

State of the Solent Edition 3:

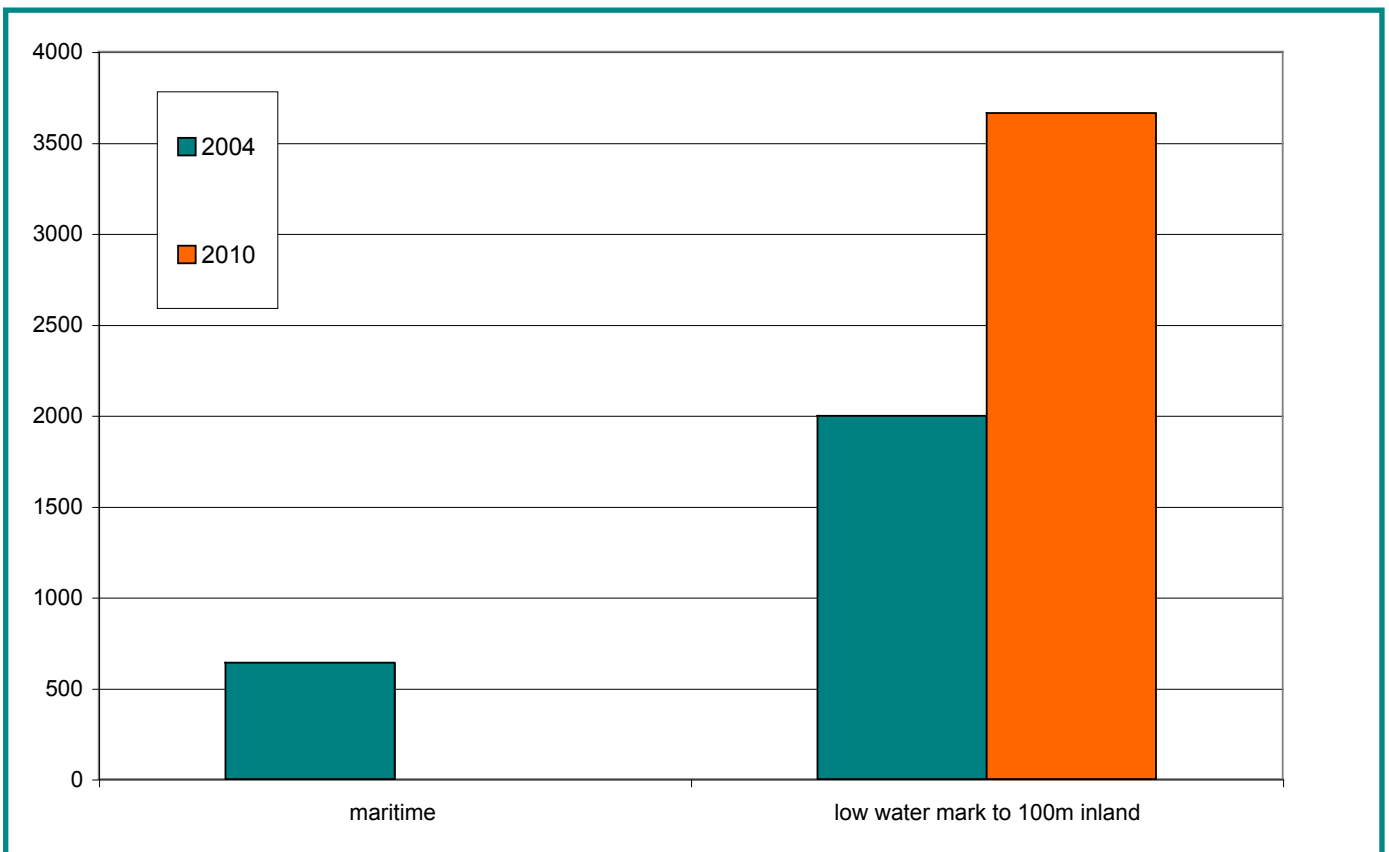
11. Heritage and Archaeology



The long term aim in the Strategic Guidance is ‘to identify and protect the archaeological and historic heritage of the Solent, and promote the understanding and enjoyment, ensuring equal attention to sites on land and under the water’.

The Solent has been the focus of maritime activity since the earliest times. Our ancestors shaped the landscape to suit their needs and left artefacts and ancient monuments in their wake. These remains tell the story of how our predecessors lived and worked in the Solent and its shores. Evidence is found underwater in prehistoric landscapes and shipwrecks and along the coast and harbour defences. Studies of these features show us what the Solent was like in past centuries when both the landscape and seascape was very different. There are two indicators in this section: Number of sites recorded on the Sites and Monuments database and the number of buildings and monuments on the Heritage at Risk register.

Indicator 11.1: Number of sites recorded on Sites and Monuments databases in the Solent



Source: Local authorities and HWTMA

11.1 Reason for Indicator Selection

This indicator would give a measure of the sites which are being recorded and would include all sites, not just those which are scheduled or designated. The total number of sites in the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) at a given time and the increase of that number over a period of time could also provide an indication of the effectiveness of archaeological fieldwork and other investigations taking place locally. This could be related to the pace of development and may also reflect the extent to which local archaeological projects are able to secure funding.

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This indicator is not really an indicator of the sustainability of the historic and archaeological resource, but a reflection of effort in the recording of sites. It must be stressed that much of the heritage resource is yet to be catalogued and may not yet have been discovered. This is especially true for the marine heritage as underwater archaeology is resource and time intensive. However, it is important that all information gathered is recorded on the National Monuments Record (Maritime) and the local SMR as it provides an element of protection as the sites or finds will be recognised in the planning process.

11.1 Where does the data come from?

The data is available from Hampshire County Council's Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record and from the SMR of Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Chichester District Council and the Isle of Wight's Council. The maritime information is obtained from the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (HWTMA).

11.1 What the Indicator Shows

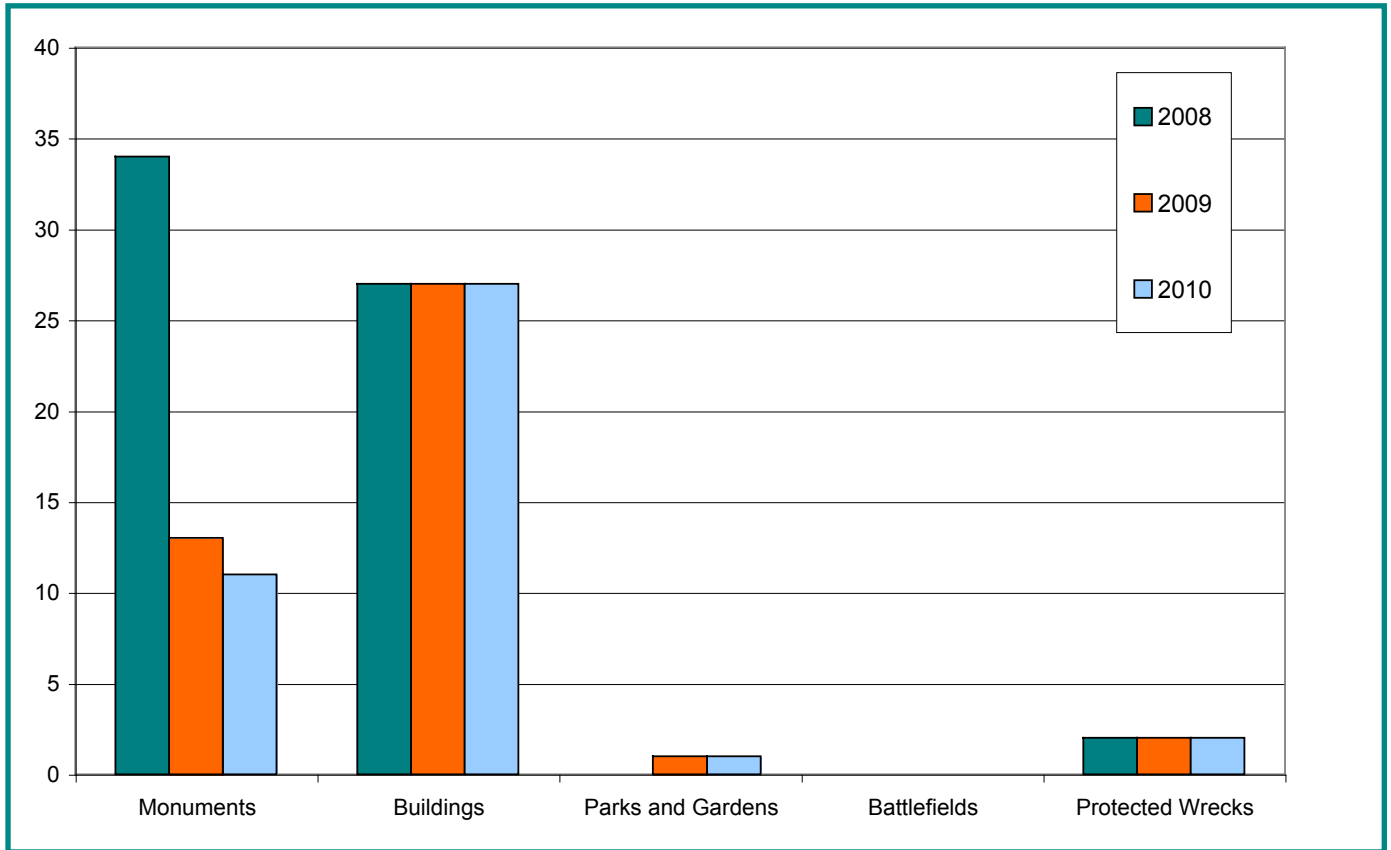
The data shows the amount of sites recorded on the sites and monuments records from low water mark to 100m inland. The number of sites recorded has nearly doubled since 2004. This indicates that work is being carried out recording historic sites and monuments. Once the sites are on the SMR they do have some protection as they will be recognised in the planning process. However there is no indication of what is being done to conserve these sites once they have been recorded.

The maritime data for 2010 is not currently available as HWTMA are updating their SMR.

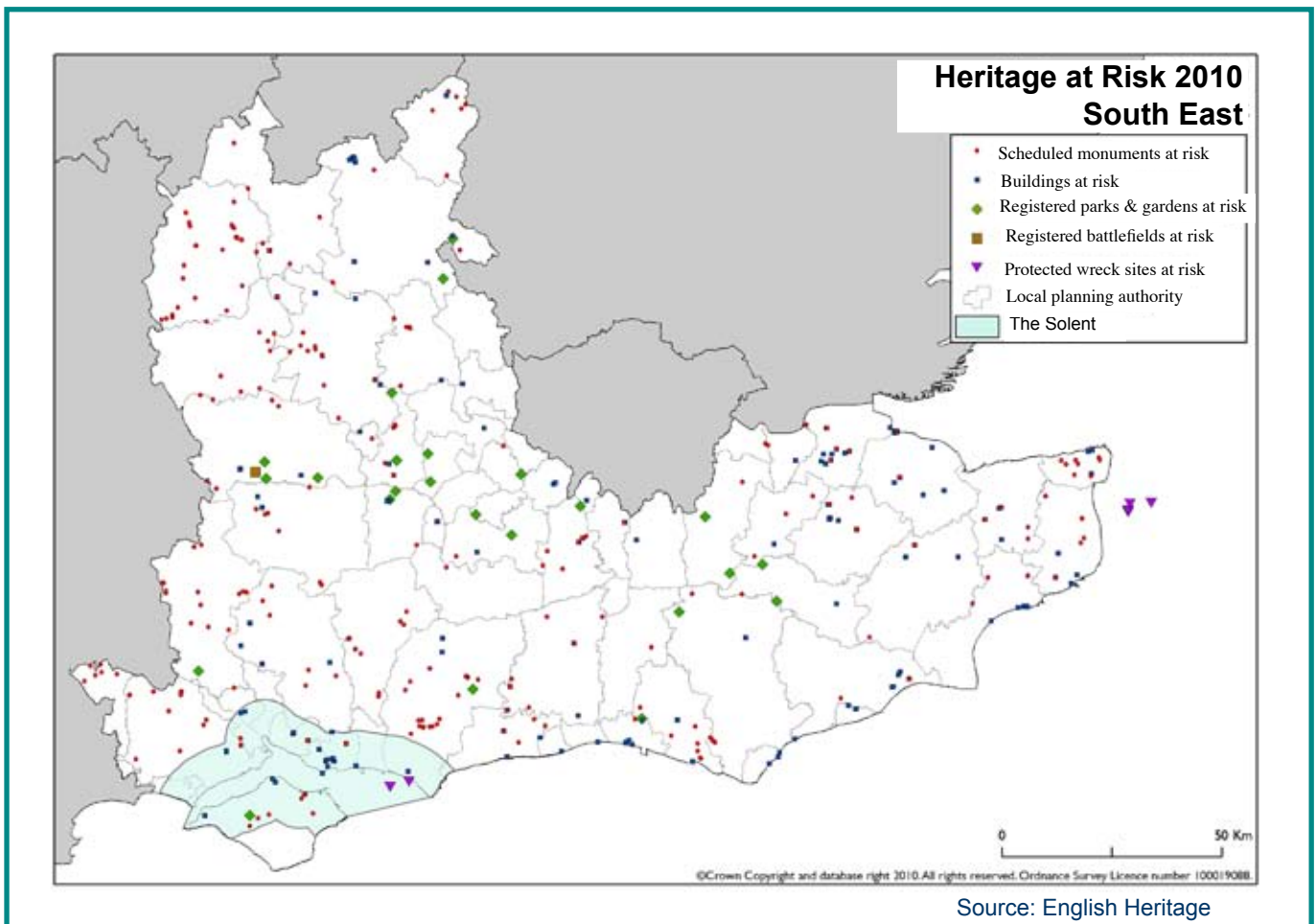
11.1 What are the implications for coastal planning and management

None identified at present.

Indicator 11.2: Buildings and monuments (including wrecks) at risk of decay



Source: English Heritage



Source: English Heritage

11.2 Reason for Indicator Selection

The Solent region is an important area for the historic environment and has a number of important historic sites and monuments, many of which are military structures linked to the past use of the area. Conservation of the historic environment helps encourage tourism and support viable communities in which people want to live and work. The extent to which historic assets are in poor to very bad condition is an indicator of the state of health of the built environment and other historic assets. However, this indicator only includes sites of national importance which are scheduled or designated. There are many other regionally and locally important sites which would not be included in this indicator. It is important to note that this represents only a small proportion of the total archaeological resource. Also, with only a few sites underwater being designated as historic wreck sites, this indicator should be used with care for submerged heritage.

11.2 Where does the data come from?

The English Heritage at Risk register brings together information on all Grade 1 and II* listed buildings¹ and scheduled monuments² known to be at risk of decay, or due to an uncertain future are vulnerable to becoming so.

11.2 What the Indicator Shows

The data only shows three years worth of information as data has only been collected in this way by English Heritage for this time period. There has been a reduction in the number of monuments at risk over this time period from 34 in 2008, to 11 in 2010. The number of building and wrecks at risk has remained constant over the same time period.

Of the total number of monuments at risk in the UK, only 0.32% of these are in the Solent. For buildings this percentage remains low, only 1.7% of the UK total of buildings at risk are in the Solent. However 25% of total number of wrecks at risk are in the Solent (two of the eight wrecks at risk are in the Solent). Compared to the number of buildings and monuments at risk in the UK which runs to thousands there are only eight wrecks. This low number is more likely a reflection of the low number of wrecks designated rather than the fact that few are at risk.

11.2 What are the implications for coastal planning and management

The data would indicate that the Solent's designated heritage is reasonably well maintained. Longer term data will be needed to measure if the heritage which is at risk is improved.

Footnotes

¹ Listed buildings are those of special architectural or historic interest.

² Scheduled Monuments are selected by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Scheduling of an historic site or building signals the intention to ensure its preservation as a monument as far as possible without significant alteration.