

SUMMARY

- 0.1 This report sets out the findings of research undertaken by Land Use Consultants (LUC) on behalf of English Heritage Yorkshire Region, the Yorkshire and Humber Historic Environment Forum and the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly.
- 0.2 The purpose of the study was to examine how the historic environment should be addressed within the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for Yorkshire and the Humber Region. The study comprised the following components:
- A brief review of other regions' RSS processes, particularly in terms of the way that the historic environment informs strategy preparation;
 - An analysis of those elements of the historic environment which are considered to be regionally distinctive, characteristic or important, particularly where these have a spatial dimension that should be reflected within the RSS;
 - The identification of areas where the historic environment could potentially be affected by future RSS policies and where it will be important to ensure that such policies include the necessary safeguards to conserve the historic environment;
 - The identification of areas where the historic environment could potentially contribute to the wider aims and objectives of the RSS, for example in terms of the regional economy or regeneration initiatives;
 - Drawing on the above, the preparation of recommendations on the most appropriate policy framework for the historic environment within the RSS.

Review of best practice

- 0.3 Chapter 2 of the report reviews other regions' approach to the inclusion of the historic environment within emergent RSSs. The study found that English regions are at different stages of RSS preparation and are following a range of approaches. Yorkshire and the Humber was found to be leading most regions.
- 0.4 It was found that the historic environment is most commonly being considered as part of the overall characterisation process that is used to underpin regional policies. While this part of the research confirmed the importance of identifying regional character and distinctiveness, it found few examples of detailed analysis to support such policy formulation. Several regions' emergent policies do make reference to regional and sub regional characteristics of the historic environment, with these being reflected in the spatial pattern of needs and opportunities.
- 0.5 Key policy links relating to the historic environment include tourism and regeneration. This reflects a wider shift from policies focusing solely on protection of the historic environment to policies that identify the links with wider planning objectives.

Characterising the historic environment of Yorkshire and the Humber

- 0.6 In the absence of a regional historic land use assessment or comprehensive coverage of local assessments, it was agreed to develop a pragmatic approach to the identification of regionally distinctive, characteristic or important elements of the historic environment. This was based on the analysis of the Countryside Character Areas identified by the Countryside Agency, the review of additional data sources and consultation with a range of historic environment stakeholders within the region.
- 0.7 It is fully recognised that the resulting characterisation of the region's historic environment is structured by physical factors (particularly geology, landform and landcover) which may not always accord with variations in the historic environment. It is also recognised that the descriptions of each of the 21 Character Areas across the region is unlikely to be fully comprehensive nor the identification of regionally distinctive features judged to be definitive. The characterisation does, however, provide a starting point for policy development, going much further than the traditional reliance on designated sites. It is anticipated that the information base will improve over time as the process of historic land use assessment is rolled out across the region.
- 0.8 For each of the 21 Countryside Character Areas listed below, the study prepared a short description of its historic character and a bulleted list of distinctive elements. This provided the baseline for subsequent analysis of the interactions associated with the RSS topic areas and spatial policy zones.

Yorkshire Dales	Southern Magnesian Limestone	Holderness
Pennine Dales Fringe	Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill	Humber Estuary
Tees Lowlands	Bowland Fells	Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes
Vale of Mowbray	Lancashire Valleys	Lincolnshire Wolds
North York Moors and Cleveland Hills	Southern Pennines	Central Lincolnshire Vale
Vale of Pickering	Yorkshire Southern Pennines Fringe	North Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands
Yorkshire Wolds	Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield	Dark Peak
Vale of York		
Howardian Hills	Humberhead Levels	

Planning Analysis

- 0.9 The next stage of the study focussed on the 18 topic areas being developed by the RSS considered the implications of the regional historic characterisation described above. Specifically, it explore potential impacts of the RSS policies on the historic environment and, conversely, ways in which the historic environment could contribute to RSS objectives.
- 0.10 The recommended approach is based on three main tiers of influence:
- Ensuring that the RSS includes 'headline' policies relating to the historic environment. It is recommended that a discrete section of the RSS describes the historic resource and the range of social and economic benefits that it provides to the region. The RSS should include policies to safeguard nationally and regionally important elements of the historic environment. They should ensure

that the historic environment plays a key role in informing new development and reinforcing regional and sub-regional distinctiveness;

- Ensuring that the historic environment is reflected in strategic patterns of development across the region. It is recommended that the policies defining the pattern of future development reflect the following spatial variations:
 - Areas where the historic environment is already central to the health and vitality of the local economy and where it is important to ensure that economic development or activity does not have an adverse effect on the resource itself;
 - Post industrial centres where there is a risk that emphasis on economic and social regeneration could place important elements of the historic environment at risk and where opportunities to use the historic environment as a driver for regeneration might be missed. In these areas there is a need to raise understanding of the importance of the whole historic environment as a defining element in their identity and distinctiveness and a contributor to economic well being;
 - Areas where historic market functions provide a basis for sustainable patterns of development, movement and service provision, and where the historic environment can make an important contribution to character and economic vitality;
 - Smaller settlements where economies are in decline due to changing primary industries or changing patterns of holidaymaking and where the historic environment, in partnership with other sectors (including culture and biodiversity) can contribute to economic diversification and renaissance;
 - Parts of the region where the intrinsic historic environment is under-recognised in terms of its potential contribution to the local and regional economy and where there is a need to raise awareness of its existing and potential role;
 - Elements of the historic environment that are under-recognised in terms of their potential contribution to the local and regional economy and where there is a need to raise awareness of their existing and potential role.
- Ensuring that RSS topic area policies area, where appropriate, informed by the analysis of the historic environment. For each topic area, the research considered the role of the following policy types:
 - Policies to realise the potential of the historic environment;
 - Policies to raise awareness and understanding of the historic environment;
 - Policies which aim to allow the historic environment to inform the location, scale or design of development;
 - Policies that aim to safeguard the historic environment.

Spatial Analysis

- 0.11 The study then explored potential interactions between the spatial analysis of the historic environment, and policy areas being developed by the RSS for different parts of the region. The Regional Assembly has identified the following sub-regions as an aid for policy formulation:
- Remoter Rural
 - Vales and Tees Links
 - South Yorkshire
 - Coast
 - Humber Estuary
 - Leeds City Region
- 0.12 For each of these sub-areas, the regional Assembly has identified a series of policy themes and areas which will be developed through the RSS process. It is noted, however, that it is intended that these sub regions are used where this assists policy development and should not be regarded as fixed framework for all policy types.
- 0.13 The study takes each sub-region in turn and provides the following:
- A list of the Countryside Character Areas falling within the sub-region in question. This allows cross-reference with the characterisation section of the report;
 - a summary of the regionally significant historic elements in the sub-region in question, together with an overview of key issues and opportunities;
 - a systematic analysis of interactions between sub-regional policy themes and the historic environment, identifying potential impacts on the historic environment and ways in which the historic environment might more effectively contribute to RSS policy aims and objectives.

Conclusions

- 0.14 The final chapter of the report draws the different elements of the research together to provide an overview of ways in which the historic environment of Yorkshire and Humber should be used to inform RSS policies. This chapter comprises the following sections:
- An overview of the historic environment of Yorkshire and the Humber;
 - A description of the role of the historic environment in contributing to the region's quality of life;
 - A summary of the ways in which the historic environment should be reflected within the RSS;
 - An overview of key policy linkages between the historic environment, the RSS and other regional and sub-regional plans and strategies.