



Data for Heritage Places – a new analysis using the Heritage Index

Methodology addendum

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1) Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the original Data for Heritage Places methodology document¹ published in October 2023.

The purpose of this addendum is to:

- Outline improvements made to the Data for Heritage Places index between selection of the first nine Heritage Places in 2023 and the second in 2025
- Explain changes in ranking between the two datasets.

2) Rationale for changes to the Data for Heritage Places Index

Following the first use of the Index in 2023, the Heritage Fund identified strengths and limitations to the approach and carried out a peer review which produced recommendations for improvement.

We collated and reviewed recommendations from the peer review alongside other suggestions for improvement. These were assessed and prioritised based on capacity/resource constraints and strategic needs. Seven improvements were identified to take forward in order to improve the robustness of the Index in 2025.

- Bug fixing
- Adding new local authorities that had come into existence since 2023
- Adding new measures to the Parks and Open spaces and Cultures and Memories domains of Heritage Condition
- Recalculating the Landscapes and Nature domain of Heritage Condition to reflect the scale of assets
- Standardising the indexing to a percentile to mitigate the impact of outliers
- Updating reference data and previous Heritage Fund investment with the most recent data available

¹ [Methodology for Heritage Places \(2023\), via the National Lottery Heritage Fund website](#)

- Adding newly available data to the Other Funding indicator

3) Summary of changes made to the Data for Heritage Places Index for 2025

3.1 Bugs Fixed

There were two small formula errors in the original data models. One affected the Industrial, Maritime and Transport domain in Scotland and the other affected the Deprivation indicator for Wales. Neither of these errors materially affected the choices of the first nine Heritage Places.

3.2 New local authorities added

Between the selection of the first nine Heritage Places and the 2025 update, four new local authorities were created in England by combining smaller local authorities: Cumberland; Westmorland and Furness; Somerset; and North Yorkshire. The previous constituent local authority areas were removed from the index and their Heritage Index assets, other government funding and Lower Super Output Area deprivation data were added together to form the new local authority area within the Index. Where the measure looked for the presence of an asset or funding in a local authority area, if the asset or funding was present in any of the predecessor local authority areas, then the newly formed local authority area was also considered to have that asset or funding. The asset or funding did not have to be present in each of the constituent local authority areas in order to be included for the new local authority area. Population, land area to mean high water level and previous Heritage Fund investment data was obtained for the new local authority areas when this data was updated (see section 3.6).

3.3 New measures for Parks and Open spaces and Cultures and Memories

The peer review noted that the Parks and Open spaces and Cultures and Memories domains within the Heritage Condition indicator only contained one measure each. This meant that a single measure in each of these domains was given the same weighting within the overall score as domains that contained many more measures. For example, Landscapes and Nature contained 16 measures. To mitigate this limitation we looked at other measures for inclusion. The following additions were made:

- Parks and Open spaces: We added Country Parks, National Trust land and registered Parks and Gardens where available. The number of hectares of Country Parks and National Trust land was added to the previously used number of hectares of Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace, the total was

divided by land area to equalise for the size of the local authority area. This was allocated 40% of the total score with the total number of registered Parks and Gardens allocated the remaining 60%.

- Cultures and Memories: We added European Designated Protection for Food and Drink. This was also divided by land area to account for the size of local authority areas, and was allocated a 50% weighting alongside the previously used number of Blue Plaques per 100,000 of the local authority area population.

3.4 Landscapes and Nature domain recalculated

In the original index, the Landscapes and Nature domain of Heritage Condition was calculated based on the *presence* of a designated asset rather than the *scale*. As a result, a local authority area with one hectare of a particular asset received the same score as a local authority with 1,000 hectares of the same asset. We updated the index so that the domain score takes scale of asset into account within a local authority area. The same weightings were used.

3.5 Percentile indexing updated where applicable

As we made changes to some of the measures, it was necessary to update some of the percentile indexing. Further detail on the “Min-Max Normalisation” method of indexing can be found in the original methodology. We reviewed the criteria for applying percentile indexing and formalised our approach to judging whether a sufficient spread of results was achieved. To do this, we introduced a common threshold for each measure and adjust the percentile indexing down until that threshold was met. For England, the threshold was five local authority areas with an indexed score greater than 50. For Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and due to the smaller number of local authority areas in those nations, the threshold was three local authority areas with an indexed score greater than 50. Where measures were added or amended in the Parks and Open space, Landscapes and Nature and Cultures and Memories domains, percentile indexing was added where it may not have been previously.

As a result of standardising the approach, changes to the percentile indexing were also made to otherwise unchanged domains:

- Industrial, Maritime and Transport domain – Scotland
- Historic Built Environment domain – Scotland
- Previous Heritage Fund investment – England, Wales and Northern Ireland

- Deprivation – Northern Ireland
- Other Funding – Northern Ireland

3.6 Reference data and previous Heritage Fund investment updates

The Data for Heritage Places index uses area to mean high water and population per local authority reference data for some measures; these were updated to the most recently published versions of the data:

- Office for National Statistics Standard Area Measurements for Administrative Areas of the UK 2023
- Office for National Statistics Annual mid-year population estimates mid-2022

Previous Heritage Fund investment was also updated to the most recent 10-year period, covering the financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24.

3.7 Additional data added to Other Funding

Additional measures were added to the Other Funding indicator that were not available for the first Index:

- Levelling Up Rounds 2 and 3
- Investing in Communities Fund Round 2 in Scotland

Also added was funding per local authority area under the Shared Prosperity Fund, to increase the robustness of this indicator. This was updated in all national models except for Northern Ireland, as funding to Northern Ireland under the Shared Prosperity Fund was done at a country rather than local authority area level.

4) Amendment to the local analysis process

The decision and recommendation process for Heritage Places remained the same from tranche one to tranche two. However, following lessons learned from the evaluation of tranche one plus past evaluations of similar schemes that development work advances more quickly when working in a place long-term where there is a strong policy fit, the Heritage Fund has incorporated a fourth selection criterion, to assess whether future investments in Heritage Places can deliver measurable, visible impact. Area teams used this criterion, alongside evidence of local leadership, the strength of local infrastructure and the extent of heritage and heritage adjacent

ecosystems, to analyse a shortlist of potential places informed by the quantitative data and make a recommendation to their Committee, whose choice was then agreed by the Heritage Fund Board.

Annex A: Updated place rankings, by area and nation

England, North

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
1	1	70.70	North Yorkshire	No
2	4	64.35	Westmorland and Furness	No
3	9	55.38	County Durham	Yes
4	13	50.35	Blackpool	No
5	17	46.74	Northumberland	No
6	20	45.75	Cumberland	No
7	24	43.47	North East Lincolnshire	Yes
8	27	42.77	Kirklees	No
9	29	41.54	Tameside	Yes
10	30	41.32	Rochdale	No
11	35	39.48	Manchester	No
12	36	39.45	South Tyneside	No
13	37	39.42	Liverpool	No
14	44	36.91	Middlesbrough	No
15	45	36.89	Sheffield	No
16	46	36.76	Leeds	No
17	50	35.93	Rotherham	No
18	52	34.71	Barnsley	No
19	53	34.61	Wakefield	No
20	54	34.47	Sunderland	No
21	55	34.31	Knowsley	No
22	58	33.79	Kingston upon Hull, City of	No
23	61	33.48	Bolton	No
24	62	33.46	Burnley	No
25	63	33.10	Blackburn with Darwen	No
26	65	32.77	Wigan	No
27	68	31.92	Bradford	No
28	69	31.83	Wirral	No

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
29	70	31.75	Redcar and Cleveland	No
30	71	31.60	Lancaster	No
31	72	31.25	Stockton-on-Tees	No
32	73	31.21	Hartlepool	No
33	78	29.86	Oldham	No
34	80	29.51	Calderdale	No
35	83	29.21	Salford	No
36	84	28.70	Newcastle upon Tyne	No
37	93	27.63	St. Helens	No
38	101	26.27	Preston	No
39	103	25.87	Hyndburn	No
40	104	25.69	Stockport	No
41	109	25.07	Halton	No
42	116	24.15	Cheshire West and Chester	No
43	117	23.96	Cheshire East	No
44	118	23.51	Sefton	No
45	121	23.21	Doncaster	No
46	126	22.06	North Lincolnshire	No
47	128	21.27	Gateshead	No
48	137	20.02	North Tyneside	No
49	142	19.51	West Lancashire	No
50	147	19.03	Fylde	No
51	152	18.56	Wyre	No
52	155	18.31	East Riding of Yorkshire	No
53	156	18.24	Darlington	No
54	157	18.09	Rossendale	No
55	164	17.06	York	No
56	171	15.91	Trafford	No
57	174	15.59	Bury	No
58	180	14.45	Chorley	No
59	181	14.12	Pendle	No
60	197	11.37	Warrington	No
61	289	1.94	South Ribble	No
62	294	0.46	Ribble Valley	No

England, Midlands & East

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
1	3	64.82	Sandwell	No
2	7	57.67	Wolverhampton	No
3	10	53.78	Stoke-on-Trent	Yes
4	12	51.77	Walsall	No
5	18	46.65	Birmingham	No
6	25	43.35	Nottingham	No
7	33	39.79	Shropshire	No
8	39	38.88	Dudley	Yes
9	42	37.73	Worcester	No
10	47	36.58	Leicester	Yes
11	51	35.23	East Lindsey	No
12	56	34.20	Coventry	No
13	60	33.57	Herefordshire, County of	No
14	76	30.66	Norwich	No
15	77	30.35	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	No
16	81	29.50	Nuneaton and Bedworth	No
17	82	29.40	Ashfield	No
18	87	28.33	Great Yarmouth	No
19	89	28.13	North Norfolk	No
20	90	27.76	Lincoln	No
21	92	27.71	East Suffolk	No
22	94	27.54	Peterborough	No
23	95	27.46	Warwick	No
24	96	27.12	Cambridge	No
25	102	26.04	North Northamptonshire	No
26	107	25.24	Tamworth	No
27	111	24.99	West Northamptonshire	No
28	113	24.48	High Peak	No
29	114	24.46	Fenland	No
30	124	22.52	Derby	No
31	129	21.23	Tendring	No
32	132	20.85	Lichfield	No
33	136	20.48	Wyre Forest	No

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
34	138	19.93	Mansfield	No
35	139	19.81	Central Bedfordshire	No
36	140	19.71	Luton	No
37	141	19.55	Chesterfield	No
38	146	19.06	Bedford	No
39	150	18.63	Redditch	No
40	151	18.58	Amber Valley	No
41	153	18.53	Bolsover	No
42	154	18.53	Newark and Sherwood	No
43	159	17.83	Breckland	No
44	161	17.40	Newcastle-under-Lyme	No
45	162	17.31	South Kesteven	No
46	170	16.08	Stafford	No
47	178	14.90	Broxtowe	No
48	179	14.75	Hinckley and Bosworth	No
49	182	14.11	Southend-on-Sea	No
50	184	13.53	Telford and Wrekin	No
51	185	12.87	East Hertfordshire	No
52	188	12.46	Malvern Hills	No
53	189	12.39	Stratford-on-Avon	No
54	190	12.18	Basildon	No
55	193	12.01	Bassetlaw	No
56	194	11.95	Derbyshire Dales	No
57	195	11.73	Harlow	No
58	196	11.55	Boston	No
59	199	11.32	Bromsgrove	No
60	202	11.17	Colchester	No
61	204	11.09	Erewash	No
62	207	10.82	Rutland	No
63	208	10.70	North Hertfordshire	No
64	211	10.52	Huntingdonshire	No
65	212	10.44	Watford	No
66	213	10.06	Broxbourne	No
67	214	10.06	North East Derbyshire	No
68	215	9.81	Cannock Chase	No

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
69	216	9.76	Epping Forest	No
70	218	9.57	Ipswich	No
71	219	9.19	East Staffordshire	No
72	220	9.16	West Lindsey	No
73	225	8.81	Dacorum	No
74	228	8.55	Charnwood	No
75	229	8.51	Thurrock	No
76	230	8.50	Rugby	No
77	233	8.26	Stevenage	No
78	234	8.21	Melton	No
79	236	8.10	South Holland	No
80	240	7.72	South Cambridgeshire	No
81	241	7.71	Wychavon	No
82	244	7.59	North Warwickshire	No
83	247	7.42	Staffordshire Moorlands	No
84	250	7.33	Gedling	No
85	252	7.28	Solihull	No
86	253	7.05	South Derbyshire	No
87	258	6.04	Castle Point	No
88	259	6.01	Uttlesford	No
89	260	5.99	South Staffordshire	No
90	262	5.81	Maldon	No
91	264	5.71	Welwyn Hatfield	No
92	266	5.52	Rochford	No
93	267	5.52	Harborough	No
94	271	4.75	West Suffolk	No
95	274	4.40	Oadby and Wigston	No
96	275	4.35	Braintree	No
97	276	4.30	Three Rivers	No
98	277	4.12	South Norfolk	No
99	278	4.08	Hertsmere	No
100	279	3.93	Rushcliffe	No
101	281	3.82	Chelmsford	No
102	282	3.79	Brentwood	No
103	283	3.28	East Cambridgeshire	No

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
104	284	3.17	Broadland	No
105	285	2.93	North West Leicestershire	No
106	288	2.47	St Albans	No
107	290	1.45	North Kesteven	No
108	292	1.34	Mid Suffolk	No
109	295	0.04	Babergh	No
110	296	0.04	Blaby	No

England, London & South

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
1	2	65.94	Westminster	No
2	5	58.97	Cornwall	No
3	6	58.43	Somerset	No
4	8	56.95	Camden	No
5	11	52.24	Tower Hamlets	No
6	14	50.14	Gloucester	No
7	15	46.80	Barking and Dagenham	Yes
8	16	46.79	Gosport	No
9	19	46.65	Isles of Scilly	No
10	21	45.73	Plymouth	No
11	22	45.26	Wiltshire	No
12	23	43.55	Newham	No
13	26	43.24	Brent	No
14	28	42.66	Dorset	No
15	31	40.48	Hastings	No
16	32	40.18	Kensington and Chelsea	No
17	34	39.73	Portsmouth	No
18	38	39.31	Oxford	No
19	40	38.88	Thanet	No
20	41	38.17	Croydon	No
21	43	36.92	Haringey	No
22	48	36.19	Hackney	No

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
23	49	36.14	Southwark	No
24	57	34.02	Torbay	Yes
25	59	33.71	Buckinghamshire	No
26	64	32.98	Isle of Wight	No
27	66	32.47	Waltham Forest	No
28	67	32.23	Enfield	No
29	74	31.01	Medway	Yes
30	75	30.72	Richmond upon Thames	No
31	79	29.54	Dover	No
32	85	28.63	North Somerset	No
33	86	28.52	City of London	No
34	88	28.19	Wandsworth	No
35	91	27.75	Hammersmith and Fulham	No
36	97	26.82	Swindon	No
37	98	26.40	North Devon	No
38	99	26.32	Cheltenham	No
39	100	26.27	Greenwich	No
40	105	25.61	Harrow	No
41	106	25.51	New Forest	No
42	108	25.19	Cotswold	No
43	110	25.06	Merton	No
44	112	24.60	Ealing	No
45	115	24.33	Islington	No
46	119	23.34	Sutton	No
47	120	23.23	Bristol, City of	No
48	122	22.89	Hillingdon	No
49	123	22.88	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	No
50	125	22.20	East Devon	No
51	127	21.61	Reading	No
52	130	21.21	Lewes	No
53	131	20.97	Bath and North East Somerset	No
54	133	20.77	Lewisham	No
55	134	20.63	Hounslow	No
56	135	20.62	Lambeth	No

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
57	143	19.28	Redbridge	No
58	144	19.19	Brighton and Hove	No
59	145	19.06	West Devon	No
60	148	18.95	Southampton	No
61	149	18.82	Swale	No
62	158	17.89	Chichester	No
63	160	17.57	Tunbridge Wells	No
64	163	17.17	Windsor and Maidenhead	No
65	165	16.83	Eastbourne	No
66	166	16.82	Wealden	No
67	167	16.48	Tewkesbury	No
68	168	16.41	Rushmoor	No
69	169	16.31	Teignbridge	No
70	172	15.88	Bromley	No
71	173	15.71	Havering	No
72	175	15.57	South Hams	No
73	176	15.44	Rother	No
74	177	15.41	Winchester	No
75	183	13.63	South Gloucestershire	No
76	186	12.49	Canterbury	No
77	187	12.47	Waverley	No
78	191	12.03	Havant	No
79	192	12.03	Guildford	No
80	198	11.33	Mid Devon	No
81	200	11.30	Kingston upon Thames	No
82	201	11.30	West Berkshire	No
83	203	11.14	West Oxfordshire	No
84	205	10.91	Slough	No
85	206	10.89	Crawley	No
86	209	10.54	Sevenoaks	No
87	210	10.52	Barnet	No
88	217	9.66	South Oxfordshire	No
89	221	9.14	Cherwell	No
90	222	9.14	Gravesham	No
91	223	8.89	Ashford	No

Ranking within area	National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
92	224	8.81	Stroud	No
93	226	8.75	Dartford	No
94	227	8.64	Test Valley	No
95	231	8.43	Horsham	No
96	232	8.43	Mole Valley	No
97	235	8.15	Milton Keynes	No
98	237	8.06	East Hampshire	No
99	238	7.89	Arun	No
100	239	7.79	Forest of Dean	No
101	242	7.68	Epsom and Ewell	No
102	243	7.60	Torridge	No
103	245	7.56	Mid Sussex	No
104	246	7.54	Vale of White Horse	No
105	248	7.42	Worthing	No
106	249	7.40	Bexley	No
107	251	7.29	Basingstoke and Deane	No
108	254	6.32	Runnymede	No
109	255	6.15	Wokingham	No
110	256	6.11	Folkestone and Hythe	No
111	257	6.06	Elmbridge	No
112	261	5.86	Hart	No
113	263	5.72	Maidstone	No
114	265	5.64	Exeter	No
115	268	5.41	Woking	No
116	269	5.40	Adur	No
117	270	5.00	Tonbridge and Malling	No
118	272	4.57	Bracknell Forest	No
119	273	4.52	Eastleigh	No
120	280	3.84	Tandridge	No
121	286	2.53	Surrey Heath	No
122	287	2.47	Fareham	No
123	291	1.41	Reigate and Banstead	No
124	293	0.95	Spelthorne	No

Scotland

National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
1	90.49	Glasgow City	Yes
2	79.21	Dundee City	No
3	76.77	Shetland Islands	No
4	68.19	Aberdeen City	No
5	63.97	City of Edinburgh	No
6	52.71	Na h-Eileanan Siar	No
7	52.07	Orkney Islands	Yes
8	49.89	Highland	No
9	47.27	North Lanarkshire	No
10	47.23	Inverclyde	No
11	43.69	North Ayrshire	No
12	43.35	West Dunbartonshire	No
13	41.60	Dumfries and Galloway	No
14	40.73	Fife	No
15	37.95	Aberdeenshire	No
16	33.04	Perth and Kinross	No
17	32.59	Scottish Borders	No
18	32.03	Argyll and Bute	No
19	30.28	West Lothian	No
20	28.75	Renfrewshire	No
21	28.31	South Lanarkshire	No
22	27.51	Stirling	No
23	26.67	East Ayrshire	No
24	25.44	Falkirk	No
25	24.95	Angus	No
26	24.42	South Ayrshire	No
27	23.79	East Lothian	No
28	21.93	Midlothian	No
29	19.02	Moray	No
30	11.13	Clackmannanshire	No
31	7.12	East Renfrewshire	No
32	2.73	East Dunbartonshire	No

Wales

National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
1	79.53	Denbighshire	No
2	78.83	Powys	No
3	76.34	Swansea	No
4	74.99	Isle of Anglesey	Yes
5	69.47	Neath Port Talbot	Yes
6	69.12	Monmouthshire	No
7	64.16	Torfaen	No
8	60.60	Blaenau Gwent	No
9	60.31	Gwynedd	No
10	54.78	Pembrokeshire	No
11	53.28	Newport	No
12	51.22	Conwy	No
13	51.15	Cardiff	No
14	50.50	Carmarthenshire	No
15	49.87	Caerphilly	No
16	48.74	Rhondda Cynon Taf	No
17	46.51	Merthyr Tydfil	No
18	46.36	Ceredigion	No
19	33.18	Wrexham	No
20	30.27	Flintshire	No
21	25.41	Vale of Glamorgan	No
22	23.60	Bridgend	No

Northern Ireland

National rank	Total Score	Place	Heritage Place (yes/no)
1	84.67	Belfast	Yes
2	84.16	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Yes
3	68.48	Fermanagh and Omagh	No
4	64.82	Ards and North Down	No
5	57.37	Newry, Mourne and Down	No
6	51.42	Causeway Coast and Glens	No
7	46.24	Derry City and Strabane	No
8	39.87	Mid and East Antrim	No
9	29.81	Mid Ulster	No
10	15.68	Lisburn and Castlereagh	No
11	2.59	Antrim and Newtownabbey	No