	97	170	113	124	193	71	121	108	123
2009	108	186	127	134	202	75	122	117	129
2010	103	177	129	136	197	78	158	119	133
2011	108	193	138	147	202	83	175	127	137
2012	100	189	132	144	198	81	177	123	136
2013	111	193	139	162	211	91	193	132	142
2014	118	203	146	170	232	86	195	136	148
2015	115	217	151	177	240	86	197	139	150
2016	117	235	164	180	236	79	192	144	153
2017	122	241	171	195	246	82	206	150	155
2018	120	243	170	191	236	85	211	149	158
2019	120	267	180	201	238	91	215	156	163
2020	35	160	85	50	81	25	58	62	57
2021	58	224	122	65	118	37	81	89	74
2022	95	240	150	108	176	80	126	120	105
2023	116	238	166	121	200	95	140	134	116
2024	116	243	172	122	212	100	148	138	118

Table A.36 shows the number of responding historic sites in each survey year. Each site is asked to provide visits figures for both the survey year and the previous year in order to enable visits trends to be calculated based on the same sites, but not all sites provide this, so the base size for trends comparisons are lower than the total sample sizes shown below.

Table A.36 Number of Responding Historic Sites Providing Visits Figures for the previous year

Data Year	Castle/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total England historic sites
1990	92	102	272	58	35	31	79	669
1991	94	118	288	59	44	29	83	715
1992	93	120	291	62	51	38	73	728
1993	94	125	305	59	67	43	73	766
1994	100	136	327	62	93	47	88	853
1995	102	148	337	61	104	47	97	896
1996	106	157	340	61	104	51	106	925
1997	104	158	351	57	112	49	102	935
1998	111	178	398	70	137	53	130	1,077
1999	110	179	405	73	148	60	133	1,108
2000	105	164	397	63	115	61	112	1,017
2001	103	158	367	68	114	87	108	1,005
2002	91	107	270	57	63	71	73	734
2003	92	124	302	60	78	74	86	817
2004	79	130	315	63	87	92	86	852
2005	89	137	294	56	76	94	86	832
2006	86	108	287	53	73	93	82	782
2007	73	93	217	2	46	88	79	598
2008	80	114	255	47	74	103	83	756
2009	82	106	260	51	75	103	60	737
2010	90	103	246	48	75	113	79	754
2011	92	101	260	52	81	94	59	739
2012	90	85	231	49	78	58	70	661
2013	91	88	252	55	71	74	74	705
2014	91	97	261	50	88	50	66	724
2015	86	85	260	54	88	51	69	693
2016	86	82	268	52	90	66	81	725
2017	83	88	259	56	82	61	64	693
2018	82	89	272	53	81	54	94	725
2019	81	91	255	52	70	34	91	674
2020	81	76	251	55	71	36	83	653
2021	88	81	245	51	85	48	62	660
2022	88	91	230	48	92	49	72	670
2023	84	78	249	47	86	51	78	673
2024	81	73	231	43	84	43	73	628

Table A.37 shows the number of visits to responding historic sites. (Note: it does not include estimates of non-responding sites. Therefore, these figures do not represent the total market).

Table A.37 Number of Visits to Responding England Historic Sites (Millions)

Survey Year	Data Year	Castles / forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total England historic sites
1990	1989	8.9	4.9	12.0	3.6	2.7	13.6	2.7	48.4
	1990	9.2	5.1	12.0	3.7	2.8	14.0	2.7	49.5
1991	1990	9.3	5.3	12.4	3.7	2.8	14.7	3.0	51.1
	1991	8.6	5.2	12.5	3.6	3.0	13.6	3.2	49.6
1992	1991	8.3	6.1	12.5	3.4	3.1	17.3	3.0	53.6
	1992	8.6	6.0	12.3	3.5	3.4	17.8	2.9	54.4
1993	1992	8.8	6.3	12.6	3.4	4.7	18.2	3.0	57.1
	1993	9.1	6.8	12.7	3.5	5.0	18.0	3.1	58.1
1994	1993	9.3	7.4	13.0	3.5	6.4	18.3	3.5	61.4
	1994	9.6	7.5	13.0	3.4	6.5	18.5	3.3	61.8
1995	1994	9.6	7.8	13.1	3.5	6.9	18.8	3.3	63.1
	1995	10.1	8.4	13.7	3.5	7.3	17.4	3.5	64.0
1996	1995	10.2	8.4	14.2	3.4	7.6	17.7	3.4	65.0
	1996	10.5	8.3	14.4	3.6	8.1	18.4	3.2	66.5
1997	1996	10.6	8.3	14.8	3.1	9.1	18.2	3.2	67.4
	1997	10.6	8.4	14.9	3.3	8.5	17.4	3.2	66.2
1998	1997	10.8	9.5	14.7	3.4	9.6	17.5	3.5	69.0
	1998	11.0	8.8	14.2	3.4	9.5	17.1	3.4	67.4
1999	1998	10.9	9.0	15.3	3.7	9.8	17.7	3.6	70.0
	1999	10.5	9.5	15.9	3.7	10.4	14.6	3.5	68.2
2000	1999	10.2	9.2	16.1	3.3	9.1	14.7	3.4	66.2
	2000	9.9	9.0	15.4	3.3	8.5	14.3	3.3	63.6
2001	2000	9.8	8.5	15.5	4.5	8.3	14.9	2.5	64.3
	2001	9.0	10.2	14.5	3.5	7.7	14.2	2.6	61.8
2002	2001	8.6	8.2	13.2	3.4	4.6	11.4	2.1	51.5
	2002	8.7	9.5	15.0	3.9	5.1	11.3	2.1	55.5
2003	2002	8.7	9.8	15.3	4.1	5.6	11.4	2.5	57.4
	2003	8.9	10.3	16.3	4.0	5.9	10.8	2.7	58.9
2004	2003	7.2	11.4	17.3	3.1	5.7	9.5	2.6	56.7
	2004	7.3	10.6	17.0	3.1	5.8	9.6	2.8	56.2
2005	2004	7.1	9.0	16.5	3.0	5.0	9.4	3.0	53.0
	2005	6.7	9.7	16.3	3.0	5.2	9.7	3.1	53.7
2006	2005	4.4	8.9	18.9	3.2	4.1	10.6	8.5	58.6
	2006	4.5	8.7	19.1	3.3	4.1	10.9	9.4	59.9
2007	2006	6.6	9.4	12.9	-	1.7	8.8	2.7	42.1
	2007	6.5	9.9	13.3	-	1.9	8.8	2.6	43.0
2008	2007	3.6	8.6	12.7	2.3	4.0	6.8	2.6	40.7
	2008	3.6	8.7	12.8	2.3	4.3	7.2	2.7	41.6
	2008	4.4	7.0	16.8	2.7	2.4	9.3	3.3	46.0

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2009	2009	4.9	7.7	18.9	3.0	2.6	9.8	3.2	50.0
2010	2009	5.1	9.1	16.7	2.8	3.0	9.1	2.7	48.4
	2010	4.9	8.6	17.1	2.9	2.9	9.5	3.5	49.2
2011	2010	4.5	8.8	22.7	2.7	4.7	9.2	3.4	56.1
	2011	4.7	9.6	24.2	2.9	4.8	9.9	3.8	60.0
2012	2011	7.5	9.4	21.5	3.0	4.4	8.5	4.6	58.9
	2012	7.0	9.2	20.7	2.9	4.3	8.3	4.6	57.1
2013	2012	6.6	9.1	17.6	3.1	4.5	8.1	4.0	52.9
	2013	7.3	9.3	18.5	3.4	4.8	9.1	4.3	56.7
2014	2013	7.3	12.2	20.0	3.4	3.8	10.4	4.7	61.7
	2014	7.7	12.7	21.0	3.6	4.1	9.9	4.7	63.7
2015	2014	7.5	8.9	21.7	3.6	4.0	8.3	5.5	59.5
	2015	7.4	9.5	22.6	3.8	4.2	8.3	5.6	61.3
2016	2015	7.7	10.1	26.2	4.0	7.1	8.7	4.8	68.6
	2016	7.9	10.9	28.4	4.0	7.0	8.1	4.7	71.0
2017	2016	7.4	10.7	28.2	3.8	4.3	8.0	3.8	66.2
	2017	7.7	11.0	29.4	4.1	4.5	8.3	4.1	69.2
2018	2017	7.7	10.7	28.9	5.0	9.9	8.5	4.5	75.3
	2018	7.9	10.8	29.2	4.9	9.6	8.8	4.6	75.8
2019	2018	7.5	10.7	27.6	5.9	5.0	8.1	4.9	69.8
	2019	7.6	11.8	29.8	6.4	5.0	8.7	5.2	74.5
2020	2019	8.5	11.3	28.3	5.2	3.3	10.7	5.9	73.2
	2020	2.5	6.9	13.3	1.5	1.5	2.9	1.6	30.2
2021	2020	2.4	7.8	13.3	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.2	30.7
	2021	3.9	10.9	20.0	3.0	2.6	2.7	1.7	43.9
2022	2021	4.8	12.2	17.9	3.2	2.4	2.8	2.6	46.1
	2022	8.1	13.2	22.3	5.4	3.7	6.4	4.1	63.2
2023	2022	6.9	10.3	24.3	4.8	3.6	8.0	5.4	63.3
	2023	8.4	10.3	26.8	5.4	4.1	9.5	6.0	70.5
2024	2023	9.4	11.7	27.3	5.2	4.9	8.0	6.1	72.6
	2024	9.4	11.9	28.3	5.2	5.2	8.4	6.4	74.8

Table A.38 Index – By Region

Trends in No. of Visits to England Historic Sites Indices 2000=100
Constant Samples (From One Year to Next Only)

Data Year	North East	North West	Yorks & Humber	East Mids	West Mids	East	London	South East	South West	Total England historic sites
2000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2001	87	95	86	91	93	95	98	95	92	96
2002	121	110	91	109	96	95	100	100	99	104
2003	138	114	95	115	96	94	103	105	96	107
2004	135	115	98	112	97	87	109	103	92	106
2005	140	123	100	113	103	88	108	106	89	107
2006	140	135	102	114	101	87	115	103	90	109
2007	149	139	103	121	109	84	117	105	90	111
2008	145	143	108	125	118	87	132	104	88	113
2009	160	155	117	132	134	93	138	117	95	123
2010	153	151	118	136	136	96	147	115	98	125
2011	153	158	120	145	148	106	160	127	101	134
2012	142	167	116	142	147	100	154	122	97	130
2013	159	165	120	155	151	108	175	130	101	139
2014	164	185	122	152	160	116	177	125	104	143
2015	171	188	130	167	167	117	169	131	111	147
2016	178	191	132	171	179	125	168	137	118	152
2017	197	201	139	173	186	136	172	142	125	159
2018	195	210	135	172	186	138	170	141	124	158
2019	213	202	144	182	197	146	179	152	130	166
2020	77	107	63	87	95	92	41	74	49	66
2021	114	159	103	133	134	125	57	99	74	94
2022	154	194	128	178	165	140	68	217	90	120
2023	162	202	129	189	185	144	86	237	98	133
2024	168	211	134	203	187	143	93	236	99	137

Table A.39 Index – By Region

Trends in No. of School Visits to England Historic Sites Indices 2001=100
Constant Samples (From One Year to Next Only)

Data Year	North East	North West	Yorks & Humber	East Mids	West Mids	East	London	South East	South West	Total England historic sites
2001	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2002	93	113	106	95	102	73	97	97	105	99
2003	96	116	105	86	100	89	117	98	112	104
2004	93	112	90	94	97	102	106	105	123	107
2005	104	111	95	92	105	97	110	107	120	109
2006	85	87	81	109	108	102	98	106	127	106
2007	87	97	79	109	101	103	105	114	126	109
2008	89	109	52	101	129	103	100	113	125	106
2009	77	169	46	98	125	109	153	86	131	103
2010	75	195	64	78	121	113	161	84	133	103
2011	80	206	69	66	143	118	180	80	119	104
2012	66	202	63	69	146	130	173	70	102	96
2013	89	212	71	77	152	140	177	80	105	104
2014	78	216	66	76	146	133	172	80	107	102
2015	78	178	56	79	116	195	165	74	114	99
2016	75	221	53	87	137	175	107	71	103	93
2017	79	200	55	83	113	192	101	69	114	91
2018	78	174	49	70	118	241	94	68	111	89
2019	81	181	49	70	132	253	106	69	102	86
2020	7	31	5	11	20	30	16	14	12	13
2021	19	44	5	24	34	35	22	20	15	19
2022	52	97	11	82	81	161	64	90	35	55
2023	63	128	14	98	87	188	87	114	52	71
2024	54	132	15	103	79	199	106	127	56	74

Table A.40 Index – By Historic Site Category

**Trends in No. of School Visits to England Historic Sites 2001-2022 Indices 2001=100
Constant Samples (From One Year to Next Only)**

Data Year	Castles/ forts	Gardens	Historic houses	Historic monuments	Visitor/ heritage centres	Places of worship	Other historic sites	Total England historic sites
2001	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2002	99	105	117	99	110	79	73	99
2003	98	113	120	107	119	77	93	104
2004	101	116	119	115	100	88	122	107
2005	97	145	119	122	113	87	128	109
2006	95	153	116	123	93	96	131	106
2007	94	167	119	168	94	102	126	109
2008	94	160	111	184	97	95	127	106
2009	81	163	142	172	81	100	88	103
2010	72	186	142	192	89	94	111	103
2011	106	170	113	230	100	101	130	104
2012	92	161	97	207	102	101	126	96
2013	103	166	133	222	100	101	122	104
2014	92	173	122	246	106	104	121	102
2015	90	192	113	248	112	98	109	99
2016	90	197	131	175	114	87	93	93
2017	90	236	115	179	109	86	75	91
2018	88	213	111	172	121	81	72	89
2019	88	226	118	112	131	83	84	86
2020	8	63	12	11	25	29	8	13
2021	8	142	18	22	27	40	6	19
2022	32	180	50	48	90	115	16	55
2023	45	194	64	72	93	154	20	71
2024	54	216	72	68	101	159	21	74