



ENGLISH  
HERITAGE

# Climate Action Plan 2022–2025

Sharing our past,  
shaping our future

YEAR 1 REPORT







### HIGHLIGHT

Bronze and Silver SOS-UK awards for Walmer Castle.

## People

### Develop capacity and capability in our people.

Our sustainability change and engagement programme got underway this year to help drive and celebrate environmental action across English Heritage. We collaborated with Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK) on a bespoke version of their Green Impact awards programme and piloted it at 18 sites.

These sites took a wide range of environmental actions which were audited by local students. Eight sites achieved bronze (Beeston Castle, Belsay Hall, Carisbrooke Castle, Kenilworth Castle, Lullingstone Roman Villa, Pendennis Castle, Ranger's House, Scarborough Castle and Stonehenge), while Walmer Castle was awarded both bronze and silver. Awards were also given for community action, innovative engagement and for the English Heritage 'sustainability hero'.

We'll update the programme based on feedback from the pilot and launch it nationally in September 2023.

## Progress to date

Core metric:

Staff and volunteers engaged with environmental impact programme.

Target: 50% of paid sites  
Achieved: 11% of target

- Members in our internal sustainability network sharing ideas and encouraging action.



Target: 150 members  
Achieved: 152 members

- External events to share environmental learning.



Target: 8 per year  
Achieved: 8 events in 2022/23

- Carbon literacy training programme underway



“ The changes they have made have been both impactful and meaningful... perhaps their greatest success is building up a culture of responsibility and care... that encourages a wide range of audiences to be more mindful of their environmental impact. ”

Student auditor, Carisbrooke Castle



### HIGHLIGHT

Solar panels replaced the diesel generator at Dunstanburgh Castle

## Decarbonisation

### Decarbonise the whole organisation.

This year we established our Building Carbon Reduction programme and surveyed 21 of our most energy-intensive sites to explore options for reducing energy, increasing efficiency and on-site renewable generation.

Solar panels replaced a diesel generator at Dunstanburgh Castle and our newest holiday cottage, the Head Gardener's House at Audley End, had an air source heat pump installed.

We've put in place new sustainability forms to better understand our business travel footprint, reviewed our fleet and begun work to encourage car-free travel.

Through our balanced scorecard, supplier charter and responsible buyer training we are supporting the integration of sustainability into purchasing.

## Progress to date

Core metric:

Reduction in scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 2025.

Target: 20% reduction  
Achieved: 6.24% reduction

- Aim to provide sites with electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



Target: 20 sites  
Achieved: 21 sites have had feasibility studies

- Vehicles and garden equipment electric or hybrid.



Target: 60% of vehicles  
Achieved: 12% of vehicles with asset register compiled

- Suppliers (£50k+) with public net zero commitments and action plan.



Target: 10 suppliers per year  
Achieved: 6 suppliers this year



### HIGHLIGHT

Energy and water metering work has identified savings at various sites, including Audley End.

## Operations

### Create sustainable operations.

We are building an Environmental Management System (EMS). This year we reviewed the environmental impacts across our operations. We're focusing on energy and water by monitoring monthly use and rolling out smart meters to help reduce waste and increase efficiency.

We're developing sustainability sourcing standards across the charity starting with our commercial operations.

Our new national waste contract has enabled us to better understand and manage what happens to waste from our sites and we are piloting an internal sharing platform to encourage re-use.

## Progress to date

Core metric:

Environmental Management System developed across all activity.

Target: By 2025

Achieved: On track for target

- Reduction in retail packaging on a 2022/23 baseline.



Target: 30% reduction  
Achieved: All retail packaging reviewed. Timeline set for reduction programme.

- Recycling target on 2022/23 baseline and zero to landfill.



Target: 70% recycled  
Achieved: Reviewed across all sites

### Our water usage



83148m<sup>3</sup> supplied to sites per year in 2022/23 = Equivalent to the volume of 739 double decker buses

228m<sup>3</sup> supplied to sites per day in 2022/23 = Equivalent to 45,600 toilet flushes



### HIGHLIGHT

Piloting climate risk assessments at five sites, including Brodsworth Hall and Gardens.

## Resilience

### Adapt to build resilience.

We're mapping the exposure and vulnerability of our sites to climate hazards like extreme rainfall, high temperatures and rising sea levels. At five sites (including Tintagel Castle, Brodsworth Hall and Tilbury Fort) we are piloting risk assessments which explore climate impact on buildings, collections, people, operations and landscapes and gardens to help inform future management and investment.

Working with the World Monuments Fund our Coastal Connections project is creating a new global knowledge sharing network to support the management of coastal heritage sites threatened by climate change.

## Progress to date

Core metric:

Sites with climate risk assessments.

Target: 50% of sites

Achieved: On track for target

- Research projects focusing on climate related disruption and adaptation.



Target: 2 research projects  
Achieved: 1 research project with Historic England on pest migration.

- New climate resilience partnerships formed to build and share knowledge of vulnerability and adaptation.



Target: 3 partners  
Achieved: 3 partners, as below

### Our three new partnerships are with:

- World Monuments Fund
- Benefact Group who fund our climate resilience work
- UK Heritage Adaptation Partnership