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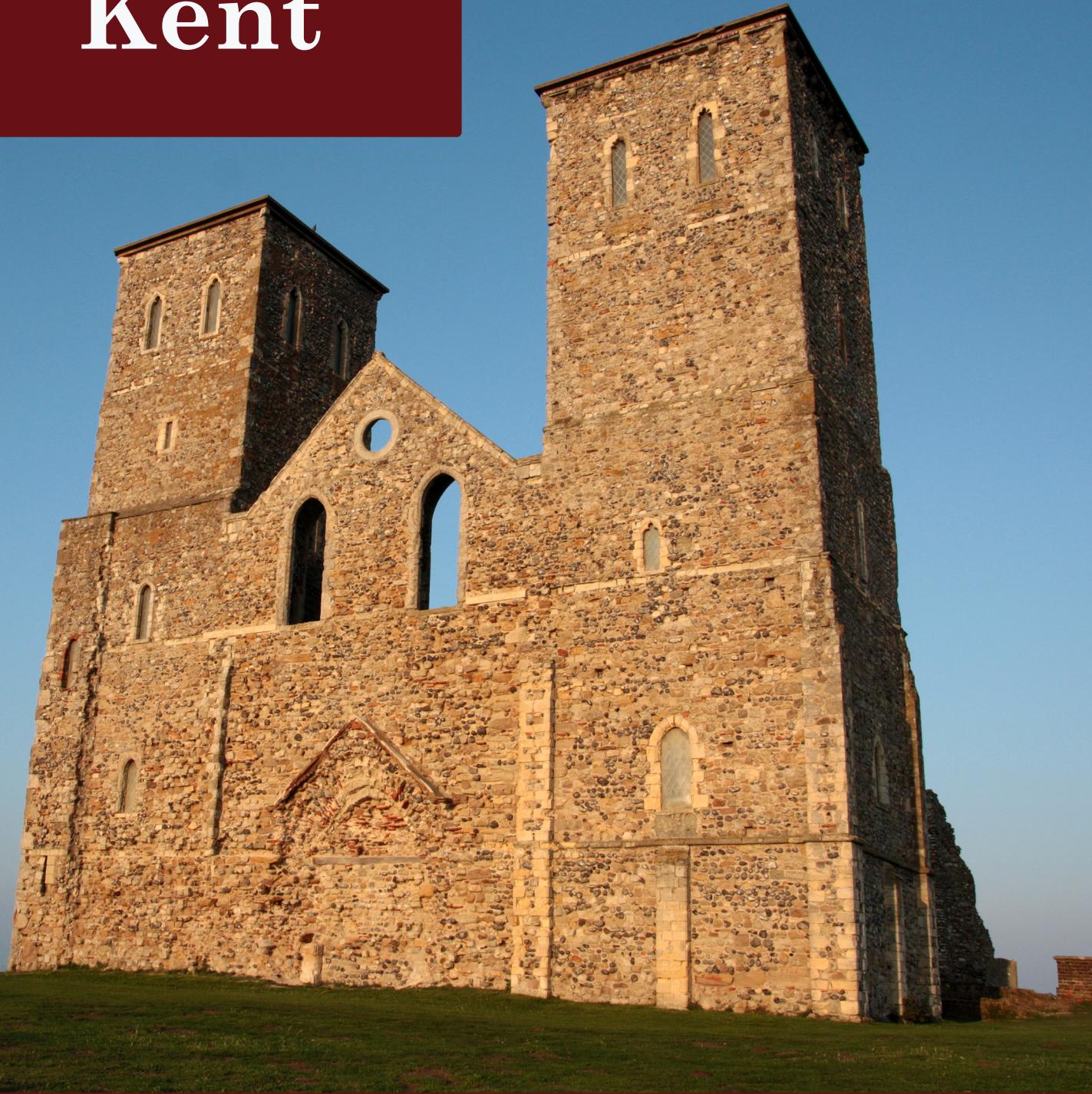
Kent

State of the
Historic Environment 2021

Compiled by David W. J. Gill and Peter Matthews

University of Kent | Centre for Heritage

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Reculver, Kent. © David Gill

Back Cover
Walmer Castle, Kent. © David Gill

Table of Contents

The RSA Heritage Index and Heritage in Kent

The RSA published its latest iteration of the Heritage Index in the autumn of 2020. This updates the data from 2016. The purpose of the Index is to assist with data-informed decision making for the heritage sector in the United Kingdom. The data are grouped around six main themes: Historic Built Environment; Museums, Archives and Artefacts; Industrial Heritage; Parks and Open Spaces; Landscape and Natural Heritage; and Cultures and Memories. There is a further category looking at basic infrastructure.

The Index is presented by local authority in England, with rankings available for each theme. The methodology gives a different weighting to each element of data; for example, public participation with the Historic Built Environment is worth 20 per cent of the activity section for that theme, whereas Grade I listed buildings 'at risk' reduce the asset element by 12 per cent.

There are differences in the data available for the different nations within the United Kingdom.

This report has been prepared by the Centre for Heritage at the University of Kent to identify ways to develop and support the heritage sector within the county and region. This report emphasises that six local authorities in Kent are placed in the top 100 for England.

This report is part of a series on the State of the Historic Environment in 2021 available via the Centre for Heritage website.[1]

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[1] https://research.kent.ac.uk/heritage/

Local Authorities in Kent

The county of Kent includes the following 12 local authorities:
- Ashford
- Canterbury
- Dartford
- Dover
- Gravesham
- Maidstone
- Sevenoaks
- Folkestone and Hythe (formerly Shepway)
- Swale
- Thanet
- Tonbridge and Malling
- Tunbridge Wells

There is a single unitary authority:
- Medway
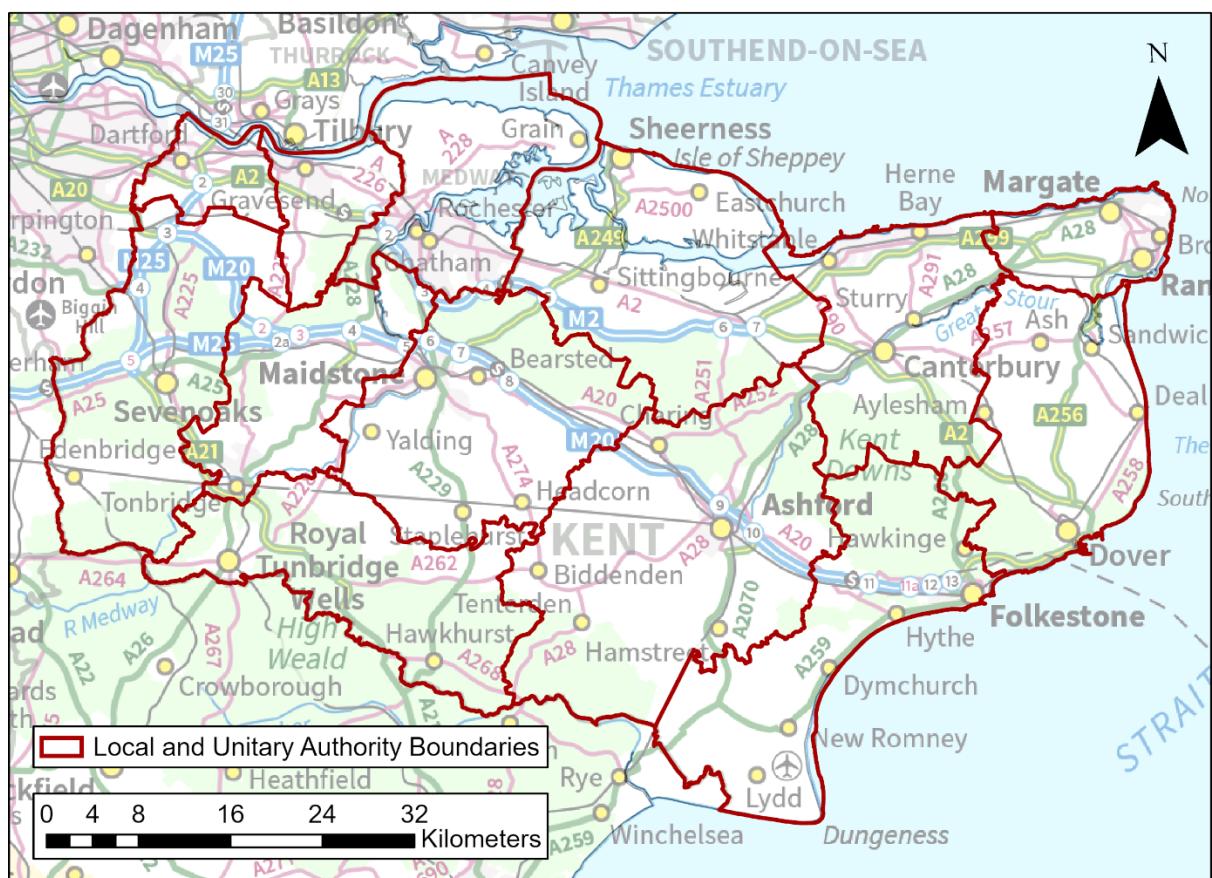
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Overview for Local Authorities in Kent

Local Authority	Heritage Index Rank: Overall		
	2020	**2016**	**Change**
Tunbridge Wells	36	34	⬂ -2
Dover	49	84	⬆ 35
Swale	61	50	⬇ -11
Thanet	63	66	⬆ 3
Canterbury	67	90	⬆ 23
Medway	90	71	⬇ -19
Folkestone and Hythe	108	123	⬆ 15
Tonbridge and Malling	114	108	⬇ -6
Gravesham	118	119	⬈ 1
Sevenoaks	137	121	⬇ -16
Maidstone	154	150	⬇ -4
Ashford	167	228	⬆ 61
Dartford	259	305	⬆ 46
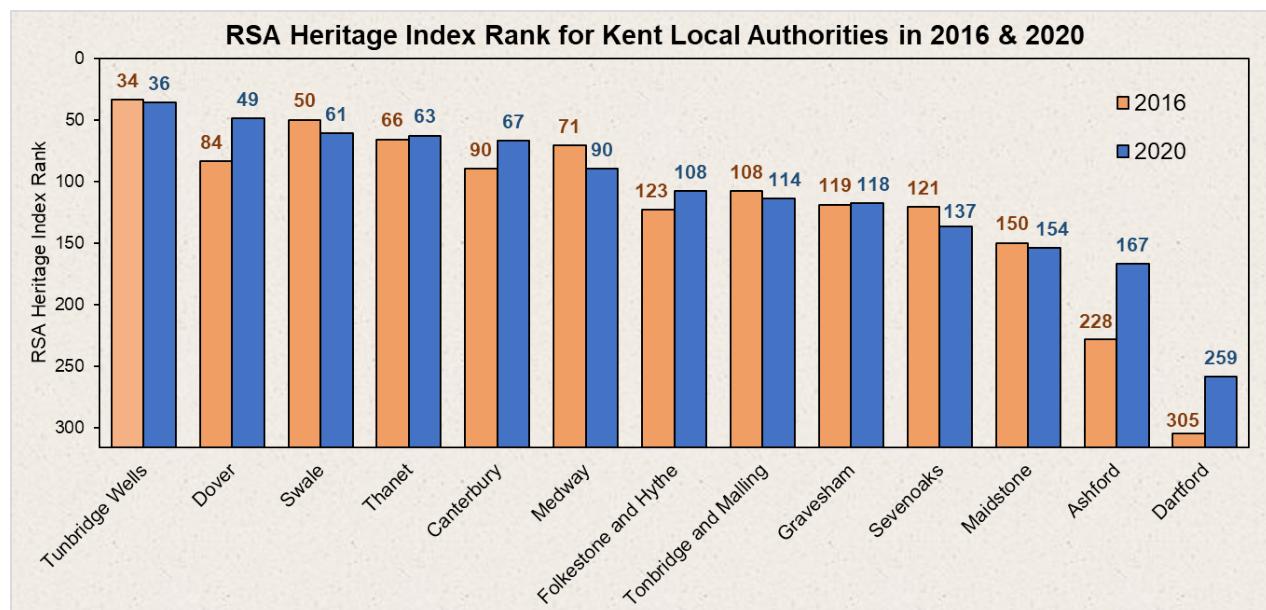
There are six local or unitary authorities in Kent that are placed in the top 100 heritage locations in England. There are 316 authorities ranked for the 2020 index; there were 325 authorities for the 2016 study. There was an improved position in the index for Dover, Thanet, Canterbury, Folkestone and Hythe, Gravesham, Ashford, and Dartford. Ashford's rise of 61 places is noteworthy. There were falls, some modest, for Swale, Medway, Tonbridge and Malling, Sevenoaks, and Maidstone.

Rankings

Ashford Borough Council

Ashford: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

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TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	167	228	⬆	61
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	181	193	⬆	12
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	131	246	⬆	115
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	216	96	⬆	120

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	151	136	⬇	-15
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	291	298	⬆	7
Industrial Heritage	238	181	⬇	-57
Parks and open space	115	241	⬆	126
Landscape and natural heritage	93	144	⬆	51
Culture and Memories	176	225	⬆	49
General	137	139	⬈	2

Canterbury City Council
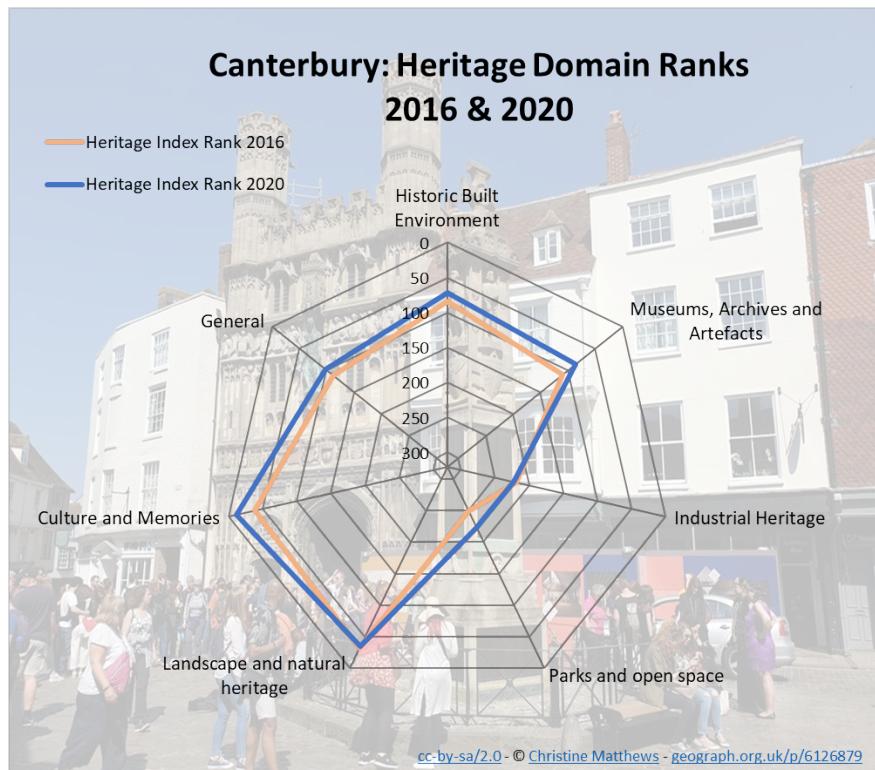
Canterbury: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

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TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	67	90	⬆	23
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	105	101	⬇	-4
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	50	79	⬆	29
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	224	188	⬆	36

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	72	84	⬆	12
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	86	109	⬆	23
Industrial Heritage	222	219	⬇	-3
Parks and open space	223	249	⬆	26
Landscape and natural heritage	35	32	⬇	-3
Culture and Memories	12	38	⬆	26
General	97	112	⬆	15

Dartford Borough Council
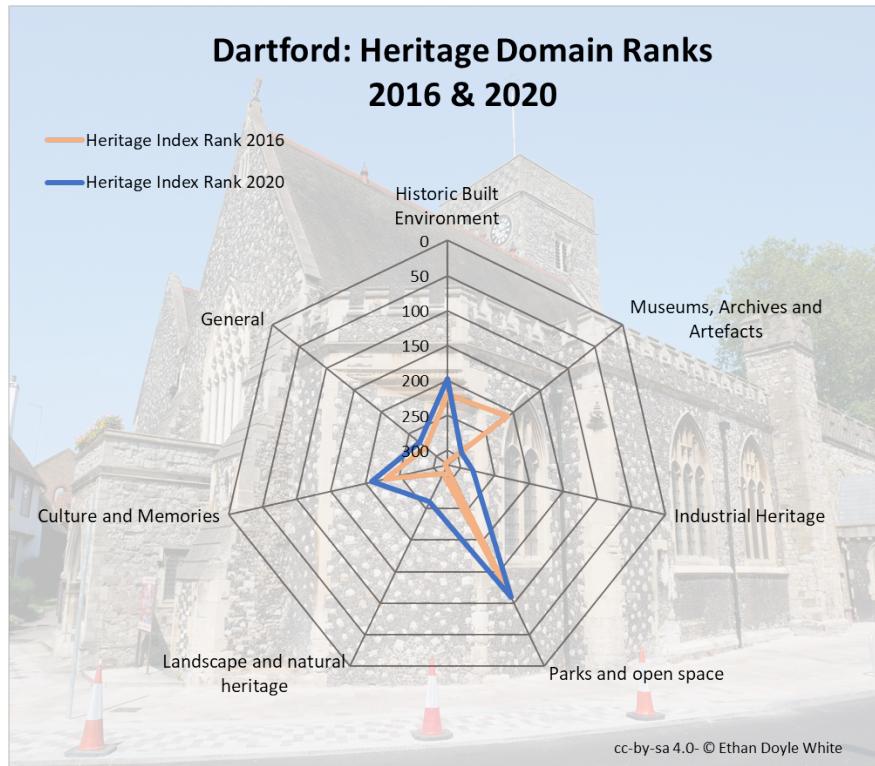
Dartford: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

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TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	259	305	⬆	46
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	169	199	⬆	30
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	298	322	⬆	24
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	39	49	⬇	-10

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	197	220	⬆	23
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	294	210	⬇	-84
Industrial Heritage	282	324	⬆	42
Parks and open space	110	117	⬆	7
Landscape and natural heritage	262	306	⬆	44
Culture and Memories	209	230	⬆	21
General	270	281	⬆	11

Dover District Council
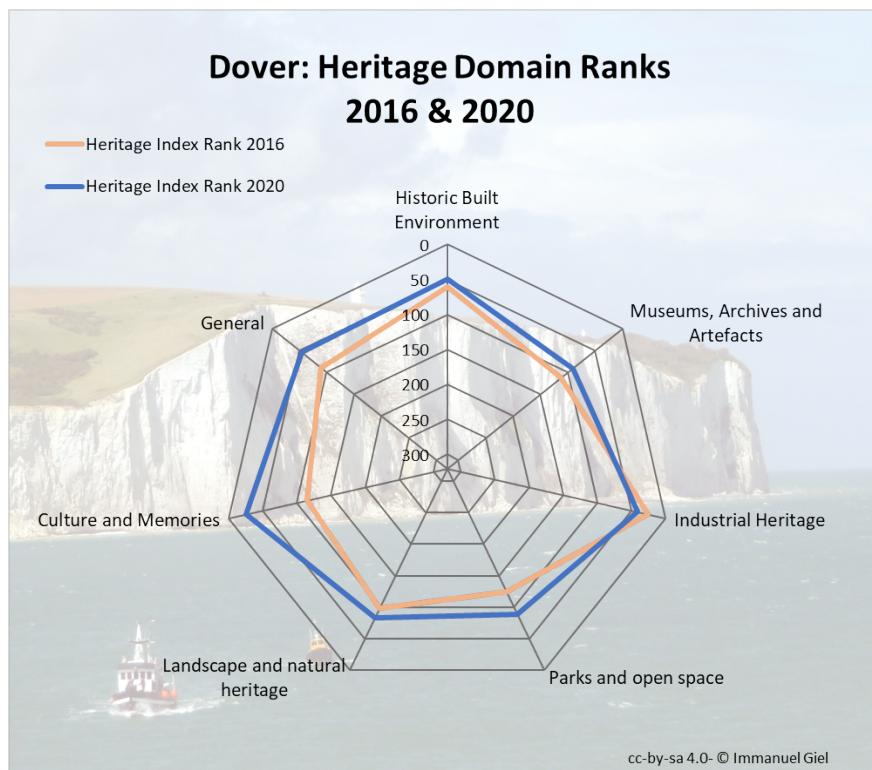
Dover: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

- Heritage Index Rank 2016
- Heritage Index Rank 2020

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TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	49	84	⬆	35
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	90	68	⬇	-22
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	22	66	⬆	44
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	238	166	⬆	72

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016		Change in Heritage Index Rank
Historic Built Environment	49	60	⬆	11
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	91	112	⬆	21
Industrial Heritage	41	26	⬇	-15
Parks and open space	89	125	⬆	36
Landscape and natural heritage	83	98	⬆	15
Culture and Memories	26	115	⬆	89
General	54	90	⬆	36

Folkestone and Hythe District Council
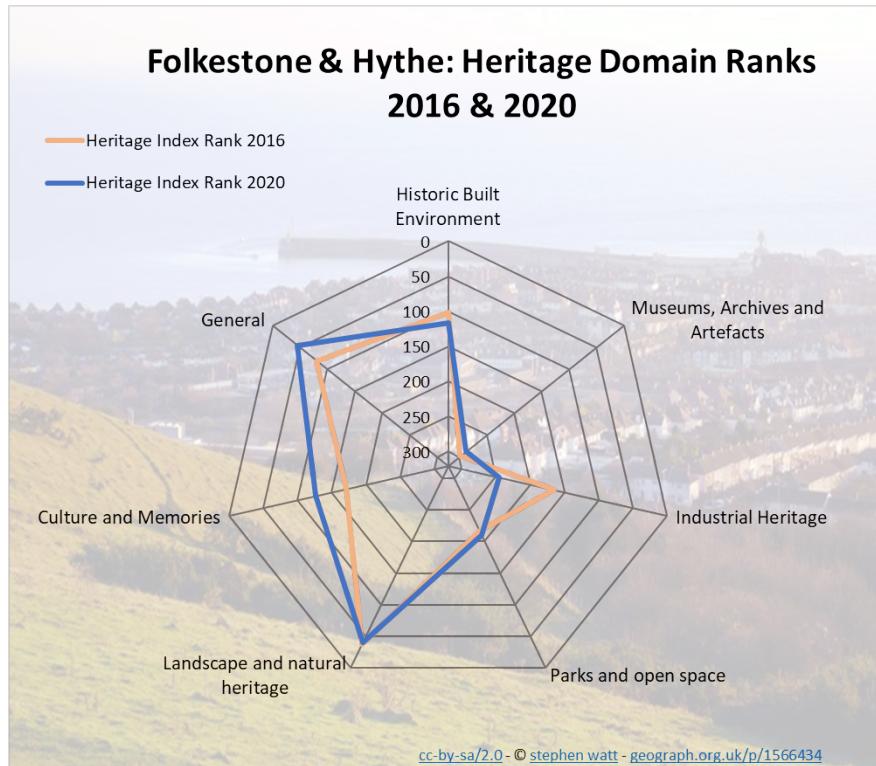
Folkestone & Hythe: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

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TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	108	123	⬆	15
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	125	105	⬇	-20
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	138	188	⬆	50
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	134	76	⬆	58

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	116	101	⬇	-15
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	287	298	⬆	11
Industrial Heritage	245	165	⬇	-80
Parks and open space	210	217	⬆	7
Landscape and natural heritage	41	38	⬇	-3
Culture and Memories	126	171	⬆	45
General	46	81	⬆	35

Gravesham Borough Council
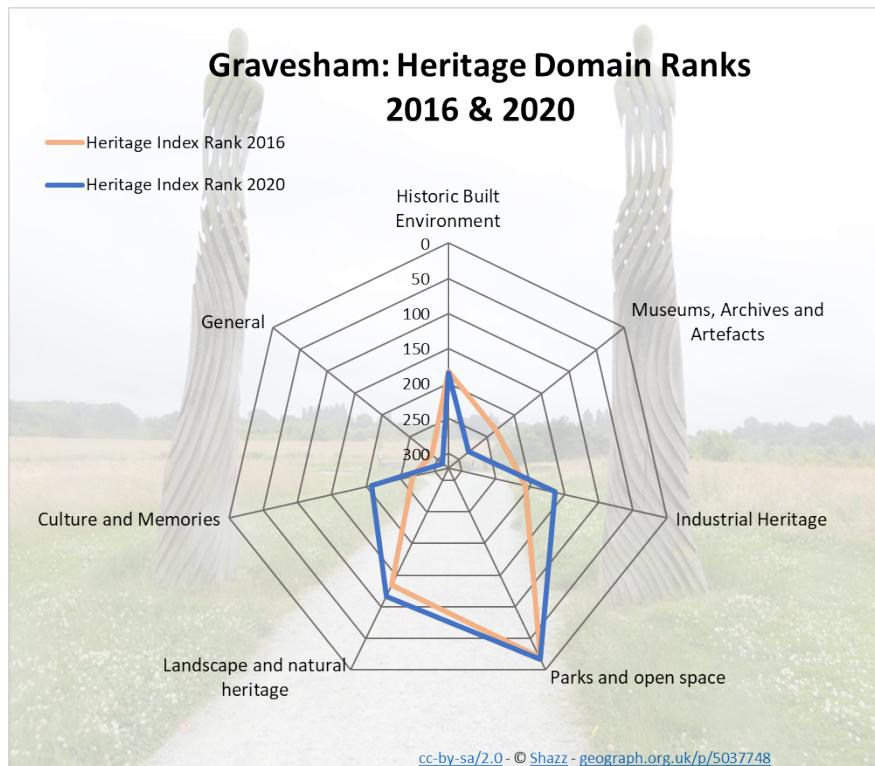
Gravesham: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

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TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	118	119	⬈	1
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	39	46	⬆	7
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	292	305	⬆	13
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	4	6	⬊	-2

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	185	183	⬊	-2
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	283	234	⬇	-49
Industrial Heritage	164	207	⬆	43
Parks and open space	17	19	⬈	2
Landscape and natural heritage	116	134	⬆	18
Culture and Memories	208	268	⬆	60
General	310	290	⬇	-20

Maidstone Borough Council
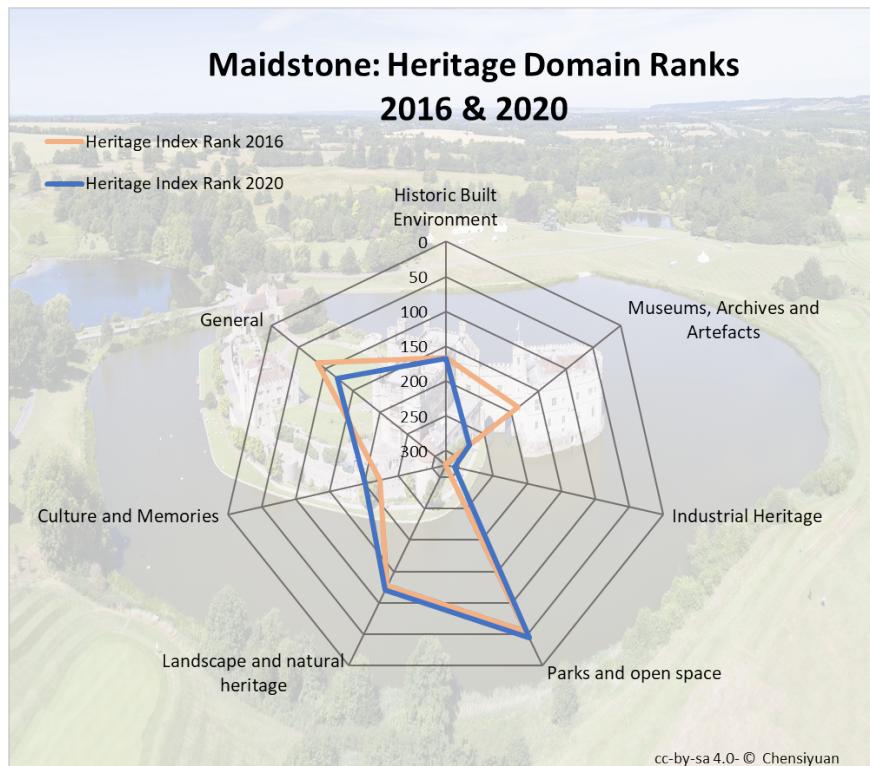
Maidstone: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

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TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	154	150	⬇	-4
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	118	125	⬆	7
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	196	166	⬇	-30
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	77	109	⬇	-32

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	168	166	⬊	-2
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	276	187	⬇	-89
Industrial Heritage	307	321	⬆	14
Parks and open space	45	54	⬆	9
Landscape and natural heritage	120	127	⬆	7
Culture and Memories	202	224	⬆	22
General	121	85	⬇	-36

Medway Council
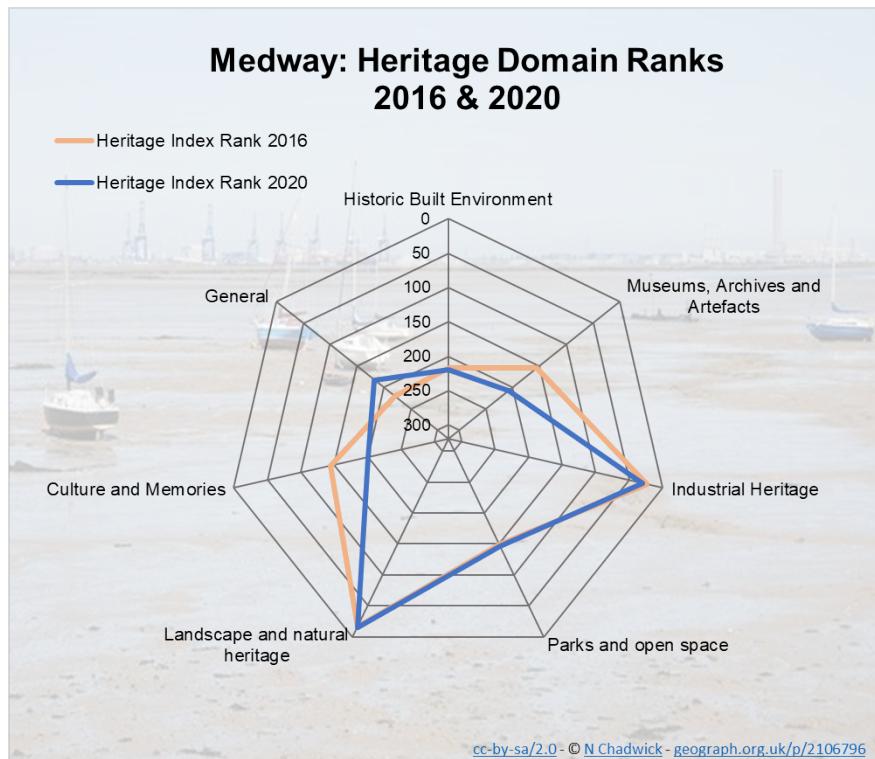
Medway: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

TOTAL SCORES	**Heritage Index Rank 2020**	**Heritage Index Rank 2016**	**Change in Heritage Index Rank**	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	90	71	⬇	-19
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	34	33	⬊	-1
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	247	207	⬇	-40
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	9	23	⬇	-14

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	**Heritage Index Rank 2020**	**Heritage Index Rank 2016**	**Change in Heritage Index Rank**	
Historic Built Environment	220	217	⬇	-3
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	208	155	⬇	-53
Industrial Heritage	30	23	⬇	-7
Parks and open space	146	149	⬆	3
Landscape and natural heritage	15	17	⬈	2
Culture and Memories	201	145	⬇	-56
General	183	221	⬆	38

Sevenoaks District Council
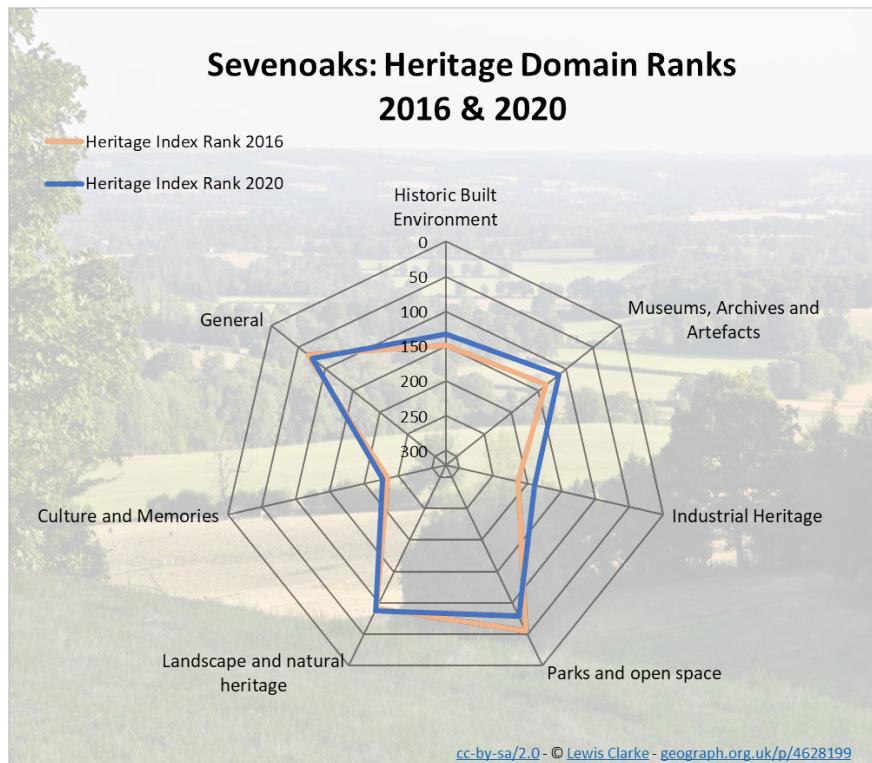
Sevenoaks: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	137	121	⬇	-16
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	99	106	⬆	7
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	180	99	⬇	-81
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	76	172	⬇	-96

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	133	149	⬆	16
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	113	136	⬆	23
Industrial Heritage	189	214	⬆	25
Parks and open space	79	55	⬇	-24
Landscape and natural heritage	88	92	⬆	4
Culture and Memories	227	235	⬆	8
General	76	68	⬇	-8

Swale District Council
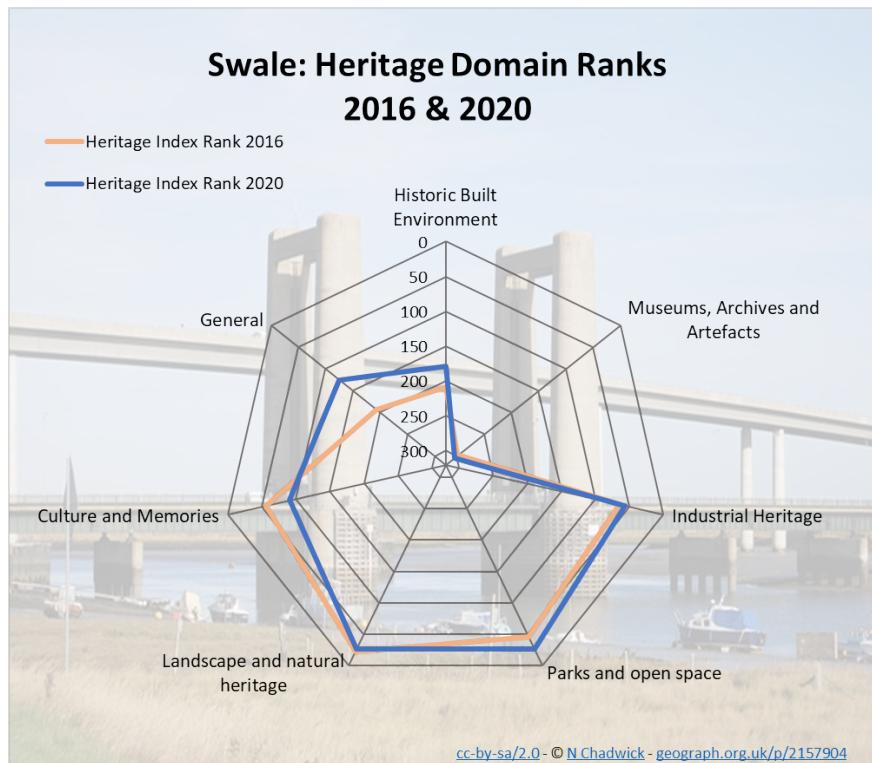
Swale: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	61	50	⬇	-11
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	35	37	⬈	2
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	135	194	⬆	59
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	58	31	⬆	27

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	179	208	⬆	29
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	304	298	⬇	-6
Industrial Heritage	57	64	⬆	7
Parks and open space	27	46	⬆	19
Landscape and natural heritage	26	23	⬇	-3
Culture and Memories	91	56	⬇	-35
General	125	193	⬆	68

Thanet District Council
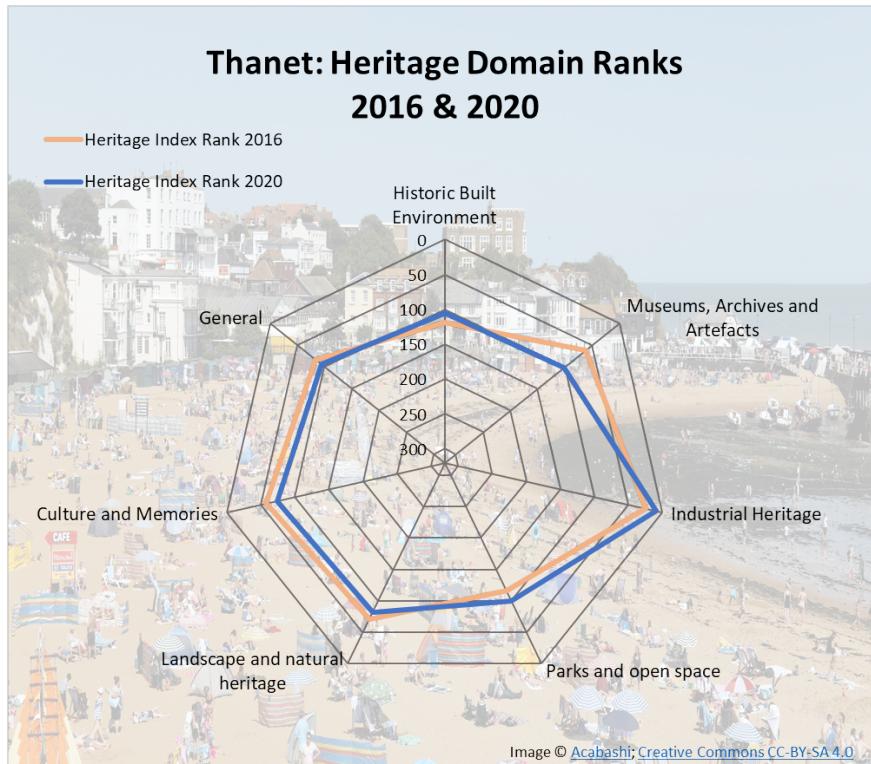
Thanet: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	63	66	⬆	3
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	42	59	⬆	17
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	41	59	⬆	18
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	157	160	⬇	-3

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	105	119	⬆	14
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	101	62	⬇	-39
Industrial Heritage	10	25	⬆	15
Parks and open space	100	116	⬆	16
Landscape and natural heritage	82	71	⬇	-11
Culture and Memories	74	58	⬇	-16
General	94	83	⬇	-11

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
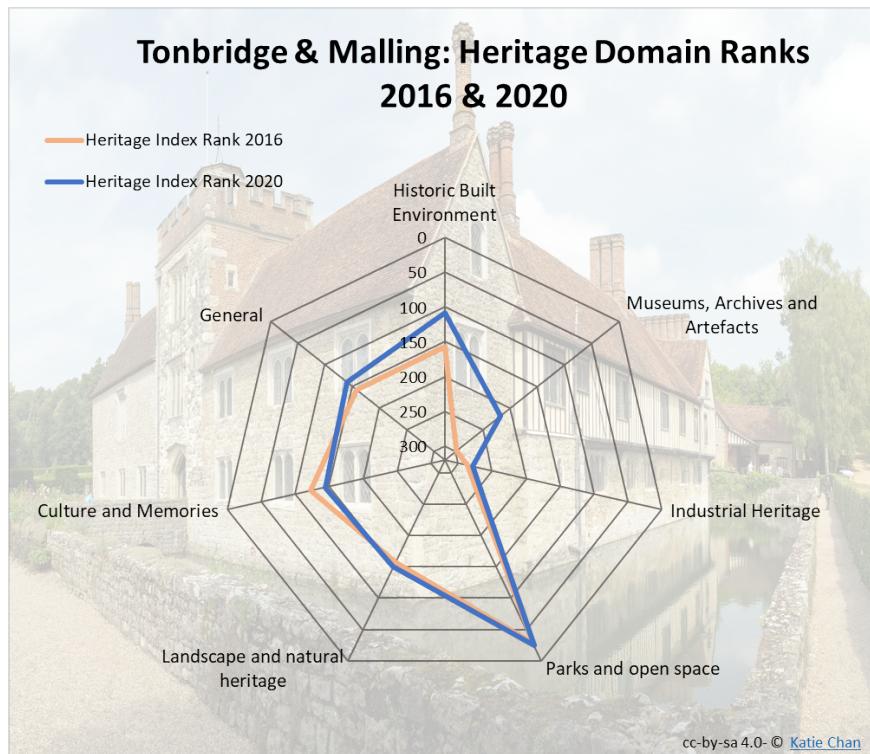
Tonbridge & Malling: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

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TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	114	108	⬇	-6
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	63	61	⬂	-2
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	195	270	⬆	75
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	35	15	⬆	20

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	109	157	⬆	48
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	218	298	⬆	80
Industrial Heritage	279	286	⬆	7
Parks and open space	24	27	⬆	3
Landscape and natural heritage	150	157	⬆	7
Culture and Memories	144	122	⬇	-22
General	141	158	⬆	17

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
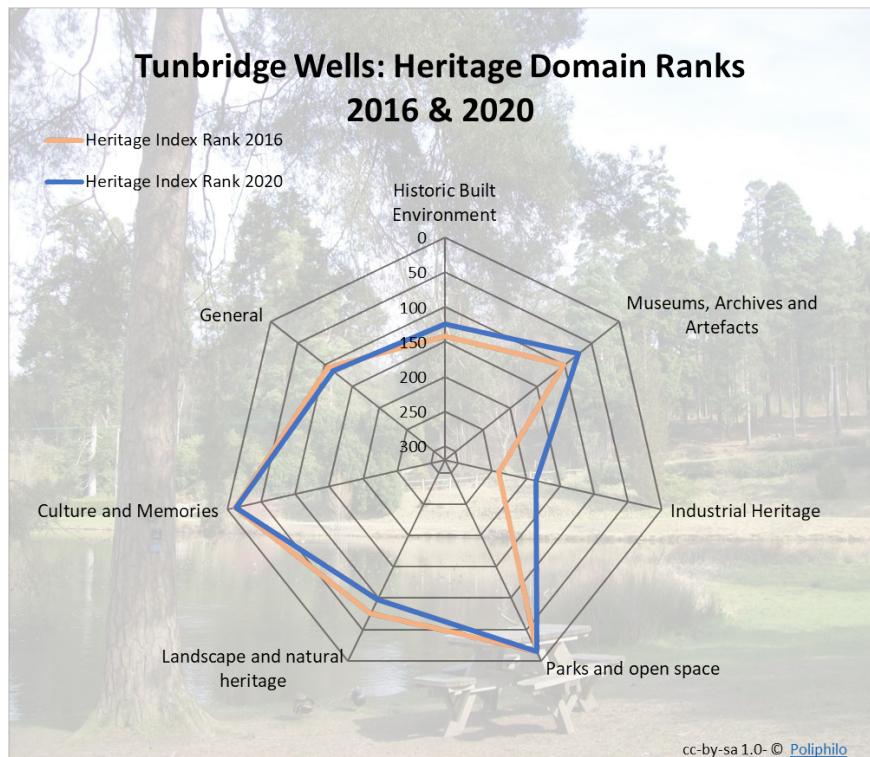
Tunbridge Wells: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

TOTAL SCORES	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Heritage Index Rank: Overall	36	34	⬂	-2
Heritage Index Rank: Assets	51	57	⬆	6
Heritage Index Rank: Activities	36	27	⬇	-9
Heritage Index Rank: Hertiage Potential	174	197	⬇	-23

HERITAGE DOMAIN RANKS

Heritage Domain	Heritage Index Rank 2020	Heritage Index Rank 2016	Change in Heritage Index Rank	
Historic Built Environment	125	142	⬆	17
Museums, Archives and Artefacts	74	101	⬆	27
Industrial Heritage	186	240	⬆	54
Parks and open space	15	15	⮕	0
Landscape and natural heritage	98	75	⬇	-23
Culture and Memories	13	11	⬂	-2
General	115	106	⬇	-9

Heritage Potential

Kent and Medway - Heritage Assets, Activities, and Potential - 2020
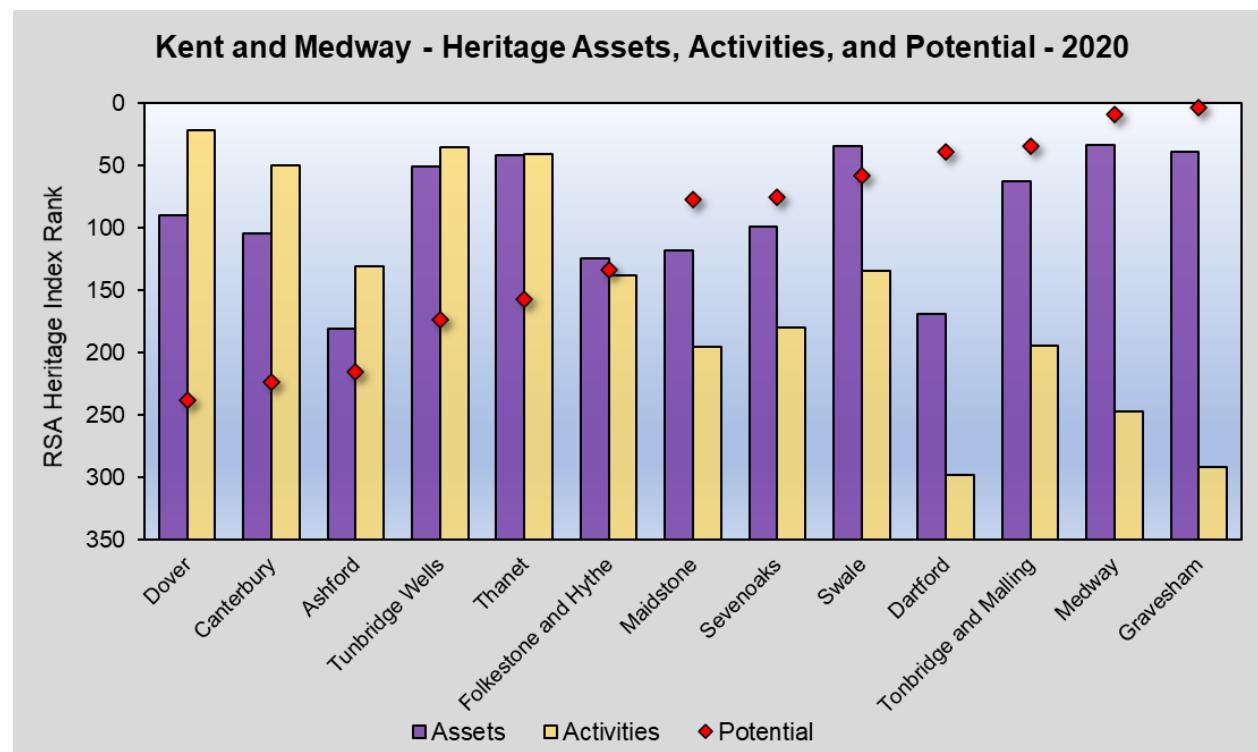
The 'Heritage Potential' in the Report is defined as:

> Calculated as the difference in heritage assets ranking and heritage activities ranking. This is the opportunity within the Heritage Index to utilise assets.

This is explained in the Report as (Webster 2020: 11):

> The Heritage Index also includes a measure of heritage potential which identifies local areas which have a higher heritage assets ranking than activities, suggesting there is potential for more activity in the area.

> This supports the RSA's belief that heritage offers an important, but often untapped, opportunity for inclusive growth. To this end, our heritage potential ranking highlights areas where there might be scope for increased activity and heritage support, whilst data on heritage businesses across the domains will help us to understand which areas are likely to experience a long term impact on their local economies.

Comparing the rankings for heritage assets, activities, and potential across Kent and Medway reveals differences in the extent to which each Local Authority has been able to make use of its heritage assets.

Dover, Canterbury, Ashford, Tunbridge Wells and Thanet are all ranked higher for their heritage activities than their heritage assets, suggesting good use of heritage assets. Therefore, it is not surprising that they have low to moderate rankings for heritage potential.

These local authorities can be contrasted with those in North Kent, around the Thames Estuary / Corridor. For Swale, Dartford, Medway, and Gravesham, the rankings for

heritage activities are notably lower than the rankings for heritage activities, and so these Local Authorities are ranked highly for heritage potential.

The difference between assets and activities rankings is especially extreme for Medway and Gravesham, which both fall into the top 10 Local Authorities in England for heritage potential, with potential rankings of 9 and 4, respectively. This indicates considerable untapped potential for these Local Authorities to capitalise on the strength of their existing heritage assets.

This should be considered in parallel with the fall in the Heritage Index for Maidstone from 150 to 154, while Gravesham increased by one place from 119 to 118.

Heritage Potential and the Thames Estuary

The RSA report has highlighted the Thames Estuary for its heritage potential (Webster 2020: 19): with Castle Point (1), Rochford (5), Southend-on-Sea (16), as well as on the other side of the Thames, Gravesham (4), Medway (9), and Dartford (39). The unitary authority of Thurrock (52) is also included here.

	Assets	Activities	Potential
Castle Point	14	303	1
Rochford	12	258	5
Southend-on-Sea	5	186	16
Thurrock	204	314	52
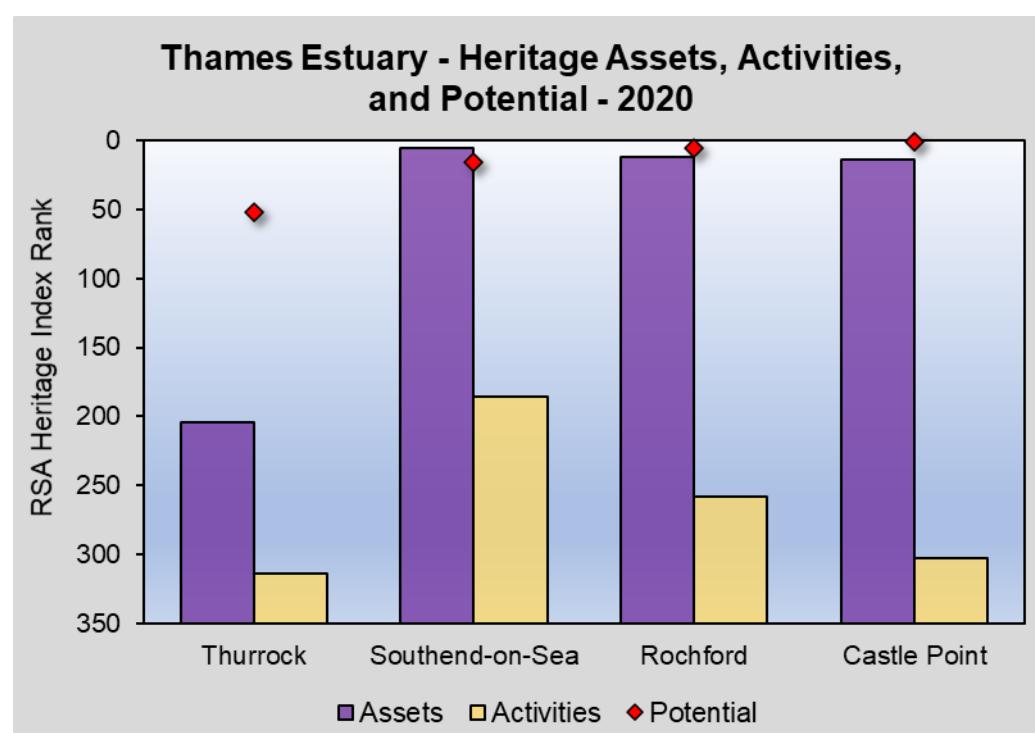
Southend-on-Sea, Rochford, and Castle Point are all ranked within the top 20 authorities in England for their heritage assets. Looking at each of these Local Authorities individually shows that they are all characterised by high rankings for heritage in both the Landscape and Natural Heritage, and Industrial Heritage, domains, with Castle Point also being ranked highly for Parks and Open Spaces.

Southend-on-Sea

**Southend-on-Sea: Heritage Domain Ranks
2016 & 2020**

Heritage Index Rank 2016
Heritage Index Rank 2020

Rochford

**Rochford: Heritage Domain Ranks
2016 & 2020**

Heritage Index Rank 2016
Heritage Index Rank 2020

Castle Point

Castle Point: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

Thurrock

Thurrock: Heritage Domain Ranks 2016 & 2020

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

Heritage Potential and Adjacent Authorities

	Assets	Activities	Potential
Bromley	155	144	169
Tandridge	205	220	132
Wealden	132	160	122
Rother	91	99	139

The four authorities to the west of Kent are listed here from north to south.
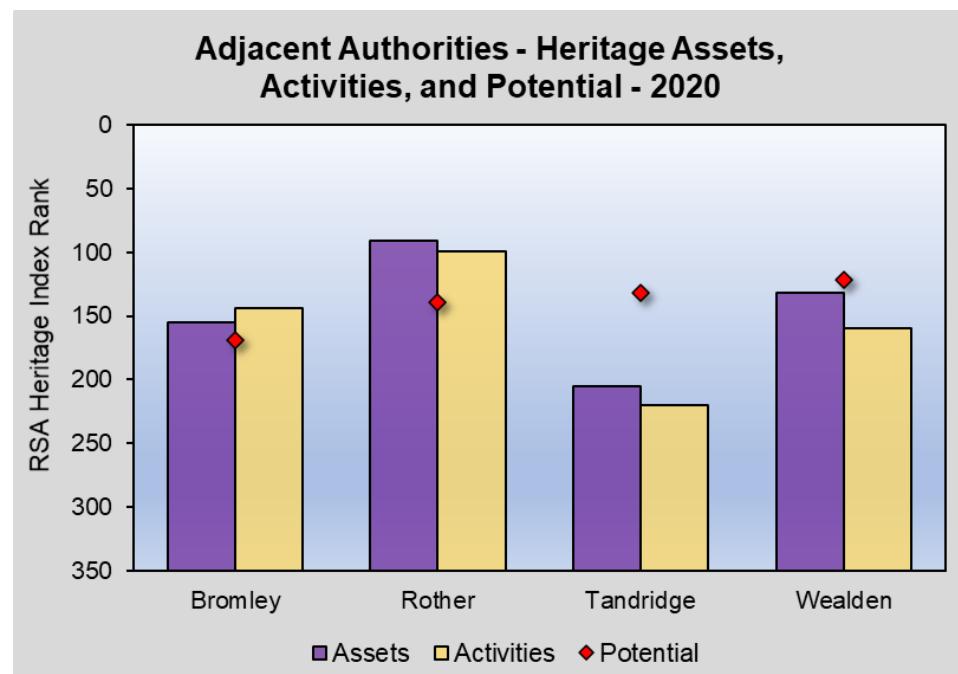
While Bromley has a higher ranking for its heritage activities than its assets, the other three authorities are ranked higher for their assets than their activities, and so also report higher rankings for heritage potential. Wealden has the highest heritage potential ranking (122), however, this is still considerably lower than those authorities around the Thames Estuary, as described above.

Bromley

**Bromley: Heritage Domain Ranks
2016 & 2020**

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

Tandridge

**Tandridge: Heritage Domain Ranks
2016 & 2020**

— Heritage Index Rank 2016
— Heritage Index Rank 2020

Wealden

**Wealden: Heritage Domain Ranks
2016 & 2020**

- Heritage Index Rank 2016
- Heritage Index Rank 2020

Historic Built Environment
0
50
100
150
200
250
300

Museums, Archives and Artefacts

Industrial Heritage

Parks and open space

Landscape and natural heritage

Culture and Memories

General

Rother

**Rother: Heritage Domain Ranks
2016 & 2020**

- Heritage Index Rank 2016
- Heritage Index Rank 2020

Historic Built Environment
0
50
100
150
200
250
300

Museums, Archives and Artefacts

Industrial Heritage

Parks and open space

Landscape and natural heritage

Culture and Memories

General

Historic Built Environment

The data used for the analysis are derived from Historic England.

|	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change	
Dover	49	60	⬆	11
Canterbury	72	84	⬆	12
Thanet	105	119	⬆	14
Tonbridge and Malling	109	157	⬆	48
Folkestone and Hythe	116	101	⬇	-15
Tunbridge Wells	125	142	⬆	17
Sevenoaks	133	149	⬆	16
Ashford	151	136	⬇	-15
Maidstone	168	166	⬊	-2
Swale	179	208	⬆	29
Gravesham	185	183	⬊	-2
Dartford	197	220	⬆	23
Medway	220	217	⬇	-3

Kent: Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments

■ Listed Buildings (Grade I) ■ Listed Buildings (Grade II*)
■ Listed Buildings (Grade II) ■ Scheduled Monuments
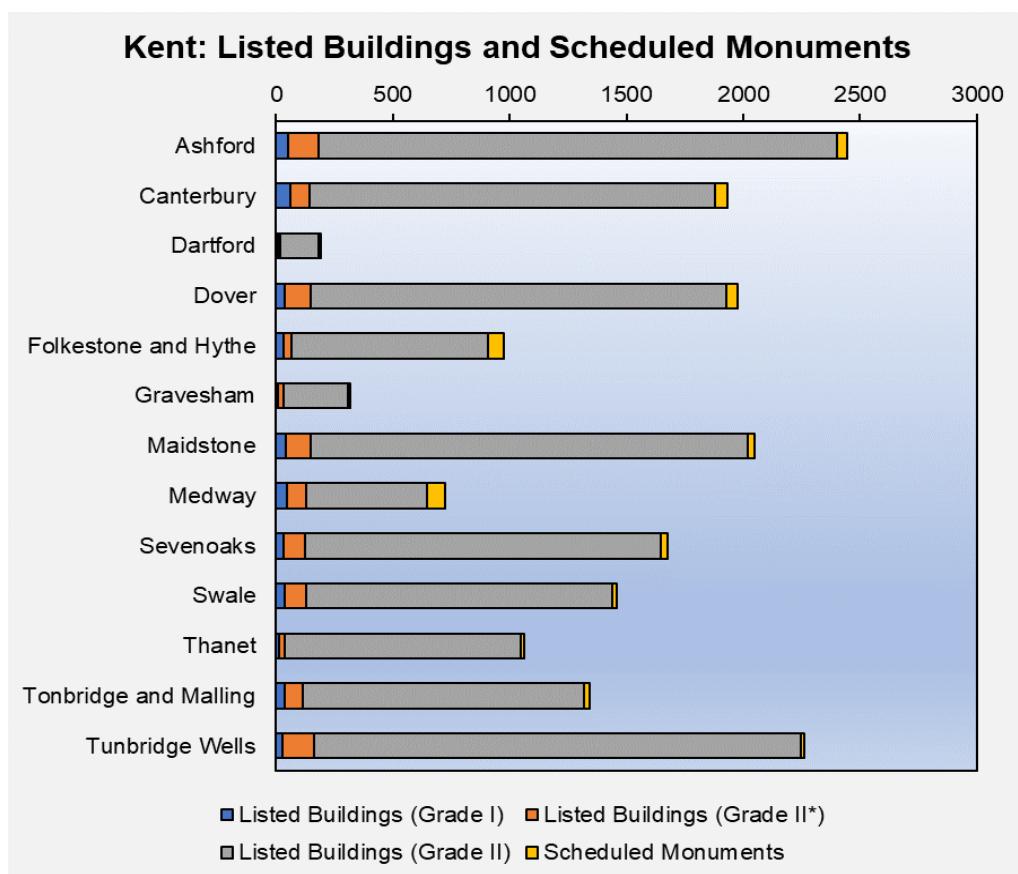
There are 435 Grade I, 990 Grade II*, and 16,552 Grade II listed buildings in Kent. In addition, there are 435 scheduled monuments. Canterbury has the highest number of Grade I listed buildings (62).

Note. The data for Folkestone and Hythe are based on the RSA Heritage Index (2016).

Heritage at Risk

Kent: Heritage at Risk
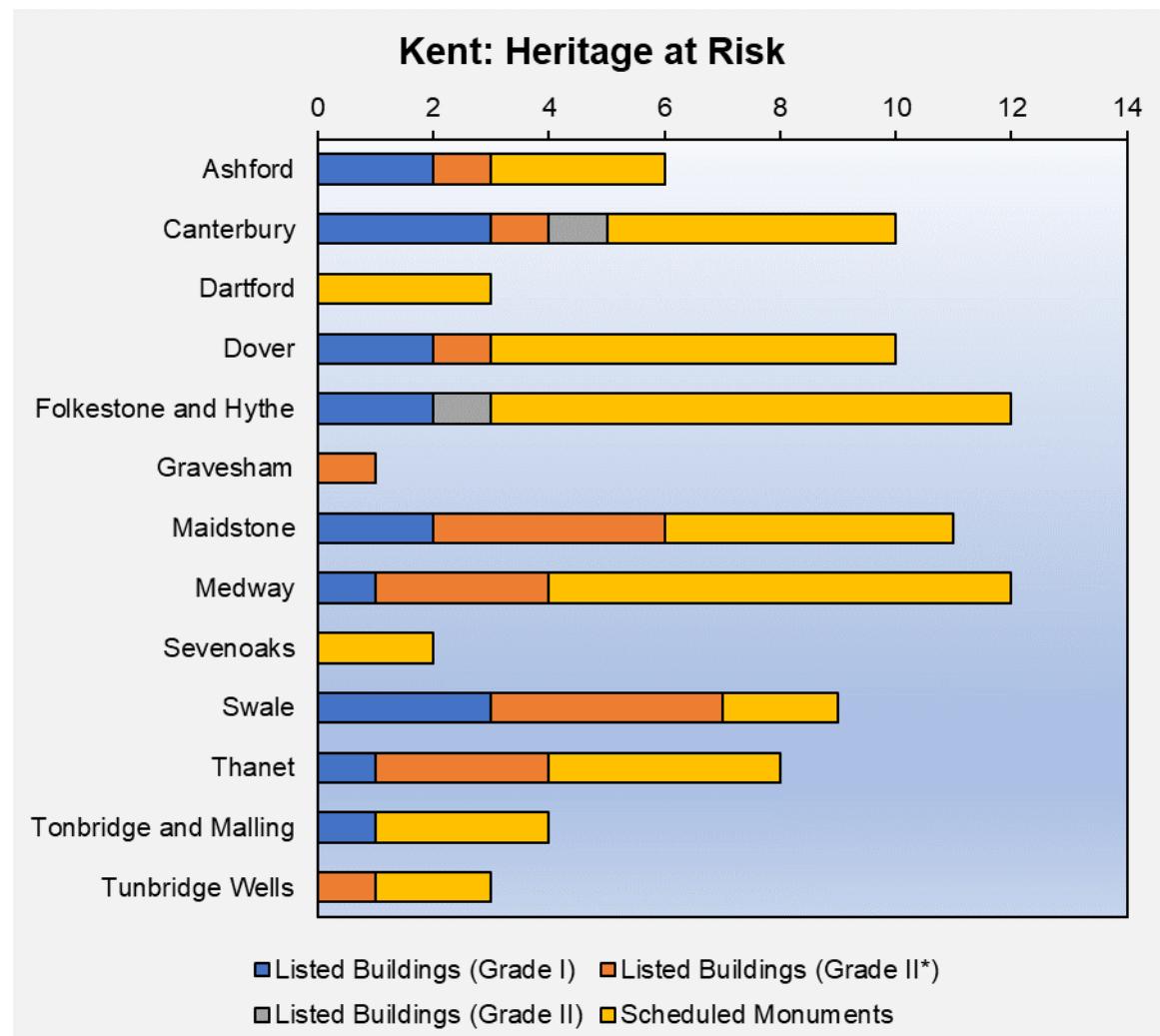
There are 17 Grade I, 19 Grade II*, and 2 Grade II listed buildings at risk in Kent. This represents 3.9 per cent of Grade I listed buildings, 4.4 per cent Grade II*, and 0.5 per cent of Grade II.

There are 53 scheduled monuments at risk representing 12.2 per cent of the total.

Note. The data for Folkestone and Hythe are based on the RSA Heritage Index (2016).

Listed Parks
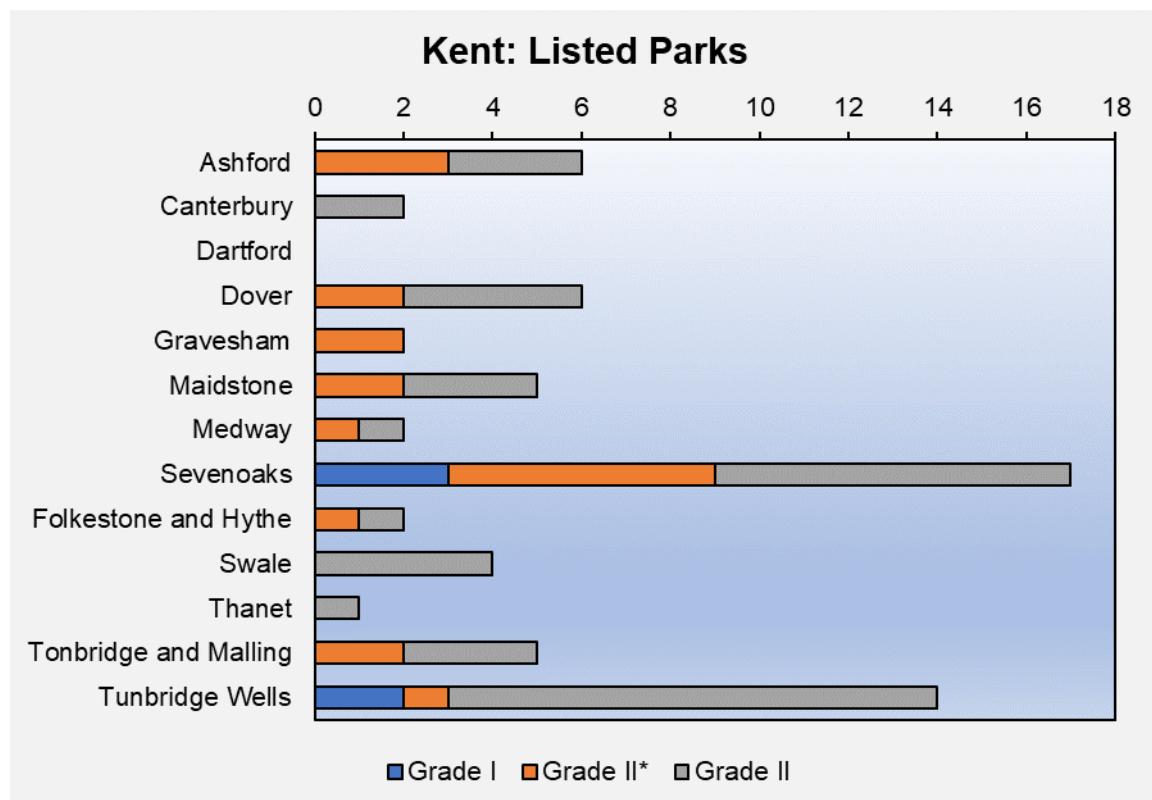
Kent: Listed Parks

There are 5 Grade I Listed Parks in Kent (all in Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells), 20 Grade II*, and 41 Grade II.

Note. The data for Folkestone and Hythe is based on the RSA Heritage Index (2016).

Museums, Archives and Artefacts

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change	
Tunbridge Wells	74	101	⬆	27
Canterbury	86	109	⬆	23
Dover	91	112	⬆	21
Thanet	101	62	⬇	-39
Sevenoaks	113	136	⬆	23
Medway	208	155	⬇	-53
Tonbridge and Malling	219	298	⬆	79
Maidstone	276	187	⬇	-89
Gravesham	283	234	⬇	-49
Folkestone and Hythe	287	298	⬆	11
Ashford	291	298	⬆	7
Dartford	294	210	⬇	-84
Swale	304	298	⬇	-6

The Archaeological Record
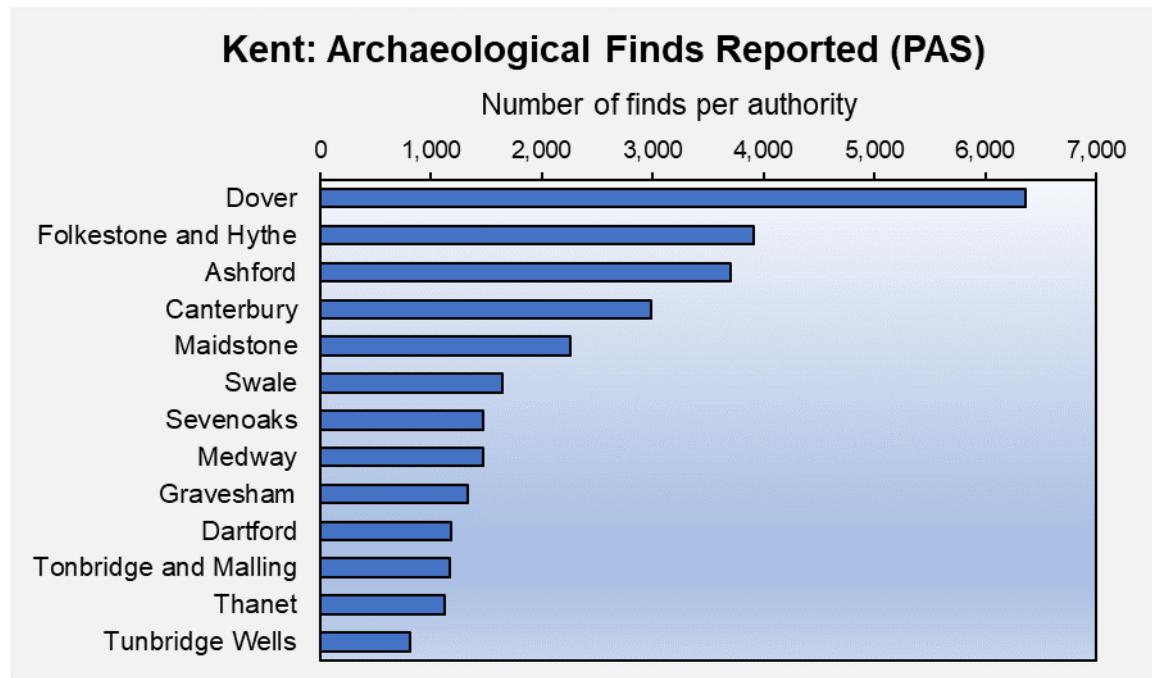
The data are derived from the Portable Antiquities Scheme and show the voluntary reporting of archaeological finds from members of the public. These are largely, but not solely, derived from metal-detecting. A total of 29,407 finds have been recorded for Kent.

Historic Environment Record

Kent: Historic Environment Record (Monuments)

Number of HER entries per authority

Authority	Approximate HER entries
Dover	~12,500
Canterbury	~9,200
Ashford	~8,000
Folkestone and Hythe	~7,300
Swale	~6,500
Maidstone	~6,400
Thanet	~6,000
Sevenoaks	~5,200
Medway	~4,600
Tunbridge Wells	~4,400
Tonbridge and Malling	~4,000
Gravesham	~3,200
Dartford	~2,800
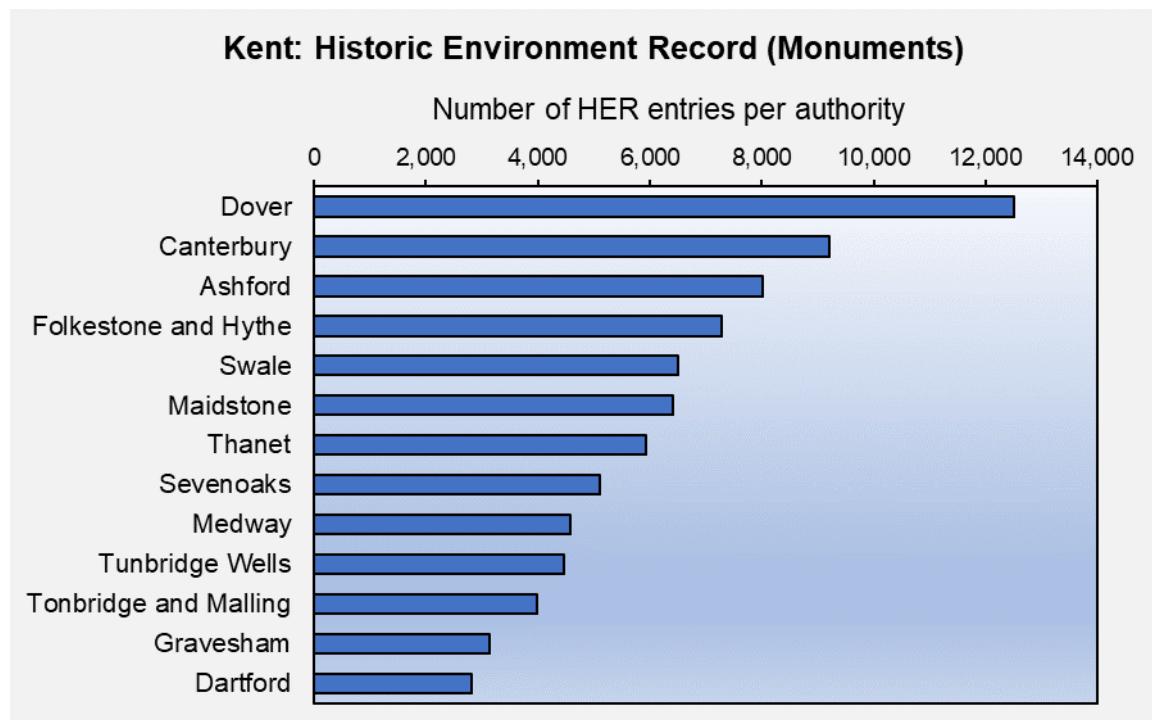
There are just under 80,000 HER entries for Kent. The largest number of these come from Dover, with 12,512 records.

Landscape and Natural Heritage

Information is derived from Natural England for AONBs, SSSIs, National Nature Reserves (NNR), Ramsar Wetlands, Ancient Woodland, Country Parks. The data for National Trust land always open to the public are derived from gov.uk.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Natural England defines AONBs as:

> AONBs are designated areas where protection is afforded to protect and manage the areas for visitors and local residents. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Natural England has the power to designate areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) in England that are outside national parks and that are considered to have such natural beauty it is desirable they are conserved and enhanced; issue a variation order to change an existing AONB boundary. It also holds a duty to give advice on developments taking place in an AONB; take into account the conservation and enhancement of AONBs in its work.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Natural England defines SSSIs as:

> A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is the land notified as an SSSI under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. Sites notified under the 1949 Act only are not included in the Data set.

> SSSI are the finest sites for wildlife and natural features in England, supporting many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features.

National Nature Reserves (NNR)
Natural England defines NNRs as:

> A National Nature Reserve (NNR) is the land declared under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended.

Ramsar Wetlands
Natural England defines Ramsar Wetlands as:

> A Ramsar site is the land listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) 1973.

Ancient Woodland
Natural England defines Ancient Woodland as:

> The Ancient Woodland Inventory identifies over 52,000 ancient woodland sites in England.

Ancient woodland is identified using presence or absence of woods from old maps, information about the wood's name, shape, internal boundaries, location relative to other features, ground survey, and aerial photography.

Country Parks

Natural England defines Country Parks as:

More than 400 Country Parks exist. They are public green spaces often at the edge of urban areas which provide places to enjoy the outdoors and experience nature in an informal semi-rural park setting. Country Parks normally have some facilities such as a car park, toilets, perhaps a cafe or kiosk, paths and trails, and visitor information. There is not necessarily public right of access, although most are publicly accessible; some charge entry others do not. Most are owned and managed by Local Authorities. Many Country Parks were designated in the 1970s by the then Countryside Commission, under the Countryside Act 1968. More recently Country Parks have been created under a less formal arrangement and Natural England is working with partners to encourage a renaissance and accreditation of parks which meet certain criteria.

Kent and Medway's High Value Habitat and Landscape

High Value Habitat includes:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

- National Nature Reserves (NNRs)

- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

- Ancient Woodland
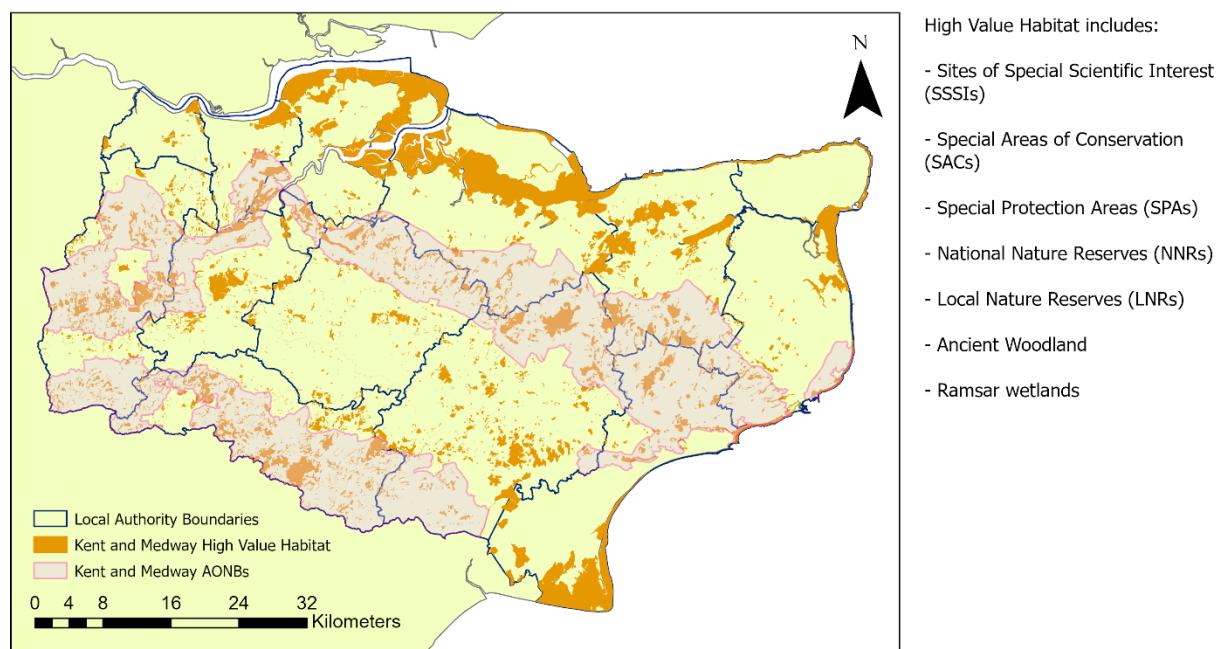
- Ramsar wetlands

The above map shows the distribution of Kent and Medway's main natural heritage assets, in the form of:

1. high value habitat covered by designated protected sites, nature reserves, Ramsar wetlands, and ancient woodlands
2. high value landscapes, being Kent and Medway's two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: the Kent Downs and the High Weald.

Although both AONBs contain concentrations of high value habitat, there are also large areas of important natural sites outside the AONBs, particularly in Medway, Swale, Canterbury, and Folkestone and Hythe (Shepway).

The proportion of each Local Authority that is covered by high value habitat varies widely: just 6.5% of Dartford's area falls under one of the habitat / nature designations listed above, compared to 30.3% of Medway.

Kent - % coverage by high value habitat

% of area covered by high value habitat

Medway
Swale
Canterbury
Folkestone and Hythe
Tunbridge Wells
Gravesham
Tonbridge and Malling
Sevenoaks
Ashford
Thanet
Dover
Maidstone
Dartford
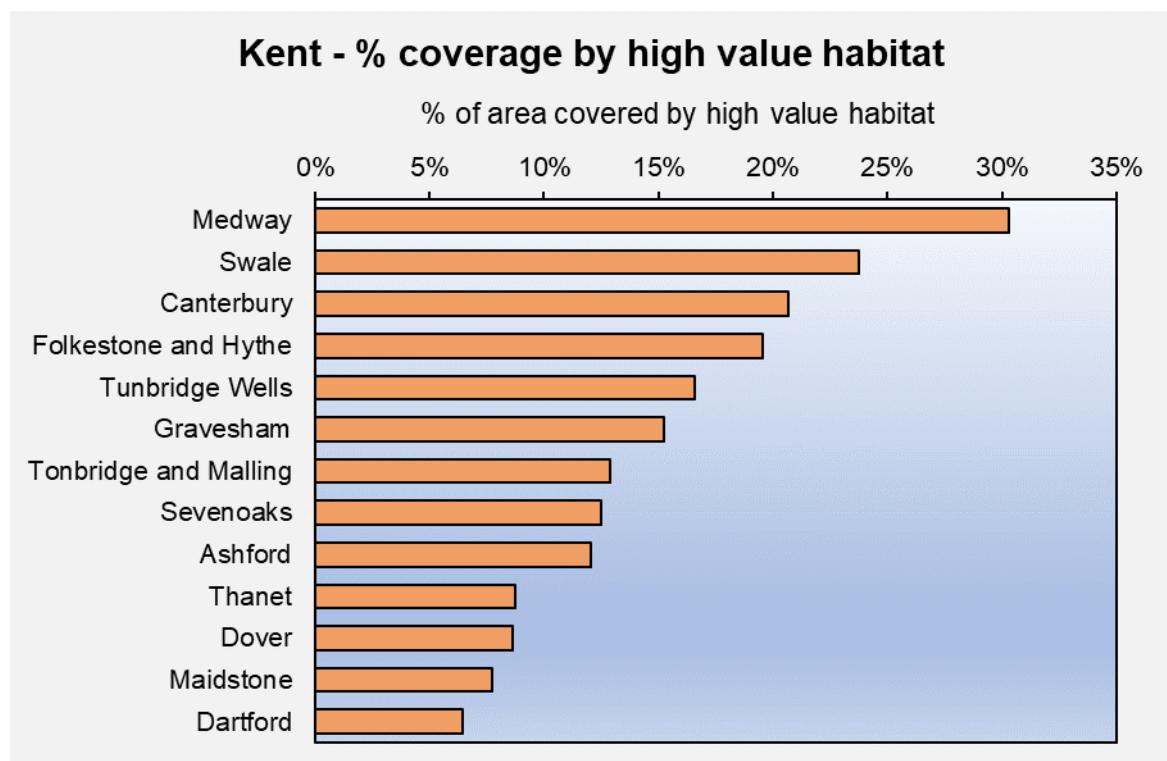
Other landscape elements identified as natural heritage assets by the RSA report include hedgerows and ancient trees.

Kent - hedgerow density

km of hedgerow per km^2

Dover
Maidstone
Tonbridge and Malling
Dartford
Gravesham
Tunbridge Wells
Sevenoaks
Swale
Folkestone and Hythe
Canterbury
Medway
Thanet
Ashford
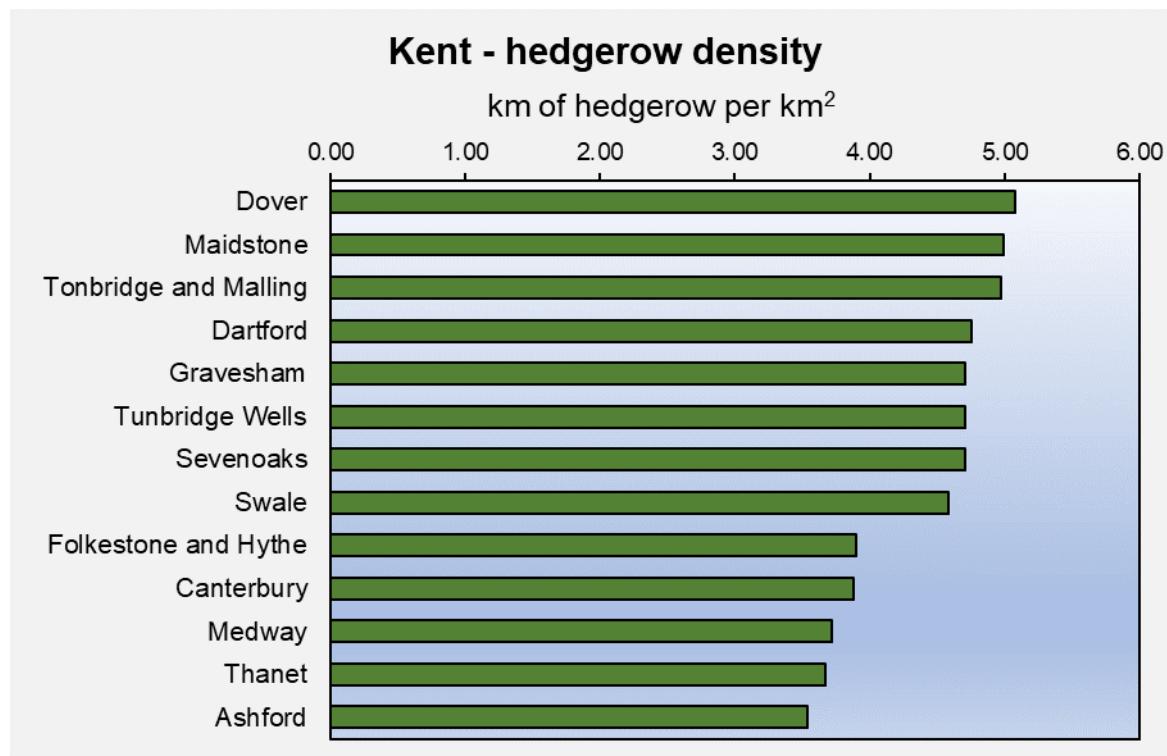
Across Kent and Medway, the total current length of all hedgerows as of 2007 has been estimated by Brown et al. (2014) at 17,011km. This equates to 4.35km of hedgerow per square kilometre. However, density of hedgerows also differs considerably between individual Local Authorities.

In particular, a distinction can be made between Ashford, Thanet, Medway, Canterbury, and Folkestone and Hythe (Shepway), which all have less than 4 km of hedgerow per km^2, and the other, more hedgerow-rich Local Authorities, which tend to be in West Kent (with the exception of Dover).

Kent - density of ancient trees

no. of ancient trees per km^2

| Local Authority	Density
Gravesham	8.5
Maidstone	~2.7
Sevenoaks	~2.6
Tunbridge Wells	~2.3
Medway	~2.1
Ashford	~1.5
Dartford	~1.4
Tonbridge and Malling	~0.9
Canterbury	~0.7
Folkestone and Hythe	~0.6
Swale	~0.6
Dover	~0.6
Thanet	0.08
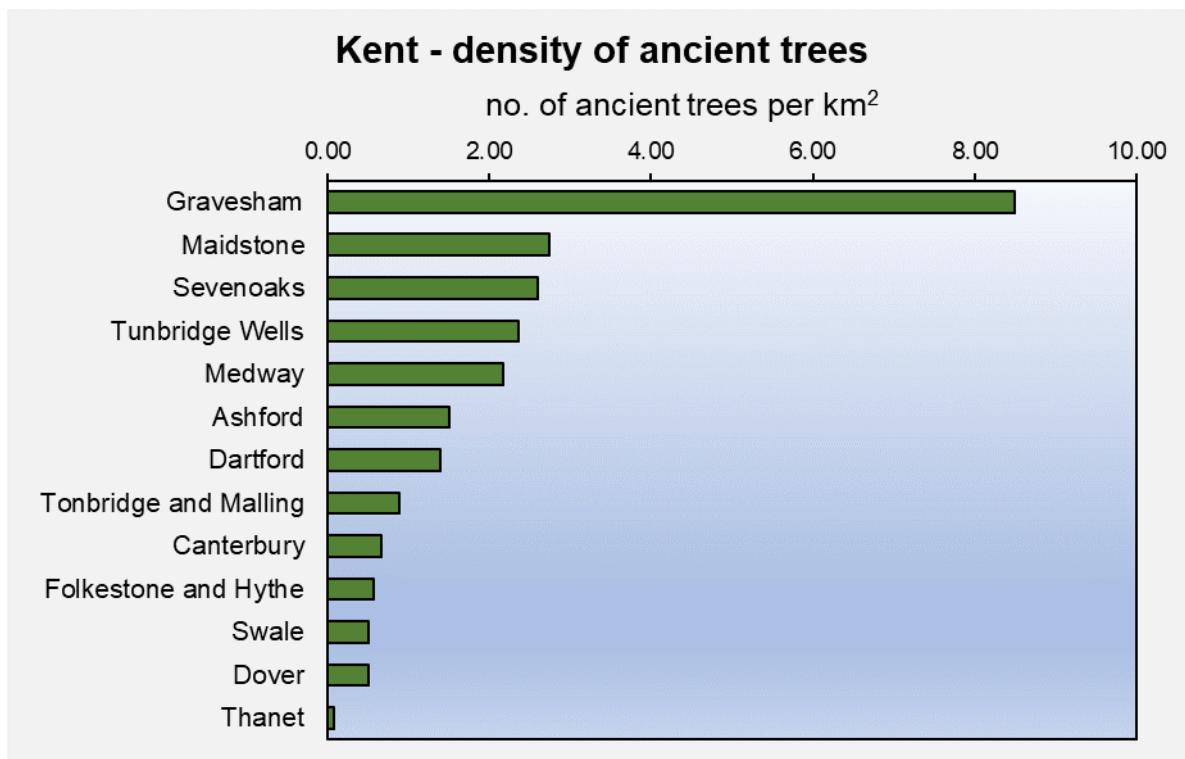
The number of ancient trees, as recorded through the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory, per km^2, tends to be lowest in the Local Authorities in East Kent. The lowest density of ancient trees is found in Thanet, with just 0.08 ancient trees per km^2, while the highest density of ancient trees is found in Gravesham district, with 8.5 ancient trees per km^2.

The fact that the density of ancient trees in Gravesham is much higher than any other Local Authority may be due to both the relatively small size of Gravesham district, and a reflection of recording effort: Cobham Park and Shorne Woods Country Park both lie within Gravesham district, and have both been intensively surveyed for ancient trees

Industrial Heritage

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change	
Thanet	10	25	⬆	15
Medway	30	23	⬇	-7
Dover	41	26	⬇	-15
Swale	57	64	⬆	7
Gravesham	164	207	⬆	43
Tunbridge Wells	186	240	⬆	54
Sevenoaks	189	214	⬆	25
Canterbury	222	219	⬇	-3
Ashford	238	181	⬇	-57
Folkestone and Hythe	245	165	⬇	-80
Tonbridge and Malling	279	286	⬆	7
Dartford	282	324	⬆	42
Maidstone	307	321	⬆	14

Participation in Heritage

Average Heritage Participation Rates in Kent and Medway
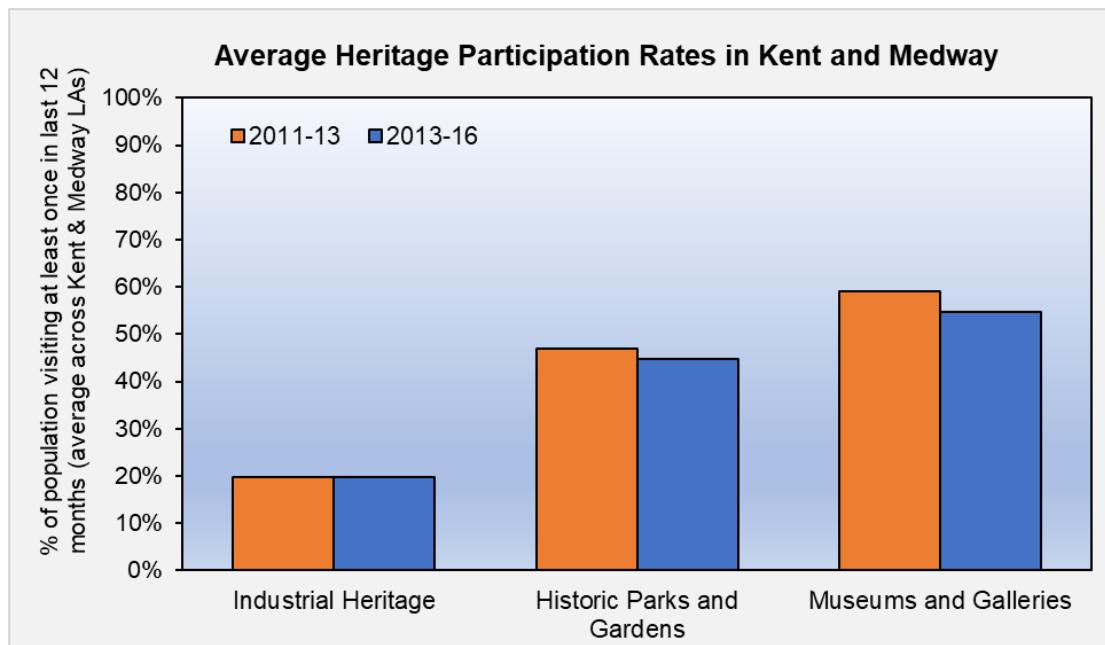
Participation in heritage differs depending on the type of heritage. When considering the average participation rates across the whole of Kent and Medway, museums and galleries attract the highest levels of participation. For the period from 2013-16, on average, across all Local Authorities, an estimated 55% of the population visited a museum or gallery at least once in 12 months, compared to 45% for historic parks and gardens, and just 20% for industrial heritage sites.

Behind these averages, there is considerable variation in participation rates for each type of heritage between different Local Authorities.

Participation - Museums and Galleries

% of population visiting at least once in last 12 months
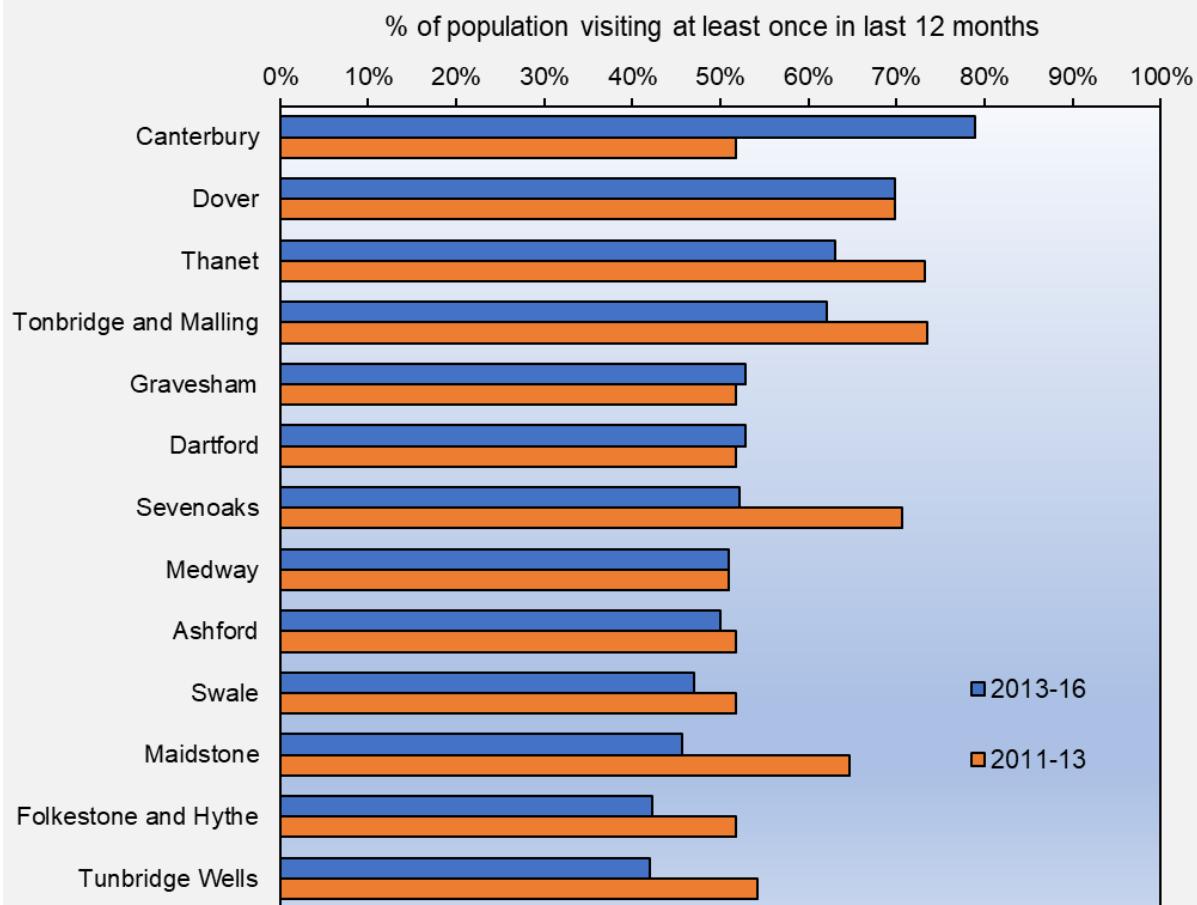
For the 2013-16 period, estimated rates of participation in museums and galleries ranged from 42% in Tunbridge Wells, to 79% for Canterbury. Canterbury also stands out from the rest of the Local Authorities, in being the only place with a large increase in reported participation rates, from 52% 2011-13, to 79% 2013-16. In all other Local Authorities, participation rates either decreased, stayed the same, or only increased by one percentage point.

Participation - Industrial Heritage

% of population visiting at least once in last 12 months
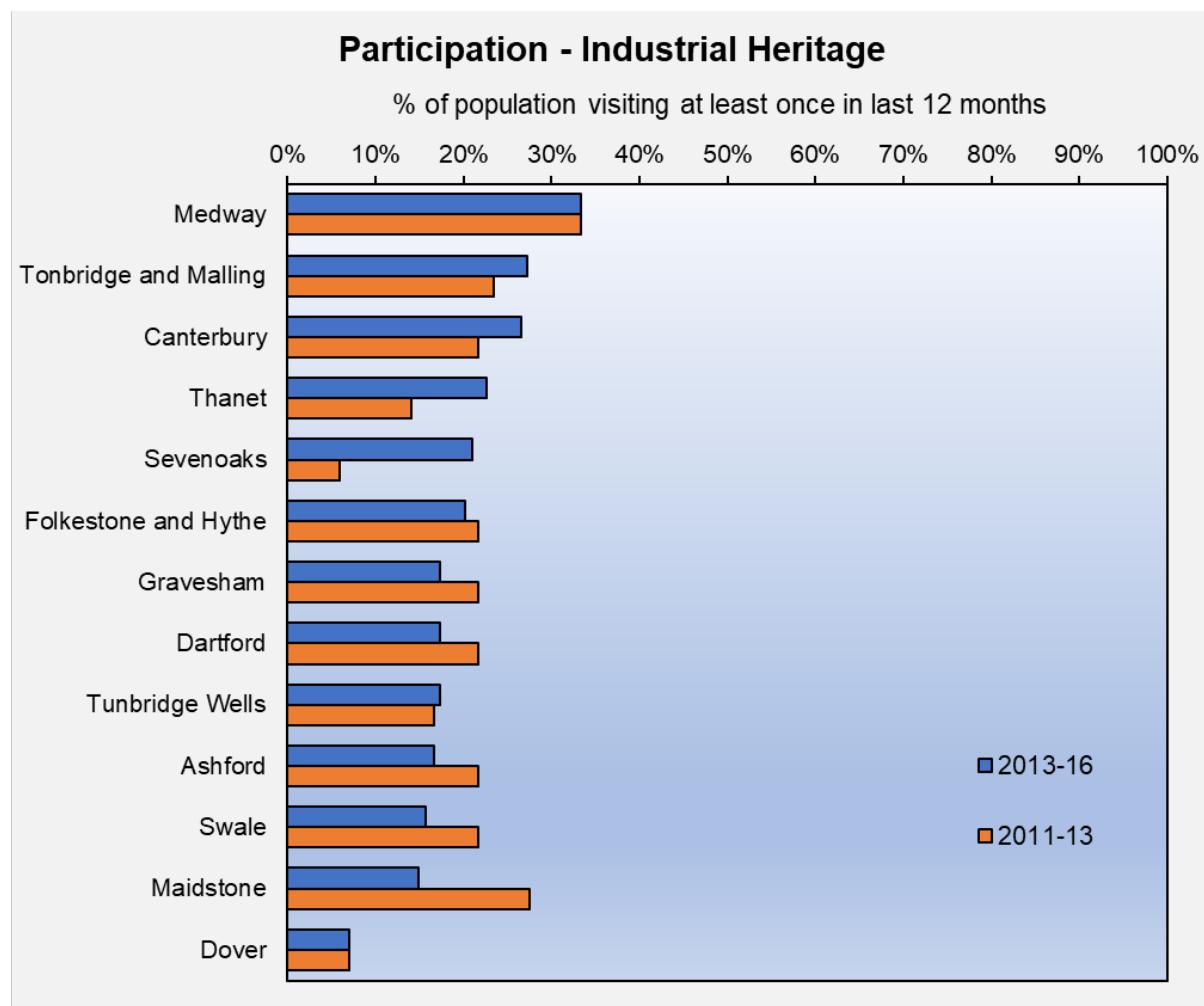
The picture is more mixed when considering participation in other types of heritage. For industrial heritage, participation rates in the 2013-16 period ranged from 7% in Dover to 33% in Medway.

Compared to the 2011-13 period, some Local Authorities experienced a decrease in participation and others experienced an increase. Notable changes include those seen for Maidstone, where participation rates fell from 27% to 15%, and Sevenoaks, where participation rates increased from 6% to 21%.

Participation - Historic Parks and Gardens

% of population visiting at least once in last 12 months
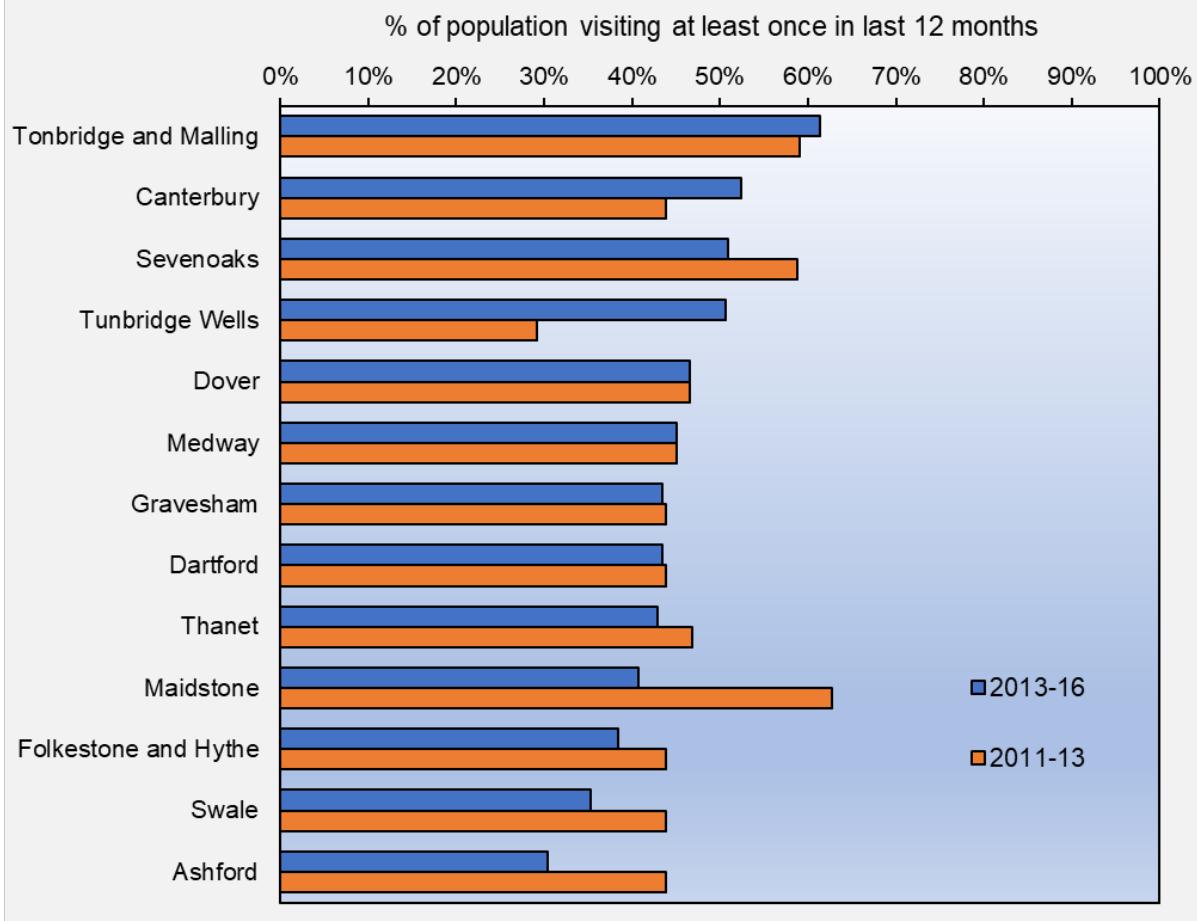
Estimates for participation in historic parks and gardens in the 2013-16 period ranged from 30% in Ashford to 61% to Tonbridge and Malling. Again, participation rates have changed since 2011-13, with the size and direction of change differing between Local Authorities.

Maidstone again stands out, with a decrease from 63% to 41% of the population visiting historic parks and gardens (indeed, Maidstone has experienced the largest decrease in participation across all three types of heritage explored above). Conversely, Tunbridge Wells has seen a large increase in engagement with historic parks and gardens, with participation rates increasing from 29% to 51%.

Heritage Open Days

Kent: Heritage Open Days

Number of open days in 2019
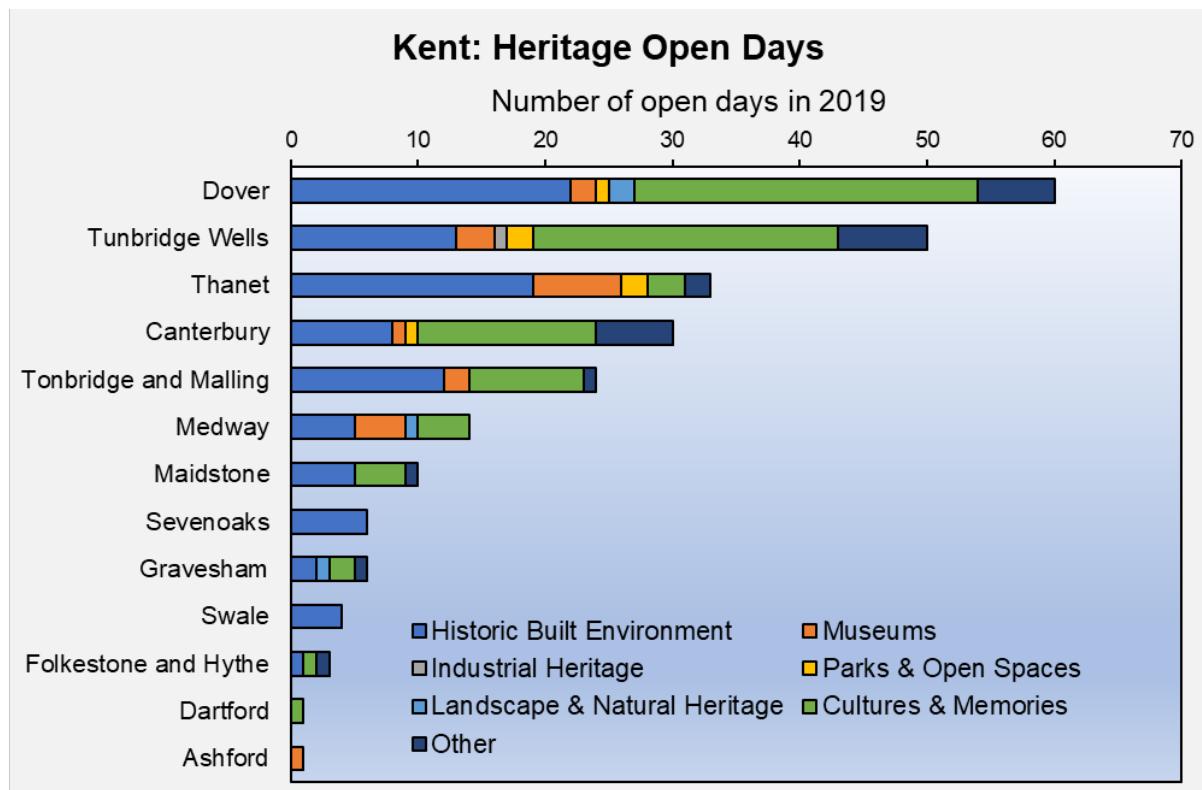
The data derived from the national Heritage Open Days scheme show that parts of Kent, in particular Canterbury, Dover, Thanet, Tonbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells, are engaged with the scheme. The main areas were for the historic built environment (accounting for 40% of all Open Days In 2019) and cultures and memories (37%).

Kent: Heritage Open Days by Heritage Domain

Number of open days in 2019

Industrial Heritage	0.4%
Landscape & Natural Heritage	2%
Parks & Open Spaces	2%
Museums	8%
Other	10%
Cultures & Memories	37%
Historic Built Environment	40%
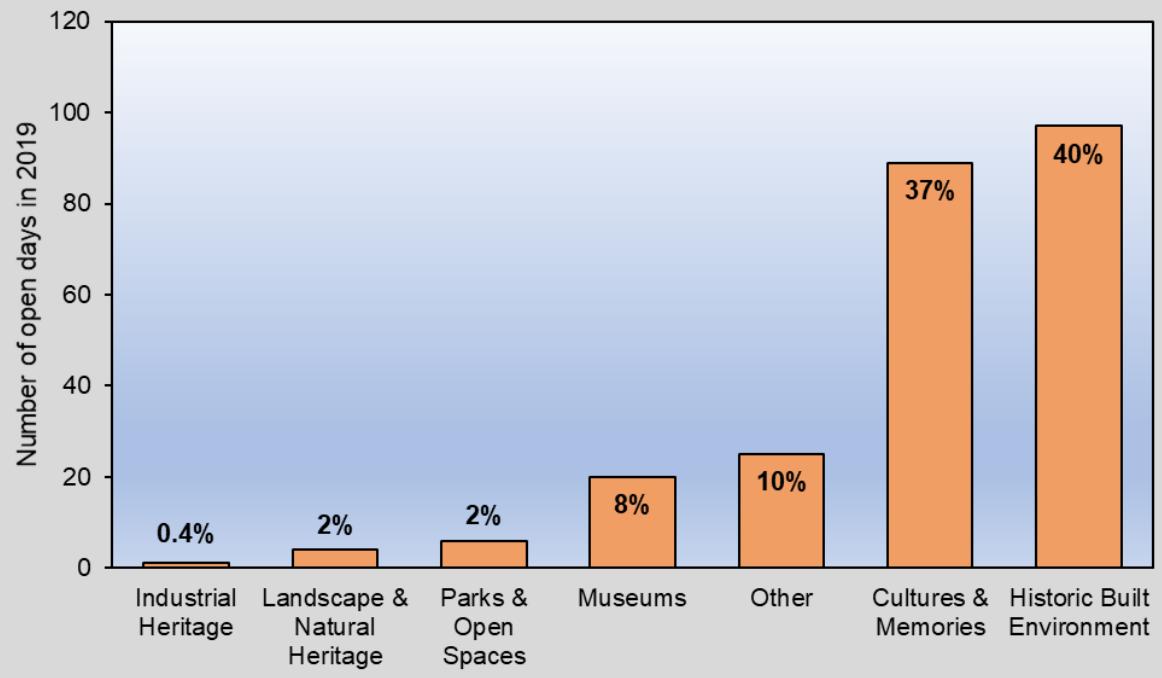
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Grants

National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant value per authority 2016

NLHF Funding (£)

Sevenoaks
Canterbury
Medway
Tunbridge Wells
Folkestone and Hythe
Dover
Thanet
Maidstone
Gravesham
Tonbridge and Malling
Ashford
Swale
Dartford

■ Historic built environment   ■ Museums, archives, and artefacts
□ Industrial heritage   □ Parks and open space
□ Landscape and natural heritage   □ Cultures and memories
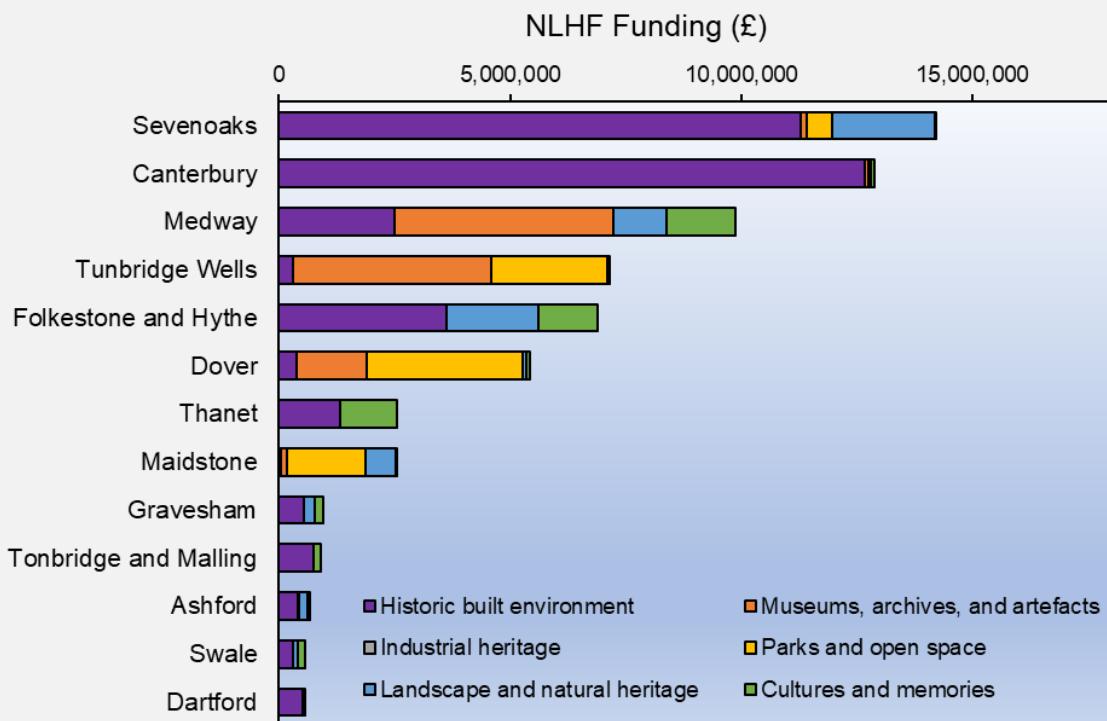
National Lottery Heritage Grant value per authority 2020

NLHF Funding (£)

Canterbury
Dover
Medway
Swale
Sevenoaks
Tunbridge Wells
Folkestone and Hythe
Ashford
Thanet
Maidstone
Tonbridge and Malling
Gravesham
Dartford

■ Historic built environment   ■ Museums, archives, and artefacts
□ Industrial heritage   □ Parks and open space
□ Landscape and natural heritage   □ Cultures and memories
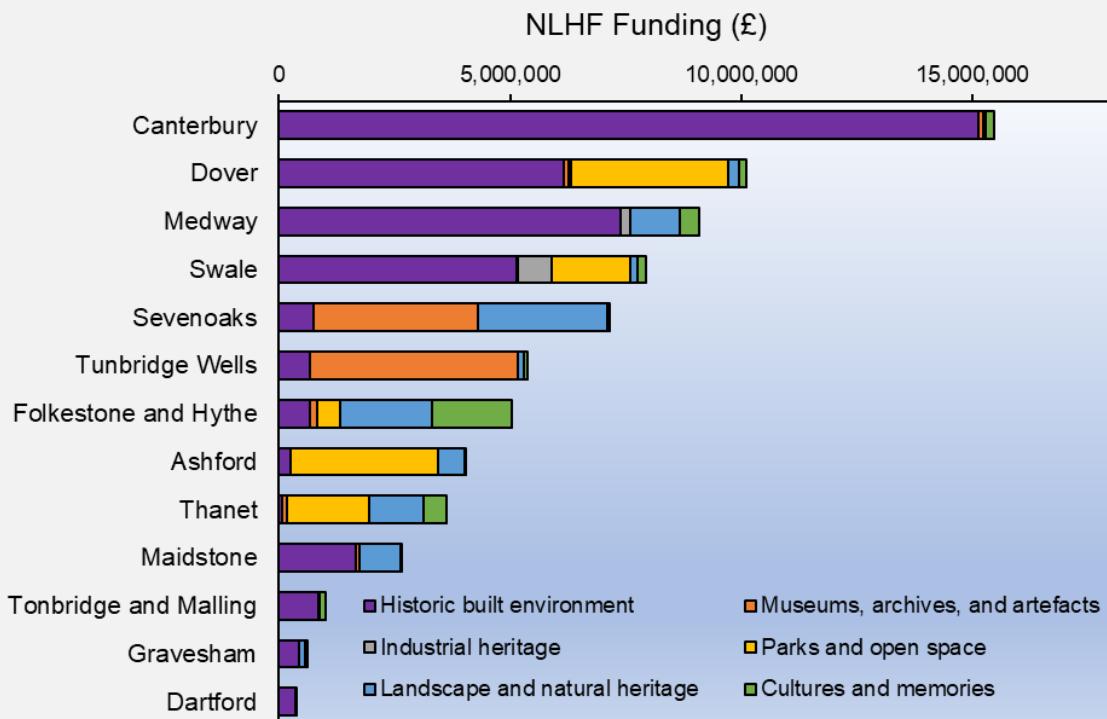
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) money is unevenly distributed across Kent and Medway's Local Authorities. At the time of issuing the 2020 RSA Report, funding amounts ranged from £355,900, for Dartford, to £15,473,500, for Canterbury.

This unevenness in distribution persists when comparing the funding levels as of the 2016 and 2020 reports. Dartford, Gravesham, and Tonbridge and Malling had low levels of funding in the 2016 RSA report and continue to receive little funding in the 2020 report. Similarly, Canterbury and Medway appear with high levels of funding in both the 2016 and 2020 reports. However, comparing the above graphs also shows that Swale and Ashford have both received substantial increases in NLHF funding since 2016.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant value per heritage domain 2016

NLHF Funding (£)

Domain	Percentage
Industrial heritage	0.0%
Cultures and memories	7.4%
Landscape and natural heritage	10.2%
Parks and open space	12.5%
Museums, archives, and artefacts	16.7%
Historic built environment	53.2%

National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant value per heritage domain 2020

NLHF Funding (£)

Domain	Percentage
Industrial heritage	1.4%
Cultures and memories	4.8%
Museums, archives, and artefacts	11.9%
Landscape and natural heritage	12.6%
Parks and open space	14.6%
Historic built environment	54.6%

The majority of NLHF funding goes to the historic built environment. The Local Authorities receiving the greatest amounts of funding also tended to receive most funding for this aspect of heritage. In both reporting periods, funding for projects relating to the historic built environment accounted for over 50% of the total NLHF funds received across Kent and Medway. Industrial heritage projects receive the smallest fraction on NLHF funds, although there has been a slight increase in the allocation of NLHF funds to these projects since 2016.

Since the 2016 report, the proportion of NLHF funds across Kent and Medway going to projects relating to museums, archives and artefacts, and cultures and memories, has fallen (from 16.7% to 11.9% of total funds). However, the proportion of funds going to projects relating to Kent and Medway's green spaces, whether they be parks and open space, or elements of the landscape and natural heritage, has increased. Landscape and natural heritage received 10.2% of the total NLHF grants in the 2016 reporting period, compared to 12.6% in the 2020 reporting period.

Heritage and the Tourism Economy

Kent: Holiday Nights
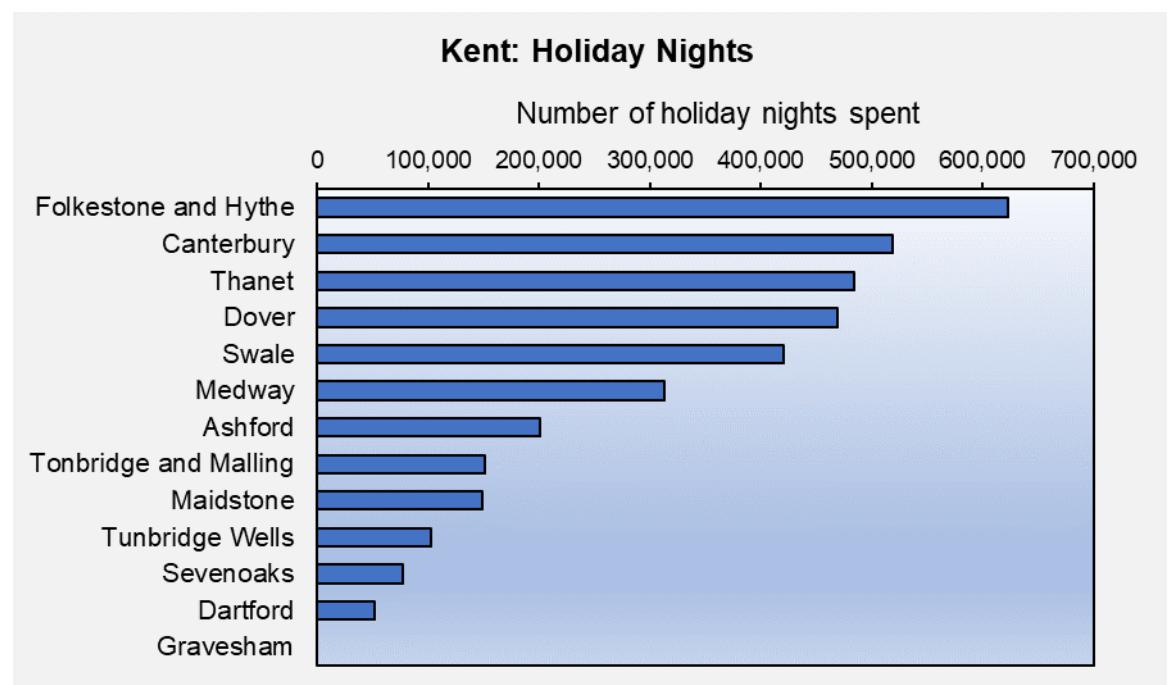
There were over 3.5 million reported holiday nights spent in Kent. The highest two were Folkestone and Hythe (Shepway) (622,667) and Canterbury (518,333).

Data from the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) suggest that seven locations in Kent account for approximately 2.5 million visitors a year.

Heritage Properties in Kent: Visitor Figures
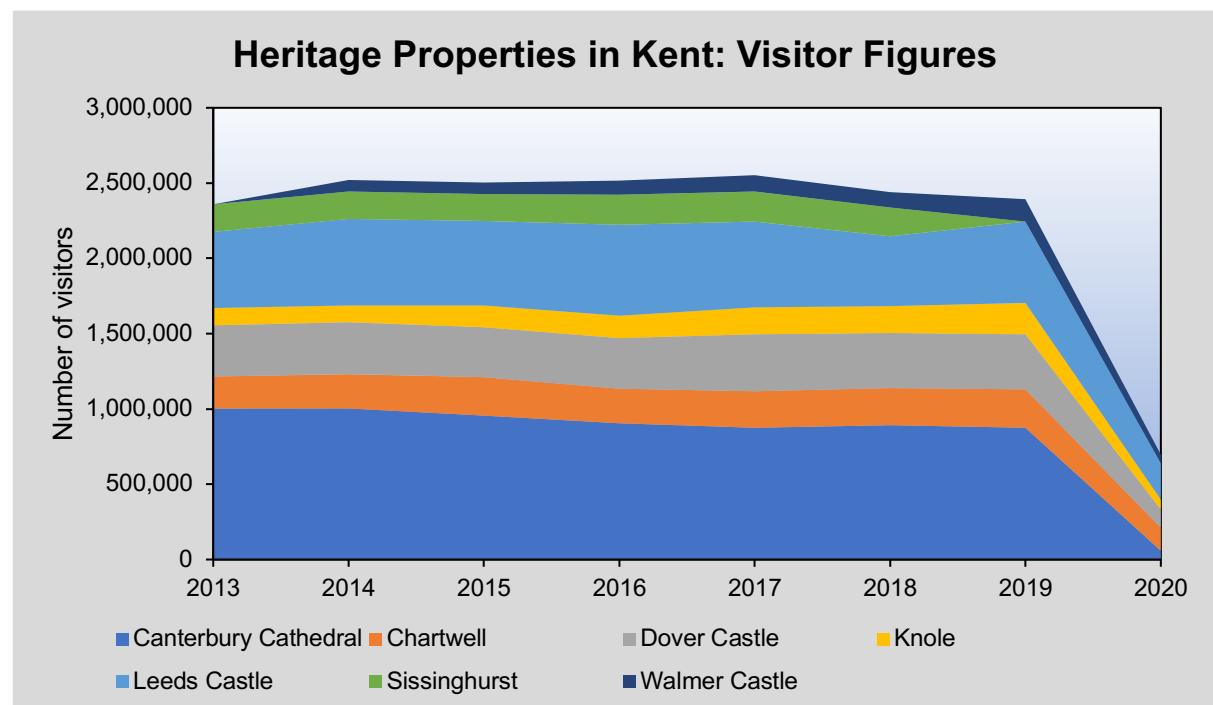
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Ancient Trees
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Regional Report for the RSA Heritage Index

Centre for Heritage
University of Kent
2021

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