

Torbay Heritage Strategy

April 2011



Torbay
Development
Agency



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Within Torbay there are numerous stakeholders engaged in the preservation and enhancement of heritage. These include public and private sector organisations, charities, local community groups and individual residents.

Our thanks go to all of those who have contributed to the content of the Heritage Strategy. The project group stakeholders are too numerous to mention here, but are all included within the list of stakeholders at Appendix B.

Particular thanks go to Torbay Council and to the Torbay Development Agency who managed the process of the production of this Strategy and facilitated the public consultation.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Berry Head

This Strategy is based upon work carried out over the past 15 years by Torbay Council together with many different groups from across the community of heritage interests in Torbay. That work informed the publication of the Torbay Heritage Strategy in 2004, which in turn was the foundation of this current document. It aspires ultimately to be agreed and accepted by the whole community and to act as a road-map for all those organisations and agencies interested in the heritage of Torbay.

Torbay's heritage should support the regeneration of our three towns and their surroundings. It should improve our quality of life, sustain our tourist industry, develop our communities, stimulate our "pride of place" and encourage lifelong learning.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Strategy is:

- to develop a strategy that will help maintain the local and community identity
- to be mindful and respectful of the things that make Torbay a special place
- to contribute to the quality of life for residents and the community
- to initiate conservation-led regeneration to maintain geographical and historical character
- to restore original and sentimental character to heritage assets
- to encourage an already thriving tourist economy.

The objectives outlined in this Strategy are:

1. To protect and enhance the heritage assets of Torbay for future generations, both those of local as well as of national significance.
2. To ensure that Torbay's heritage assets are used as a key driver for the regeneration of the Bay and to focus resources on our most valued heritage assets.
3. To increase public understanding, awareness and enjoyment of our heritage and to target specifically young people, educational groups, visitors and residents.
4. To engage and create strong partnerships between public, private and voluntary sectors in order to deliver a coordinated Action Plan to protect and enhance our heritage.
5. To promote Torbay's heritage as part of the tourism offer.
6. To support organisations applying for funding and maximise the opportunities for external funding to benefit our heritage.
7. To explore ways in which new developments can be successfully integrated with existing heritage.
8. To develop a Heritage Action Plan to set out prioritised key targets, projects and deliverables for the protection and enhancement of the heritage of Torbay.



Paignton Harbour



INTRODUCTION

Torre Abbey

BACKGROUND

The last Torbay Heritage Strategy was published in January 2004. Since this time there have been a number of changes to the legislative and strategic framework for the preservation and enhancement of heritage. Many successful projects have been completed since the previous Strategy and a number of these are celebrated in this report. This strategy presents an updated framework for an Action Plan for Torbay's heritage.

The updated Strategy is an important project to refocus attention on the preservation and enhancement of important aspects of our local identity. It links closely with other strategies, including the Tourism Strategy 2010-2015 and the Torbay Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2006 – 2026 will provide a planning policy framework to ensure the integration of new development with existing heritage assets.

The 2004 Strategy was produced by the Torbay Heritage Forum. This Strategy has been produced by the Torbay Development Agency in partnership with Torbay Council. Torbay Council will own the Strategy. The Strategy was authored by an independent consultant, Josephine Brown.



Torquay Pavilion

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The purpose of this Strategy is:

- To develop a strategy that will help maintain the local and community identity
- Be mindful and respectful of the things that make Torbay a special place
- Contribute to the quality of life for residents and the community
- Initiate heritage-led regeneration to maintain geographical and historical character
- Restore original and sentimental character to heritage assets
- Encourage the expansion of the tourist economy



Viaduct at Broadsands

INTRODUCTION



Berry Head

SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy provides a snapshot of Torbay's heritage, covering all forms of heritage in the Bay and encompassing assets that have value at both a national and a local level. The scope of the document extends to include all of the information supplied by stakeholders and every effort has been made to consult widely to ensure that all forms of heritage are represented.

UPDATING THE HERITAGE STRATEGY – WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Since the publication of the 2004 Action Plan, a significant number of heritage-led projects have been progressed and completed within Torbay. As with nearly all heritage-based projects, the success of any scheme is a delicate balance between the sensitivity of the particular asset, the available resources, and the potential compromise to produce a sustainable scheme.

The high number of projects involving heritage in the Bay needs to be celebrated. It is important to remember that the success stories are not always the major projects, smaller community-led initiatives can often have a more immediate impact for local residents. As heritage means different things to different people, so too will heritage-led projects be regarded as important and / or successful. A selection of recent projects provides a snapshot of the dynamic aspect of our heritage projects.

The production of an updated Action Plan will form the next part of this project, and is included as an Objective of this Strategy. An introduction to the process is included in Part 2 of the Strategy.



Victoria Parade, Torquay



THE HERITAGE OF TORBAY

The Golden Hind, Brixham Harbour

The term 'heritage' means different things to different people. The heritage of Torbay embraces a wide range of forms providing us with links to our past. Many of the different forms of heritage are connected. Often the survival of one aspect of the heritage is dependent on another.

It is important to remember that while the value of some heritage is recognised and protected by being designated, be it at international, national or local level, much of our heritage is undesignated. A summary of Torbay's designated assets is included at Appendix A.

The built environment – The pattern of settlement, the eclectic architectural style of the buildings, the survival of historic street surfaces and furniture provide an immediate heritage legacy with which the community and visitors alike engage on a day-to-day basis. The wealth of the Bay's built heritage

WHAT IS HERITAGE?

Heritage consists of all of those things of value that have been inherited from previous generations and that we wish to pass on to our children or share with others. It can include anything that gives a community or region its special identity.

THE HERITAGE OF TORBAY

is represented in the 864 listed buildings and 24 conservation areas, and there are many other buildings which have heritage value for local communities.

Archaeology – Above ground and below ground archaeological remains are a significant form of heritage. Designated archaeological sites are called Scheduled Monuments; there are 13 Scheduled Monuments in the Bay. Many of these sites, such as Kents Cavern and Windmill Hill cave, also form an important part of the Geopark.

Human-influenced landscapes – Nearly all of the landscape which surrounds us has been influenced by the hand of man. From rural hedgerows and country lanes, to parks and gardens. Torbay has a rich heritage of green open spaces and flora. There are six Registered Parks and Gardens in Torbay, and there are further designed landscapes recognised by the Devon Gardens Trust as having heritage value. Torbay's orchard heritage has shaped the local landscape and their heritage value is becoming increasingly recognised.

Collections – Collections in Torbay include those in museums and private collections. Collections provide an invaluable resource for learning about our heritage. Torquay Museum's collections are extensive and include R.N. Worth's collection of geological specimens, William Pengelly's finds from the early exploration of Kents Cavern and numerous objects relating to the Torquay Pottery. Historic photographs and documents are held in the museums and in the Local Studies Library. Brixham Heritage Museum holds collections relating to the Brixham area, and the museum also plays a key role in engaging with the local community through activities such as Brixham Heritage Week.

Historical figures – Many important historical figures are associated with Torbay and are an important aspect of the heritage. They provide a pathway for people to engage with heritage in a different way, such as through the locations associated with Agatha Christie, or the home of the Singers at Oldway. The value of the Agatha Christie legacy to the promotion of Torbay's heritage is recognised in the current English Riviera Tourism Strategy, which highlights it as a key product for development and marketing. The English Riviera Blue Plaques Heritage Trail provides an invaluable guide to many of these figures and their local connections.

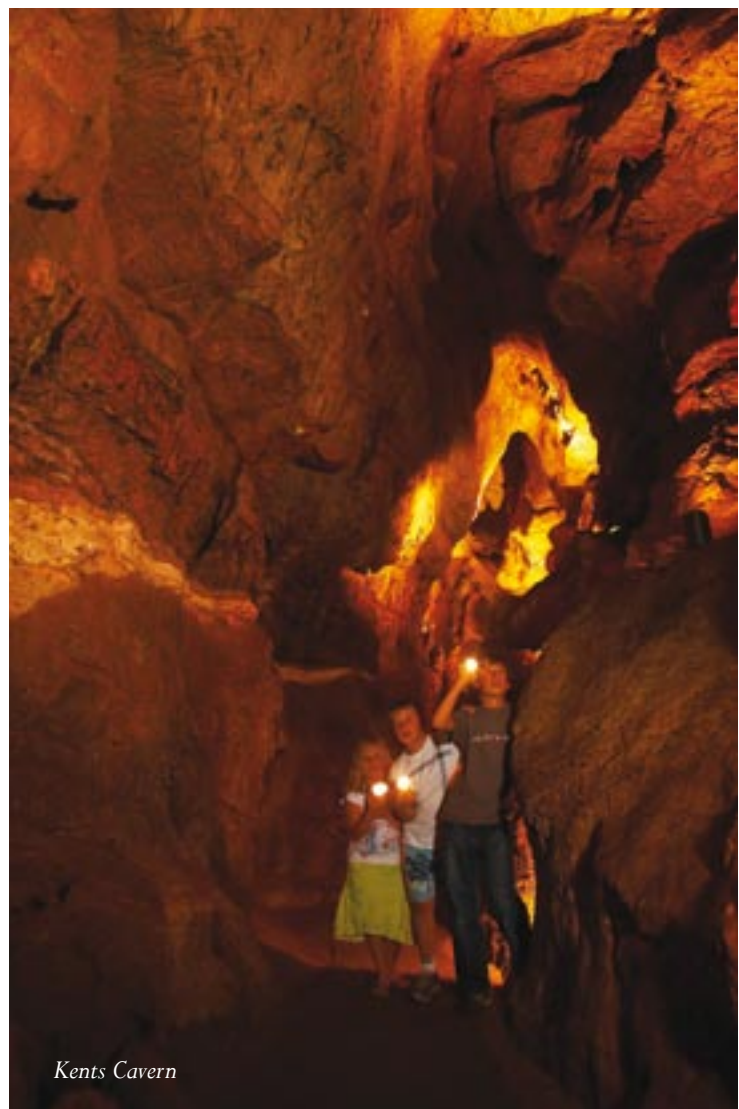


Image courtesy of Kents Cavern



Social history – Many of the more intangible forms of heritage are connected to social history and these aspects are perhaps one of the cultural elements that the community are able to engage with at a direct level. It includes oral history, dialects, and traditional skills and customs, such as those associated with the fishing industry or cider making. Both Torquay Museum and Brixham Museum contain displays relating to the social history of the Bay. It is important to remember that ‘recent’/ new history also has value and meaning to people’s connection with their heritage.

The natural environment – Torbay’s geology, flora and fauna (including the marine environment) are recognised as being of superlative quality. Berry Head is a European protected site, as is a large part of the marine area of the Harbour. 70% of the Bay’s coastline is designated as a protected site at either national or regional level and the area contains 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Recognition as a Global Geopark in 2007 was based on the fact that Torbay is not only of great natural importance but also uses these assets to drive forward its regeneration programme. For many local residents access to wild places rich in natural history is essential to their quality of life. The history and heritage of Torbay is interwoven with the natural environment. The geology of the area, the natural flora and fauna (including the marine environment) are all of importance. This importance was recognised through the grant of Global Geopark status in 2007. Further information is set out in the Torbay Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan 2007. In addition, the Torbay Green Infrastructure Project to be published later in 2011 is being taken forward by a partnership championed by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Torbay Council and Natural England. The plan looks at the future management of all of Torbay’s green infrastructure; from footpaths to natural play provision and allotments to key wildlife areas. Its aim is to create a sustainable future for Torbay that protects and enhances the health and beauty of the natural environment, serves the needs of the community and supports economic regeneration.

THE HERITAGE OF TORBAY

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF TORBAY'S HERITAGE?

Torbay's heritage is of a very high value and is of national and, in some cases, international significance. We should take pride in our heritage and ensure that we make combined efforts to share, understand and experience the various aspects of our heritage.

Torbay has an obligation to protect its heritage for the benefit of its residents and visitors. It requires a high level of care. We are custodians of the heritage as a legacy for future generations.

Our heritage is important to the quality of life of the residents of Torbay. It is experienced every day as the backdrop to the lives of the residents, and also provides diverse opportunities for more direct experiences.

The Torbay Economic Strategy states that: The strong heritage of Torbay is also an asset in supporting the development of the economy. The quality of life of Torbay is widely recognised by local business as a positive factor for their businesses and is also important to inward investors with English Heritage reporting that 25% of businesses agree or agree strongly that heritage played an important role in their decision making process. Therefore delivery of the Economic Strategy will recognise the importance of the heritage of the place. Heritage can also act as a driver to shopper and visitor numbers with characterful shopping centres within Torbay having the potential to further develop that aspect as a hook particularly for independent businesses.



HERITAGE-LED ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Heritage can provide a key driving force in economic regeneration.

Each year the national Heritage Counts report assesses the state of England's historic environment and provides evidence of the wider social and economic role of heritage. In 2010 the report explored the economic impact of the historic environment and found that:

- £1 of investment in the historic environment generates £1.6 of additional economic activity over a ten year period
- one in four businesses agree that the historic environment is an important factor in deciding where to locate, the same as for road access
- approximately one in five visitors to areas which have had historic environment investment spend more in the local area than before and one in four businesses has seen the number of customers increase

Torbay's heritage is also of great significance to visitors. Our coastal landscapes and parks in particular are cited by tourists as a major factor in visiting Torbay.



Agatha Christie Bust, Torquay

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Developing the tourism industry is an important strand in Torbay's economic growth. Sustaining the heritage resource must inevitably be a part of that process. The English Riviera attracts in excess of one million staying visitors and two million visitor days and remains Devon's major resort. Total visitor spend in 2007 (the most recent figures) was in excess of £438 million and 21% of the population was employed in the sector. Torbay's Tourism Strategy Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay focuses on certain aspects of our heritage to increase visitor numbers; these include the Agatha Christie brand, the Geopark and the maritime resource, all of which are of significant heritage value. The Heritage Strategy will provide the framework of information to support the Tourism Strategy in its key product deliverables. Further understanding of the important role that heritage has to play, and of the diverse range of heritage in Torbay, is required in the management of the tourism strategy to ensure that the focus is not too narrow and that the full range of potential opportunities are exploited.

THE HERITAGE OF TORBAY



HERITAGE TOURISM

Heritage is a significant part of the tourist offer and is being used to widen the appeal of Torbay to different visitor groups.

Heritage Counts 2010 identified that:

- Heritage tourism is a vital economic sector, directly generating £7.4 billion of GDP annually and supporting 195,000 jobs
- Heritage attracts inbound visitors. A third of all international tourists cite heritage as the main reason why they come to the UK
- Historic environment attractions generate local wealth. Half of all jobs created by historic environment attractions are in local businesses

WHAT ARE TORBAY'S KEY HERITAGE ASSETS?

The community of Torbay care passionately about their heritage and have strong views about what is important to them and how it should be looked after. It was important that these views were integrated into the Heritage Strategy and so from January to April 2010 community feedback was requested. Questionnaires were sent out to community groups and individuals, and a separate questionnaire was sent out to children, both of these were also available online for completion via the council's website.

The consultation period was heavily promoted through the council's website, local media and the council's own quarterly publication, Torbay View. During the consultation period, a number of public events and meetings were held where approximately 1000 questionnaires were distributed and designated officers were on hand to talk to residents and encourage them to talk about and discuss

THE HERITAGE OF TORBAY

what heritage meant to them and how it could be sustained for the future. In addition, meetings were held during this time with other key stakeholders including community partnerships and various related forums, groups and societies which have some involvement in the various aspects of Torbay's heritage.

From the consultation feedback it emerged that the most highly prized aspects of our heritage amongst residents are the buildings, our maritime heritage, our museum collections and famous inhabitants. However, Torbay residents feel strongly also about green/open spaces and the geology/nature of the Bay. This reinforces Torbay's status as a Geopark, which is mentioned a number of times throughout the feedback.

Just under half of all responses related to buildings within the Bay, followed by parks and open spaces. This shows that whilst heritage is not defined as only buildings, they make up the largest number of people's favourite places which they want to include in the Strategy.

THE STORY OF TORBAY

The things that make Torbay special have their beginnings many million years ago with the creation of its geological character. Limestone is resistant to erosion; Old Red Sandstone is much softer. Millions of years of erosion by the sea have carved out the Bay from the softer rock, protected by the two limestone headlands at Hope's Nose and Berry Head. Geological features that are now exposed in many of the sandstone and limestone cliffs are of great scientific interest. The sheltered waters of the Bay and the rocky foreshores are home to a diversity of marine wildlife that is of regional importance. A range of nationally rare specialist plants grows in the coastal limestone grasslands of Torbay, depending upon the thin limestone soils and our Continental climate for their continuing survival.



THE HERITAGE OF TORBAY

Limestone does, however, erode in time and the action of water created a number of caves such as Kents Cavern in Torquay and Windmill Hill Cavern in Brixham that were subsequently occupied by human beings. Their remains (among the oldest to have been found in Britain) and the scientist who discovered them are of international repute. Early settlers of the Bay included Neolithic and Bronze-Age farmers who left signs of their passing at Wall's Hill and Broadsands tomb.



Archaeological finds associated with these sites and others in the Bay can be viewed at Torquay Museum and Brixham Heritage Museum.

Torquay developed around the Saxon hamlet of Torre (from 'tor' meaning hill or craggy peak). Torre Abbey, one of the most important buildings in the Bay in heritage terms, was the base for the monks that controlled much of the Bay. The monks of Torre Abbey are credited with building the first fishing quay.



Brixham

Paignton appeared in the Domesday Book in 1086 as Peinton. The earliest settlement is believed to have taken place around 700 AD – the name means 'the farm of Paega's people'. In the 19th century the town was renowned for growing cabbages. The town is also famous for its 'Paignton Pudding' which has been part of the history of the town for at least 700 years.

Brixham evolved from the Saxon 'Brioc's Ham'. Higher Brixham was originally a rural settlement while in Lower Brixham fishing has been a major industry for at least 900 years.

The shape of the bay creates a safe anchorage and this fact has directly influenced its history and development. Firstly it led to the development of the harbour at Brixham, which came at one time to be the largest fishing port in England. It was here that deep-sea trawling was pioneered in the UK and the maritime heritage of Brixham is therefore highly significant.

THE HERITAGE OF TORBAY

Secondly it led to the use of the Bay by the naval fleet during times of crisis, prompting the construction of the Berry Head Forts during the Napoleonic Wars and stimulating the birth of Torquay as a tourist resort - the families of naval officers came to settle in the town and word spread of its attractive setting and climate. The Victorian villas that give much of Torquay its distinct character are the result of a planned development programme to accommodate visiting gentry. As mass tourism became a possibility with the development of the railways, so new structures sprang up to cater for the new arrivals - promenades, parks and gardens, theatres, picture houses and dance halls amongst them - that are now of high landscape or architectural merit and all contribute to the value of the English Riviera.



Oldway

As the reputation of Torquay developed so a number of individuals came to visit or settle here to enjoy its amenities. Amongst these were Isambard Kingdom Brunel who created the landscaped grounds that are now Brunel Woods and Isaac and Paris Singer. The Singers built Oldway Mansion, one of Torbay's most striking buildings, and one which has significant international significance associated with the history of the Singer sewing machine, and the garden design by the French Duchêne family. Agatha Christie was born in Torquay in 1890, and spent much of her life in Devon. During the 19th and early 20th century many fine public buildings were constructed which reflected the prosperity of the Bay, including several churches of great architectural significance, Torquay Town Hall and The Pavilion.

Torbay's rural landscapes are also important, being a stronghold for the rare Cirl bunting; the history of land use remains evident in field patterns, hedgerows and orchards; at Cockington a traditional estate village and manor house remain largely intact and at Occombe Farm a fragment of our once common farmland heritage survives. This rural way of life has left a legacy of social history connected to traditional skills such as cider making.

The thread that runs through and integrates Torbay's heritage is the landscape of the Bay itself. It provides the setting for and the context of so much of our heritage and is our single greatest asset. The maritime scenery, the continental climate and atmosphere and the mixture of buildings and greenery on the hills that run down to the Bay creates an indefinable and very precious sense of place.



VISION, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Millennium Bridge, Torquay Harbour

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A VISION FOR TORBAY'S HERITAGE

Torbay's heritage should support the regeneration of our three towns and their surroundings. It should improve our quality of life, sustain our tourist industry, develop our communities, stimulate our "pride of place" and encourage lifelong learning.

To achieve this we need an energetic and concentrated focus on our heritage and how to realise these benefits. Individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors need to work together towards a shared vision, pooling our experience, knowledge and skills. Our vision must be inclusive, it must play to our strengths, it must be clear and concise and it must inspire people from all walks of life to support its achievement.

VISION, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Protecting, celebrating and using the waters, landscapes, history and wildlife of Torbay is at the centre of our vision. By working in partnership and to a common purpose we will be able to properly protect our heritage assets and in the same breath properly communicate our history to our own community and to our visitors. In time residents, visitors and neighbours will see Torbay's heritage carefully conserved, made accessible to all and playing an essential part in the economic and social life of the community.



Brass rubbing at Torre Abbey

AIM OF THE TORBAY HERITAGE STRATEGY

The aim of the Torbay Heritage Strategy is:

To protect our heritage and use it to inspire the economic and social regeneration of Torbay.



Torquay Museum

STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

1. To protect and enhance the heritage assets of Torbay for future generations, both those of local as well as of national significance.
2. To ensure that Torbay's heritage assets are used as a key driver for the regeneration of the Bay, and to focus resources on our most valued heritage assets.
3. To increase public understanding, awareness and enjoyment of our heritage and to target specifically young people, educational groups, visitors and residents.
4. To engage and create strong partnerships between public, private and voluntary sectors in order to deliver a coordinated Action Plan to protect and enhance our heritage.
5. To promote Torbay's heritage as part of the tourism offer.
6. To support organisations applying for funding and maximise the opportunities for external funding to benefit our heritage.
7. To explore ways in which new developments can be successfully integrated with existing heritage.
8. To develop a Heritage Action Plan to set out prioritised key targets, projects and deliverables for the protection and enhancement of the heritage of Torbay.

The SWOT analysis presents a summary of the real and perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the heritage of Torbay.

SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- Nationally important buildings, structures, habitats, geology, species and collections
- Natural heritage is of international significance, as is the Geopark.
- High quality urban and natural landscape settings, including the key asset of the marine environment
- Dense inter-weaving of economy, heritage and culture
- Large proportion of heritage assets in public ownership and/or open to the public
- Extensive layers of statutory and advisory designations cover most key features and there is a high level of awareness of these designations amongst decision-makers
- Heritage recognised at a strategic and regional level as a driver for regeneration initiatives
- Good levels of research regarding some heritage assets (e.g. built environment; museum collections; terrestrial biodiversity and geology)
- Willingness amongst all sectors to engage in partnership working
- Strong recognition by the tourism industry of the value of heritage assets to the local economy
- Tourism uses generate resources for heritage conservation
- Growing use of heritage assets in the context of learning and training
- Improving ability to raise capital funding to realise the potential of historic sites

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of revenue funding for core revenue activities such as basic maintenance and staff
- The variety, complexity and extent of the heritage resource has proven difficult to manage
- The fabric of many buildings, structures, parks and open spaces is in poor condition and will require major capital funding to restore to good order
- Natural succession and urban development has damaged key natural habitats and landscapes
- The private, voluntary and public sectors are insufficiently engaged in a common purpose
- Local residents have too often had low levels of involvement with the heritage
- Inappropriate uses of some heritage assets
- Lack of detailed research into some heritage assets (e.g. landscapes; marine biodiversity)
- Failure to realise the potential of Torbay's heritage as a marketing and major tourism asset
- Relatively low levels of interpretation of the heritage to the public
- Ambivalence towards value of heritage amongst some local politicians
- Heritage conservation is often used as a reason for resisting change, sometimes with justification, sometimes without justification. Some developments are proposed and some implemented that fail to recognise the heritage value of the place
- Heritage Forum has not capitalised on its early successes, as a result of an unclear function / partnership as a Council-run forum or an independent forum

OPPORTUNITIES

- Create a strong partnership of public, private and voluntary sectors through Heritage Forum, Geopark, Torbay Museums Partnership etc.
- The Mayor's Vision and other regeneration programmes seeks to build on what is best and distinctive about Torbay, including heritage
- The emerging Local Development Framework Core Strategy will provide a planning policy framework to balance the requirements for sustainable growth in Torbay with the need to conserve the area's heritage assets
- Torbay Development Agency's plans to improve infrastructure will provide funding opportunities for restoring heritage assets, finding new uses for them, and improving links between them
- Market a strong Torbay Heritage brand, exploiting unique selling point of Torbay's heritage assets, including its maritime heritage
- Link with the Green Infrastructure Strategy to promote walking and cycling through and to heritage sites
- Wider use of transport promotions to facilitate access to sites, such as community transport and ticketing offers similar to 'Nite rider' for young people. Also extension / promotion of the ferry between Torquay and Brixham (and potentially Paignton). The emerging Local Transport Plan is due to be published in the summer of 2011.
- Develop specific, integrated action plans for each category of heritage asset
- Improve volunteer involvement and community participation in heritage management
- Communicate a strong inclusive vision for Torbay's heritage, reaching out to communities and individuals that have historically experienced poor access
- Improve interpretation, learning and training opportunities associated with the heritage
- Partnership bids for grant aid for heritage conservation
- Develop ICT-linked facilities for improving access to heritage
- Carry out research to improve the knowledge base of heritage assets

THREATS

- Reductions in the availability of Council funding and grant aid by charitable bodies for heritage in the medium term
- Desire to redevelop commercial centres of Torbay could lead to degradation of their historic character
- Pressure to build homes could threaten important rural landscapes and heritage assets
- Resistance to essential change on grounds of heritage conservation could weaken political support for preserving important heritage assets. The submission of poorly researched and designed proposals that damage heritage assets could inflame local communities and damage community support for properly-designed change
- Difficulties in conserving landscape scale features in multiple ownerships
- Inappropriate use/over-use/falling out of use
- Loss of some key features to coastal erosion
- Incremental small-scale losses of quality of assets, through inappropriate management and / or change
- Failure to integrate priorities between agencies and sectors and to communicate these to partners
- Failure to develop community-based approach and to generate high levels of community participation
- Haphazard development of heritage projects to fail to co-ordinate activities
- Impact of climate change on the management of the historic environment, for example the key Torquay-Paignton coastal road is at severe risk of flooding and maintaining the defences will require significant capital resource
- Uncertain impacts of changes in national and international policies and funding

DELIVERY OF HERITAGE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

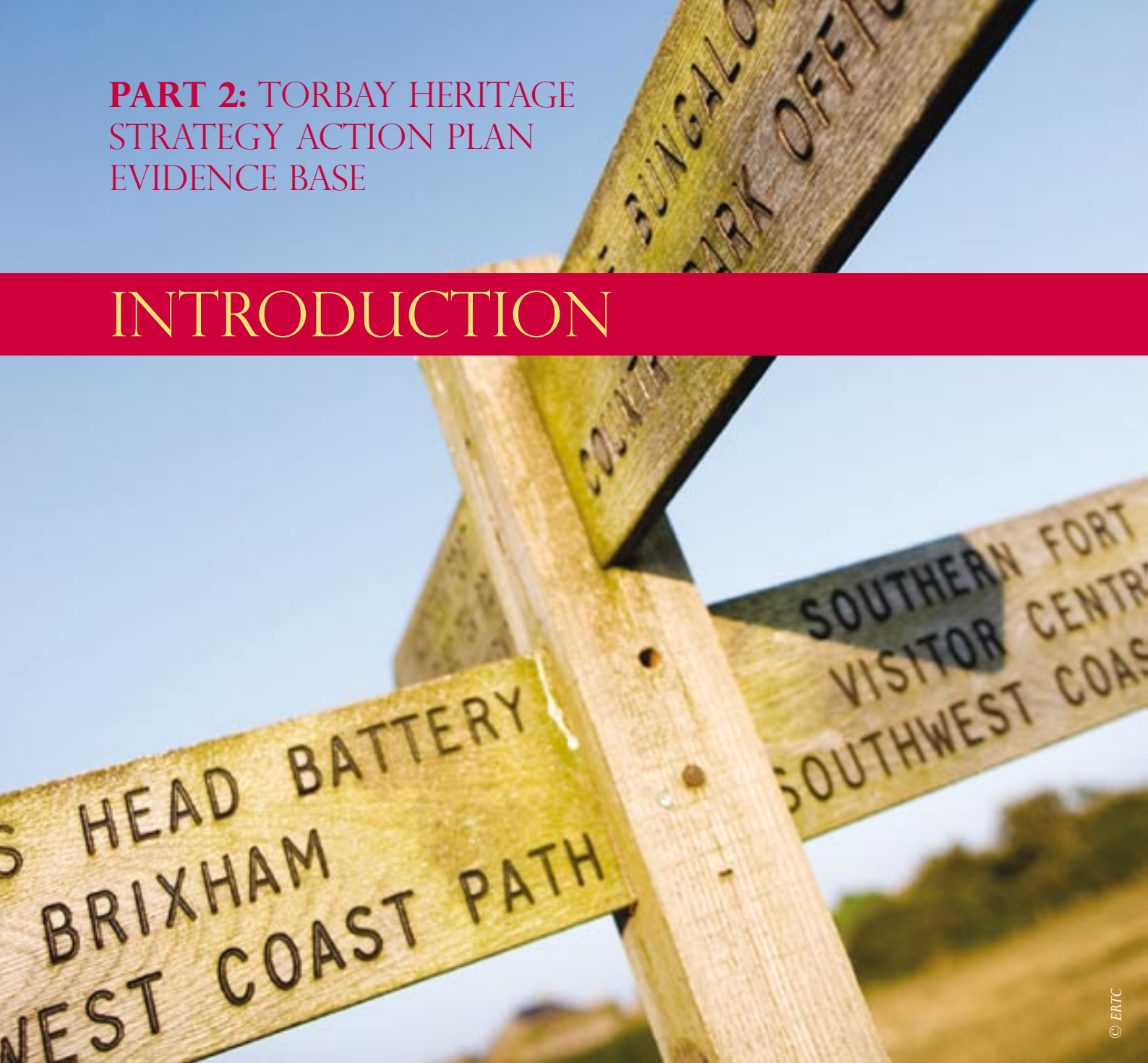
The table below sets out a framework for future actions for the delivery of the eight Heritage Strategy objectives.

Objective		Stakeholders and delivery mechanism	Actions
1	To protect and enhance the heritage assets of Torbay for future generations, both those of local as well as of national significance.	Torbay Council Developers	Work within the strategic planning framework. Develop a Heritage Action Plan to take forward a set of prioritised actions for key heritage assets. Developers to work within the opportunities and constraints offered by heritage.
2	To ensure that Torbay's heritage assets are used as a key driver for the regeneration of the Bay and to focus resources on our most valued heritage assets.	Torbay Council Torbay Development Agency/Economic Development Company Developers	Develop a Heritage Action Plan to take forward a set of prioritised actions for key heritage assets. Developers to work within the opportunities and constraints offered by heritage. Develop opportunities for enhancing the knowledge base and awareness of Torbay's heritage.
3	To increase public understanding, awareness and enjoyment of our heritage and to target specifically young people, educational groups, visitors and residents.	Torbay Council Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust English Riviera Tourism Company	Develop a Heritage Action Plan to take forward a set of prioritised actions for key heritage assets. TorbayConnected. Develop opportunities for enhancing the knowledge base and awareness of Torbay's heritage.

DELIVERY OF HERITAGE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Objective		Stakeholders and delivery mechanism	Actions
4	To engage and create strong partnerships between public, private and voluntary sectors in order to deliver a coordinated Action Plan to protect and enhance our heritage.	Torbay Development Agency/Economic Development Company Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust Heritage Forum Developers	Develop a Heritage Action Plan to take forward a set of prioritised actions for key heritage assets. Develop the partnership between Torbay Council and the Heritage Forum.
5	To promote Torbay's heritage as part of the tourism offer.	ERTC	Develop a Heritage Action Plan to take forward a set of prioritised actions for key heritage assets. Develop opportunities for enhancing the knowledge base and awareness of Torbay's heritage. Work within the relevant objectives of the English Riviera Tourism Strategy.
6	To support organisations applying for funding and maximise the opportunities for external funding to benefit our heritage.	Torbay Council Torbay Development Agency/Economic Development Company	Develop a Heritage Action Plan to take forward a set of prioritised actions for key heritage assets.
7	To explore ways in which new developments can be successfully integrated with existing heritage.	Torbay Council Developers	Develop a Heritage Action Plan to take forward a set of prioritised actions for key heritage assets. Developers to work within the opportunities and constraints offered by heritage.
8	To develop a Heritage Action Plan to set out prioritised key targets, projects and deliverables for the heritage of Torbay.	Torbay Council	Develop a Heritage Action Plan to take forward a set of prioritised actions for key heritage assets.

INTRODUCTION



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The Strategy is a living document and should be regularly monitored. The Action Plan will be a key component to achieve the successful delivery of the Strategy and on its completion it should subsequently be updated in five years time to present a review of progress made to date and to establish new targets for heritage-led initiatives.

The Action Plan evidence base has been compiled as part of the process of review and updating of the Heritage Strategy. One of the objectives of the Heritage Strategy is that this evidence base will be developed into a prioritised Action Plan, which sets out key targets and performance indicators for the preservation and enhancement of Torbay's heritage.

The Action Plan evidence base is based on information available in November 2010 as a benchmark against which future progress and successes can be measured. It is inevitable that the situation of baseline data will continually evolve.

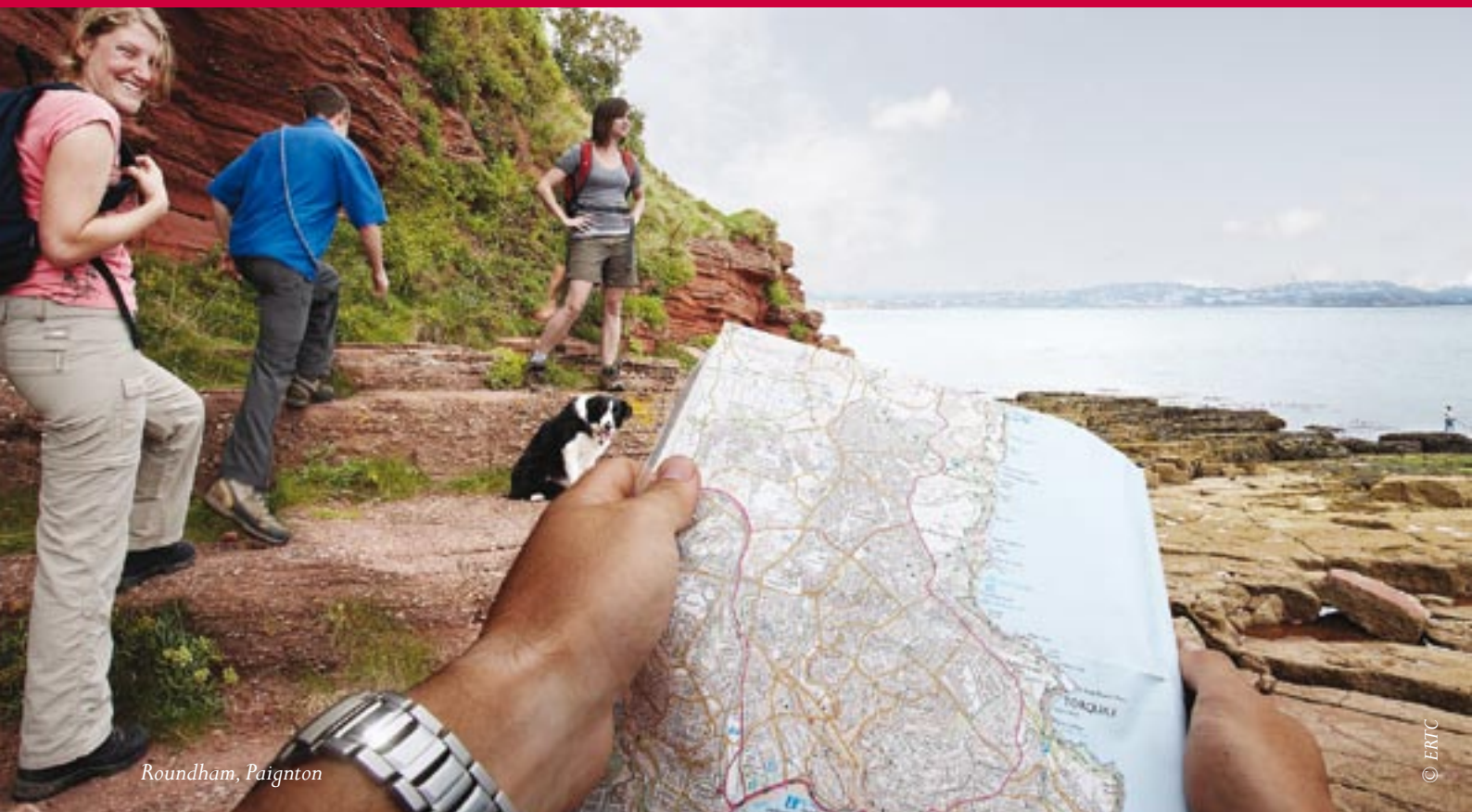
The Action Plan evidence base is based on the assets included in the 2004 Plan, with additions where required. The Plan has been structured to present a holistic approach to the management of Torbay's heritage i.e. everything that contributes to the value of an asset – historic buildings, designed landscapes, collections, traditional skills – are included within a single asset entry.

The assets were selected based on the current accepted definition of 'heritage asset' (see Glossary). The assets have then been divided into the various categories of heritage introduced at Section 3 of the Strategy: the built environment; archaeology; human-influenced landscapes; collections; historical figures; social history; and the natural environment. Many of these aspects of our heritage are interlinked.

The successful delivery of the Strategy will be dependent on stakeholders taking ownership of the Action Plan. Feedback from the various consultation events has informed the Plan and it presents an inspiring starting point to develop our approach to safeguarding our heritage.



THE FRAMEWORK FOR DELIVERING THE ACTION PLAN



Roundham, Paignton

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The Torbay Heritage Strategy will be owned by Torbay Council, but the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders will be key to the successful development of a detailed Action Plan and the subsequent delivery of identified priority projects.

A culture of heritage-led initiatives will provide the framework for the asset-by-asset delivery of the Action Plan. Ownership of the strategy needs to be taken across the wider community of Torbay through public, voluntary and private sector partnerships. The hard work of numerous volunteer groups has played a significant role in Torbay's heritage, and this work will become increasingly valued in the current economic climate with fewer public sector resources available. The government's 'localism' agenda will reinforce the importance of this role.

ACTION PLAN DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

This cross-sector holistic approach to celebrating and preserving the heritage of the Bay will include:

- Encouraging the Torbay Heritage Forum to become more active through greater collaboration with separate stakeholders. The success of the Forum may be dependent on developing a focus on bespoke projects for delivery. In 2010 the Forum took ownership of coordinating the Heritage Open Days. This nationally recognised event is key to raising awareness of the Bay's heritage and enabling access to assets which are typically not in the public domain. More groups should be encouraged to get involved with this event to increase the number of heritage assets open to visitors.
- The Torbay Connected project was launched in March 2011 (www.torbayconnected.co.uk). Heritage Strategy stakeholders and the wider community need to be encouraged to use and add to the heritage layer of the 'mash-up map'. The website will provide a new way for many people to engage with understanding their heritage, and provide the opportunity for developing cross-cultural links. It is intended that Torbay Connected will also provide an information base against which investors / developers in the Bay can understand the heritage of the place and aim to integrate cultural and heritage references into any new developments. The English Riviera Blue Plaque Heritage Trail and the Devon Gardens Trust Local List could both be usefully included on Torbay Connected. The Riviera Blue Plaque trail should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure that all of the plaques are included. Consideration should also be given to uploading Torbay Council's Historic Environment Record.



- Torbay's heritage has a significant role to play in developing the tourist industry in Torbay. The heritage-led components of the tourism strategy need to be supported and through increasing the understanding of our heritage there should be new inspiration for future marketing potential.
- The quality of Torbay's historic built environment is a fundamental part of what improves the quality of life of residents and the experience of visitors. Efforts for improving the condition and appearance of Torbay's heritage assets should be increased, and the wide range of statutory powers at the disposal of Torbay Council used to full effect. A community fund could be introduced to facilitate the restoration of certain heritage assets.
- The voluntary sector in Torbay already has a central role in increasing awareness of heritage, and working on projects to safeguard assets. Torbay Council and the Torbay Development Agency will support community groups wherever possible. This could include providing education and training days to enable community groups to develop their own heritage projects. Projects could include the creation of 'Local Lists' (see Glossary) and the expansion of the blue plaque programme.
- It is important to raise the profile of Torbay's heritage and expand and promote the already wide range of cultural events on offer. Connecting to national schemes, and possibly international events in the case of the Geopark, will raise awareness beyond the boundaries of the Bay. National schemes include the Heritage Open Day and 'Party on the Pier' which is launching British Tourism Week in 2011.

NEXT STEPS: MOVING TOWARD A DETAILED ACTION PLAN

1. Following the adoption of the Torbay Heritage Strategy, Torbay Council will coordinate a focus group meeting of key stakeholders responsible for the delivery of projects across the Bay. The purpose of this meeting will be to identify and prioritise heritage projects over the next five years.
2. Torbay Council will liaise closely with the Heritage Forum to ensure that ownership of the Action Plan is extended across the wider heritage sector, particularly the voluntary sector.
3. The detailed Action Plan will set out priorities for actions over the next 5 years (in the short, medium and long term categories).
4. The detailed Action Plan will assign responsibilities for delivery, and will set out the potential results of non-action.



Undercroft at Torre Abbey

TORBAY HERITAGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN EVIDENCE BASE

The evidence base for the forthcoming Action Plan can be consulted at www.torbay.gov.uk/heritagestrategy.



GLOSSARY

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Berry Head, Brixham

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	A nationally designated area requiring protection to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.
Conservation	The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and where appropriate enhances its significance.
Conservation Area	Statutorily designated at local level as “an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.”
County Wildlife Site	Non-statutory designations for sites of county significance for wildlife or geology.

GLOSSARY

Designated heritage asset	A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated as such under the relevant legislation.
Heritage asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets are valued components of the historic environment. They include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
Historic environment	All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.
Listed Building	A nationally designated structure or building recognised to have special architectural or historic interest.
Local List	A list identifying significant local heritage assets to enhance the understanding and management of the historic environment at a local level.
National Nature Reserve	Site of outstanding wildlife or geological importance managed either by, or on behalf of, English Nature in the interests of wildlife, research and public appreciation.
Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)	A non-statutorily protected site of regional and local importance for geodiversity (geology and geomorphology).
Registered Park or Garden	Nationally designated parks and gardens of historic interest.
Scheduled Ancient Monument	A nationally important archaeological site or historic building.
Significance	The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Site of particular wildlife or geological importance, where measures are taken to promote the safeguarding and enhancement of this interest through regulation of management activities and development.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Site of European conservation importance containing listed habitats or species.



APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF TORBAY'S DESIGNATED ASSETS

*Looking towards Princess Gardens
from Royal Terrace Gardens*

As discussed at Section 3, heritage assets can be both designated and non-designated. A summary of Torbay's designated heritage assets is provided below to raise awareness of our archaeological, architectural, and designed landscape assets which have national importance.

All records listed are accurate as of information available in March 2011.

Further information on these assets can be sourced at:

www.heritagegateway.org.uk

www.magic.gov.uk

www.torbay.gov.uk/conservationareaappraisals

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SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

(source: www.magic.defra.gov.uk)

There are 13 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Torbay

- Ashhole Cavern
- Berry Head Fort and Battery and Hardy's Head Battery (01)
- Berry Head Fort and Battery and Hardy's Head Battery (02)
- D-Day Landing Craft Maintenance Site on the River Dart
- Kents Cavern
- Prehistoric field system at Walls Hill
- The Bishop's Palace, Paignton
- The Old Redoubt and later Victorian rifle range target, south west of Berry Head Fort
- Torre Abbey
- Two bowl barrows at Beacon Hill
- Two prehistoric hill top enclosures, a ditch system and four bowl barrows, 300m north of Barton Pines Inn.
- Windmill Hill Cave, Brixham
- World War II Emergency Coastal Battery and remains of a Victorian practice battery at Battery Gardens.

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

(source: www.magic.defra.gov.uk)

There are six Registered Parks and Gardens in Torbay.

- **Barton Road Cemetery**
Grade II - A mid C19 cemetery laid out for a commercial company by an unidentified architect.
- **Castle Tor, Torquay**
Grade II - A late 1920s terraced garden around a contemporary house, with architectural elements including terraces, pools and an orangery designed by Fred Harrild, and planting schemes and design details attributed to George Dillistone of R Wallace and Co, Tunbridge Wells.
- **Lupton Park**
Grade II* - A late C18 parkland landscape and mid C19 formal gardens associated with a late C18 mansion remodelled in the mid C19. A mid C20 country house designed by Oswald Milne is set in mid C20 formal gardens within the park.
- **Oldway Mansion**
Grade II - Early C20 gardens and pleasure grounds for which the design was supplied by Achille Duchene.
- **Princess Gardens and Royal Terrace Gardens**
Grade II - A group of late C19 seafront public gardens and picturesque terraced cliff walks.
- **Watcombe Park and Brunel Manor Grade II**
Mid C19 parkland, arboretum and gardens laid out by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his head gardener Alexander Forsyth with advice from William Andrews Nesfield, many of the principal features surviving substantially unaltered from 1859.

LISTED BUILDINGS

(source: www.heritagegateway.org.uk)

There are 864 listed buildings in Torbay (5 grade I listed buildings; 30 grade II* listed buildings; and 827 grade II listed buildings)

Grade I

All Saints, Babbacombe
 Church of St John the Baptist, Church Street, Paignton
 Church of St John the Evangelist, Montpelier Road, Torquay
 The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey
 Torre Abbey

Grade II*

1-15 Wellswood Park Road, Torquay
 163 Newton Road, Torquay
 Aylmer, Milton Street, Brixham
 Beacon Terrace, 2-8 Beacon Hill, Torquay
 Bishops Palace walls and tower, Paignton
 Blagdon Manor, Paignton
 Church of our Lady Help of Christians and St Dennis, Priory Road, Torquay
 Church of St Andrew, St Efride's Road, Torquay
 Church of St George and St Mary, Cockington Park
 Church of St Luke, St Luke's Road, Torquay
 Church of St Mary, Blagdon Road, Paignton
 Church of St Mary Magdalene, Union Street, Torquay
 Church of St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Brixham
 Church of St Mary the Virgin, Drew Street, Brixham
 Church of St Matthew, St Matthias Church Road, Torquay
 Church of St Matthew, St Matthew's Road, Torquay
 Churston Court, Brixham
 Cockington Court
 D-Day embarkation slipways and adjoining linking section of quay wall, Beacon Quay, Torquay
 Hatley St George, Lincombe Drive, Torquay
 Hesketh Crescent and attached railings, 1-15 Meadfoot Road, Torquay
 Ilisham Manor Oratory, Torquay
 Kirkham House, Paignton
 Little Theatre, St Mark's Road, Torquay



Church of St Mary the Virgin, Babbacombe

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Kirkham House, Paignton



Little Theatre, Torquay

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Lupton House

Manor Farmhouse, 191 – 193 Fore Street, Torquay

Oldway Mansion, Paignton

Ramparts, counterscarp revetment, glacis, musketry wall of southern fort, Berry Head

Ramparts, revetments, north battery platform, north and south musketry walls of northern fort, Berry Head

Torbay Cinema, Paignton

Grade II

Information on the 827 grade II listed buildings in Torbay can be found at www.heritagegateway.org.uk

CONSERVATION AREAS

(source: www.torbay.gov.uk/conservationareasappraisals)

There are 24 conservation areas in Torbay (16 in Torquay, 4 in Paignton, and 4 in Brixham)

Abbey Road	Tormohun	Old Paignton
Cockington	Belgravia	Upton
Shorton	Lincombes	Chelston
Babbacombe Downs	Torquay Harbour	Polsham Park
Galmpton	Brixham Town	Watcombe Park
St Marychurch	Maidencombe	Churston Ferrers
Barton	Torre	Roundham & Paignton Harbour
Higher Brixham	Cary Park	Warberries

Torbay also has a wealth of designated assets related to its natural environment. These include:

English Riviera Global Geopark

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(source: www.southdevonaonb.org.uk)

South Devon

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)

(source: www.naturalengland.org.uk)

There are 12 SSSIs in Torbay.

Babbacombe Cliffs	Dyer's Quarry
Lummaton Quarry	Occombe
Berry Head to Sharkham Point	Hopes Nose to Walls Hill
Meadfoot Sea Road	Roundham Head
Daddyhole	Kents Cavern, Torquay
New Cut, Lincombe Drive, Torquay	Saltern Cove

SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

(source: *Torbay Council, Spatial Planning*)

Berry Head to Sharkham Point Special Area of Conservation

Lyme Bay and Torbay Marine Candidate Special Area of Conservation

NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Berry Head

REGIONALLY IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL SITES

(source: *Devon Biodiversity Records Centre*)

There are 14 regionally important geological sites in Torbay.

Barcombe Mews Quarry, Shorton	Goodrington Quarry and Road Cutting
Barton Quarry	Hollicombe Head to Corbyn Head
Black Head, Anstey's Cove	Hope's Nose South
Breakwater Quarry	Petitor / Maidencombe
Brixham Cavern	Quarry Woods Quarry
Brokenbury Quarry, Churston Ferrers	Sharkham Point to Berry Head
Chapel Hill	
Churston Cove / Point	

COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

(source: *Devon Biodiversity Records Centre*)

There are 31 County Wildlife Sites in Torbay

Ashleigh	Lower Gabwell Fields (Labrador Bay)
Berry Head Farm	Lupton Park
Black Head Field	Maidencombe
Blue Waters Drive	Occombe Farm
Broadsands Marsh	Occombe Woods W
Churston Ferrers	Petit Tor to Watcombe Coast
Churston Point – Elberry Cove	Ramshill
Churston Railway	Sharkham Point
Clennon Ponds	Smalldon Lane and Easterfield Lane
Clennon Woods	Southdown and Woodhuish
Cockington Court	St Marychurch Down
Daddyhole Cove to Peaked Tor Cove	Thatcher Point
Elberry Cove – Churston Cove	The Grove
Galmpton Common	Tor Rocks
Isham Marine Drive	Torbay Golf Course
Livermead - Hollicombe	



Berry Head to Sharkham Point

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APPENDIX B: TORBAY HERITAGE STRATEGY STAKEHOLDERS

The following groups were involved in the development of the Torbay Heritage Strategy:

- Brixham Battery Group
- Brixham Heritage Museum
- Community Partnerships
- English Heritage
- English Riviera Geopark
- English Riviera Tourism Company
- Friends of Oldway
- Friends of Torre Abbey
- Kay Elliot Architects
- Kents Cavern
- Paignton Preservation Society
- South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- The community of Torbay
- Torbay Civic Society
- Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
- Torbay Council
- Torbay Development Agency
- Torbay Heritage Forum
- Torbay Libraries
- Torquay Museum Society



APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION ANALYSIS



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Fishing boats, Brixham

EVALUATION OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES TAKEN FROM THE HERITAGE STRATEGY CONSULTATION REPORT

Standard responses

When asking people what heritage meant to them, there was a high and varied response across all categories, showing that heritage is represented by a number of things, not just buildings or famous people.

However, the highest overall responses were buildings, maritime or naval history, museum collections and famous inhabitants. These were closely followed by geology, parks and gardens, nature and language or dialect. All of these choices had 50% or more of respondents feeling that this is what is meant by heritage.

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This shows that heritage is definitely more than just the Bay's built heritage, although it is the most recognised representation. Torbay residents feel strongly also about green/open spaces and the geology/nature of the Bay. This reinforces Torbay's status as a Geopark, which is mentioned a number of times throughout the feedback.

A number of respondents also highlighted that heritage isn't just represented by the old, but that all people living in the Bay now, and any new development will become the heritage of the future.

When asking respondents for their favourite places they would want to be included in the strategy, the top responses were as follows:

Top 5 overall responses:

1. Oldway Mansion (14.1%)
2. Babbacombe Downs (13.5%)
3. Brixham Scala Hall & Theatres – general (both 12.8%)
4. Brixham – general & Brixham Theatre (both 10.3%)
5. Brixham Town Centre (9.6%)

Just under half of all responses related to buildings within the Bay (48.3%), followed by parks and open spaces (19.4%), then general areas (14.4%). This shows that whilst heritage is not defined as only buildings, they make up the largest number of people's favourite places which they want to include in the strategy.

The largest proportion of overall responses for this question fell within the area of Torquay, with approximately 38% of the total examples. However the majority of the top responses cover Brixham (as can be seen in the top 5 responses), and in total the Scala Hall, theatre, town centre, Town Hall, museum, Berry Head, the whole town, harbour and the heritage fleet gained approximately 23.7% of the responses.

Responses falling within Paignton made up approximately 16.5% of the total response.

Generic responses, or those which specified the type of place (e.g. theatres) rather than an actual place made up 21.3% of total responses, with the final 0.5% falling outside of Torbay.

The fact that Brixham is largely represented despite being the smallest in population of the three towns, shows how strongly people feel about Brixham as a place with lots of heritage.

Oldway Mansion and Babbacombe Downs are unsurprisingly highly represented, this may be in part due to the fact that the community may have felt that these heritage assets were 'at threat' by development at the time of the consultation.

Of the options given for respondents to choose for which type of building is important to them, each option gained a significant number of responses. However those which were selected by over 60% of total respondents include the following (in descending order): historic homes, ancient monuments, harbours, Victorian buildings, churches, fortifications, civic buildings, maritime buildings or vessels and railways/stations.

This is reflected in the next question which asks for examples of buildings which are important to them.

The top five examples given were: Oldway (27.3%), Torre Abbey (24%), Cockington and Berry Head (both with 19.8%), then harbours (17.4%) and railways (14.9%).

When asked to give examples of one place which represents the character of Torbay, the two joint top answers were Oldway and Babbacombe. This reinforces the earlier question when asking people's favourite places where these were the top two responses.

This shows the importance of these two areas of Torbay, but again may be biased due to press coverage at the time of the consultation of potential development in these areas (which is going ahead at Oldway, but was withdrawn for Babbacombe Downs).

The next two most popular responses were Torquay seafront, including Torre Abbey, the Promenade, Princess Gardens and Rock Walk, and Brixham in general.

Respondents were then asked to give examples of local stories which were important to them. The top answer with an outstanding majority was Agatha Christie, with 21.39%. (It should be noted that a number of respondents expressed that they feel Agatha Christie is too highly promoted overshadowing other local stories.)

In a distant second with 8.67% was Torre Abbey, followed by Brunel (8.09%), then links to famous people – general, and John 'Babbacombe' Lee ('The man they couldn't hang') both with 7.51%.

Four out of the top five responses were linked to famous inhabitants of the Bay, reinforcing this as being a major part of Torbay's heritage.

The next question asked respondents how they would use the heritage of the three towns to benefit Torbay. The highest selected option was tourism (86%), followed by education (66%) then the economy (58%).

'Other' comments given were predominantly focused on promoting heritage, including promoting the Bay to attract higher spending tourists, promoting famous people or stories, the Geopark and marine facilities.

Improving local pride and maintaining heritage assets for local people were also mentioned throughout the feedback. This highlights that Torbay should not just focus on using heritage to benefit tourism but to focus on the local residents as well.

When asked what changes people would make to benefit Torbay based on its heritage, the top response with 28.19% was to preserve/restore and promote heritage buildings. This was followed by increasing marketing of the Bay's heritage with 9.40%. Preserving natural resources was third with 8.05%.

Although the main responses for this question were focused on preservation and restoration, throughout the feedback there are a number of comments which feel the need for Torbay to move forward and to use new development to enhance the existing heritage. Concerns are also raised throughout to ensure that any such development is sensitive and that it complements the existing heritage assets.

The final question asked if there was anything else that they would like to be included in the Heritage Strategy. This was to ensure that no areas were missed which were deemed important to the community.

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The top response was the need to include green/open spaces in the strategy (19.35%). This may be due to the fact that many people immediately think of buildings when they think of heritage assets, and the public feel strongly that some of Torbay's top heritage assets are its green spaces. This is reflected throughout the feedback with areas like Babbacombe Downs, Berry Head and Princess Gardens etc. mentioned by a number of people.

The next highest response was to ensure public involvement in the strategy and to keep them informed (11.83%). This is a key part of the development of the strategy and the next steps of the project will be focussed on further consultation and buy in to heritage from the wider community, and not just those who are already taking an active interest. It is also the aim of the council and TDA to work together with existing heritage and special interest groups in order to help develop the strategy.

The third response was to support and increase heritage events and tours (9.68%). Cultural events are another aspect of heritage which will be addressed in the strategy.

Summary of standard questionnaire responses

From the feedback it can be seen that heritage is important to the local community, and that Torbay has a huge number of heritage assets, from buildings, green spaces, harbours, railways etc. to stories of famous inhabitants and the history of early man in the prehistoric Kent's Cavern.

Torbay's heritage spans millions of years and incorporates some of the most famous historical events recorded. There are a number of significant historical figures who have links to Torbay, many of which a number of residents may not even be aware of.

Torbay also has a diverse variety of architectural styles which represents how the Bay has developed over time. Added to this there is recognition that to keep up with other towns there must be an element of new development, but that it should be sensitive and complement what we already have, not overshadow it.

The consultation has given a good first glimpse into what is felt to be important to the community and provides a basis to build upon in taking forward development of the strategy.

It has highlighted areas which may have been missed, and given an insight into what the community would like the strategy to incorporate.

Following on from this initial consultation exercise, there will be further consultation with community partnerships, special interest groups, and the general public in order to help the strategy to take shape. This will include mapping and recording the Bay's heritage assets and setting heritage priorities in an action plan.

Children's responses

The children's questionnaire was designed by a young volunteer to help try and gauge young people's responses to similar questions to the adults. Some of the questions elicited responses which were slightly removed from the overall theme of heritage, however they have provided an insight into what is important to the young people of Torbay.

The first question asked was 'What does history mean to you'. This is comparable to the question of what heritage means, in the standard questionnaire.

The two top answers were Museums (40%) then old buildings (37%). However just under a quarter of the children who responded recognised special days, caves, people and famous families as being a part of history as well.

These responses do not differ too much from the standard responses which placed buildings, museum collections and famous inhabitants in the top 4 answers.

The second question asked respondents what their favourite place in Torbay was. The highest overall answers included: Torquay (general) and Torquay town centre; beaches (general) and entertainment venues such as the cinema, bowling alley, Paignton Zoo and Rainbow fun house.

These responses differ greatly to the adult responses, however they do show what is important to the youth of Torbay. The places where young people spend their time at present are likely to become a part of their heritage as they grow older in Torbay.

Next they were asked what their favourite types of building were. An overwhelming majority (71% of all respondents) selected cinemas.

It is assumed that this is based on entertainment value as opposed to the heritage value of the buildings, but similar to the first question, it shows the cultural importance of such buildings which by the adult population may not be seen to be a heritage asset.

However it could be considered that Paignton Picture House, the old cinema on Torbay Road which is mentioned throughout the adult consultation, would have been popular in its heyday due to its entertainment value before becoming a heritage asset over time.

The next two highest responses were famous buildings (24%) and harbours (21%).

Question 4 asked what they would put in a picture about Torbay. This was an alternative question to which place represents the character of Torbay, in the standard questionnaire.

The highest response for this question was a beach scene, including sea views, seagulls, ice creams and general seaside activities. The second highest response was a harbour scene.

Together these represented 66% of the respondent's views, indicating that the Bay's coastal location including the harbours and beaches represents the character of the Bay from young people's perspectives.

The next question aimed to find out what local stories children would put into a Torbay History Guide. The top category of answers to this question were either inappropriate or negative stories/opinions, as opposed to being local stories. (e.g. fighting and litter). The second highest response was 'Don't know'. This indicates that local history is not widely known by young people, or is not felt to be important to them.

A few respondents did mention Victorian history, stone age history and Kent's Cavern, pirates and smugglers, Agatha Christie and John 'Babbacombe' Lee – the man they could not hang. However these were on a much lower scale than in the standard responses, where Agatha Christie was the top response.

When asked for other examples that would be put into a history guide, there were not many responses which were mentioned more than once, but individual places/areas of interest were listed

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by 25% of respondents. Similar to the question before 20% stated they didn't know.

This again indicates that local history is either not of high importance to young people, or that they are not aware of much of the Bay's history.

The children's questionnaire then asked respondents how the Bay's history could make the economy of Torbay better. This was a multiple choice question, and the two highest responses were school trips and money, both with 50%. This was closely followed by more people to visit with 39%, then wildlife reserves with 35%.

Apart from money and more people visiting, the options given do not necessarily relate directly to improving the economy, but it shows that half of the young people who responded felt that the Bay's history could contribute to school trips. This could be a positive way of getting young people more engaged with the Bay's heritage and raise their awareness of local history.

The final question asked how they feel history could make Torbay better. Just under half of the respondents (42%) gave examples relating to tourism and boosting visitor numbers to the Bay. The next highest response was to raise local awareness.

Summary of children's questionnaire responses

The youth responses to the Heritage Strategy consultation have shown a useful insight into what a number of young people think about Torbay.

Unfortunately a large majority of respondents were based in Torquay and responses came predominantly from one school. This therefore does not represent a balanced view of the youth across Torbay. Brixham and Paignton schoolchildren are likely to have knowledge of different stories and places which are closer to their homes and schools, and may have differing favourite places.

The feedback does however indicate that local heritage and the Bay's history is not widely known by young people, and that their main priorities are entertainment such as films, shops, bowling and the zoo.

It is recognised though that heritage is not just about the old but about what we have now and how that will become the heritage of the future. It is therefore useful to find out what is valued by the future generations of Torbay residents.

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For more information please contact 01803 207958.