University of Kent

Kent Academic Repository

Gill, David W.J. and Matthews, Peter (2021) *Essex: State of the historic environment 2021*. Technical report. University of Kent, Kent, UK 10.22024/UniKent/01.02.89173 <https://doi.org/10.22024/UniKent%2F01.02.89173>.

Downloaded from

https://kar.kent.ac.uk/89173/ The University of Kent's Academic Repository KAR

The version of record is available from

https://doi.org/10.22024/UniKent/01.02.89173

This document version

Publisher pdf

DOI for this version

Licence for this version

CC BY (Attribution)

Additional information

Versions of research works

Versions of Record

If this version is the version of record, it is the same as the published version available on the publisher's web site. Cite as the published version.

Author Accepted Manuscripts

If this document is identified as the Author Accepted Manuscript it is the version after peer review but before type setting, copy editing or publisher branding. Cite as Surname, Initial. (Year) 'Title of article'. To be published in ***Title of Journal*** , Volume and issue numbers [peer-reviewed accepted version]. Available at: DOI or URL (Accessed: date).

Enquiries

If you have questions about this document contact ResearchSupport@kent.ac.uk. Please include the URL of the record in KAR. If you believe that your, or a third party's rights have been compromised through this document please see our Take Down policy (available from https://www.kent.ac.uk/guides/kar-the-kent-academic-repository#policies).

Essex

State of the Historic Environment 2021

Compiled by David W. J. Gill and Peter Matthews

University of Kent | Centre for Heritage

Cover
Bradwell on Sea (Othona), Essex. © David Gill

Back Cover
Colchester Castle, Essex. © David Gill

Centre for Heritage, University of Kent
Version 2.5
Last updated: 8 July 2021

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Local Authorities in Essex 2

Rankings 3

Southend-on-Sea 4

Maldon 4

Rochford 5

Brentwood 5

Tendring 6

Epping Forest 6

Colchester 7

Uttlesford 7

Chelmsford 8

Harlow 8

Braintree 9

Thurrock 9

Basildon 10

Castle Point 10

Eastern Region 11

Heritage Potential 12

Historic Built Environment 13

Thames Estuary 15

Conservation Areas and Assets of Community Value 16

Heritage at Risk 17

Eastern Region 18

Listed Parks 19

Museums, Archives and Artefacts 20

Archaeological Finds 21

Eastern Region 21

Industrial Heritage 22

Landscapes and Natural Heritage 23

Thames Estuary 27

Hedgerows 28

Ancient Trees 29

Engagement with Nature 30
Culture and Memories 31
Civic Societies 32
Participation in Heritage 33
Heritage Open Days 35
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Grants 36
Eastern Region 37
Heritage and the Tourism Economy 38
Sources 39
The RSA Heritage Index 39
Data Sources 39

Introduction

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 and therefore the information for local authorities in England and Wales need to be presented differently.

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 region.

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

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

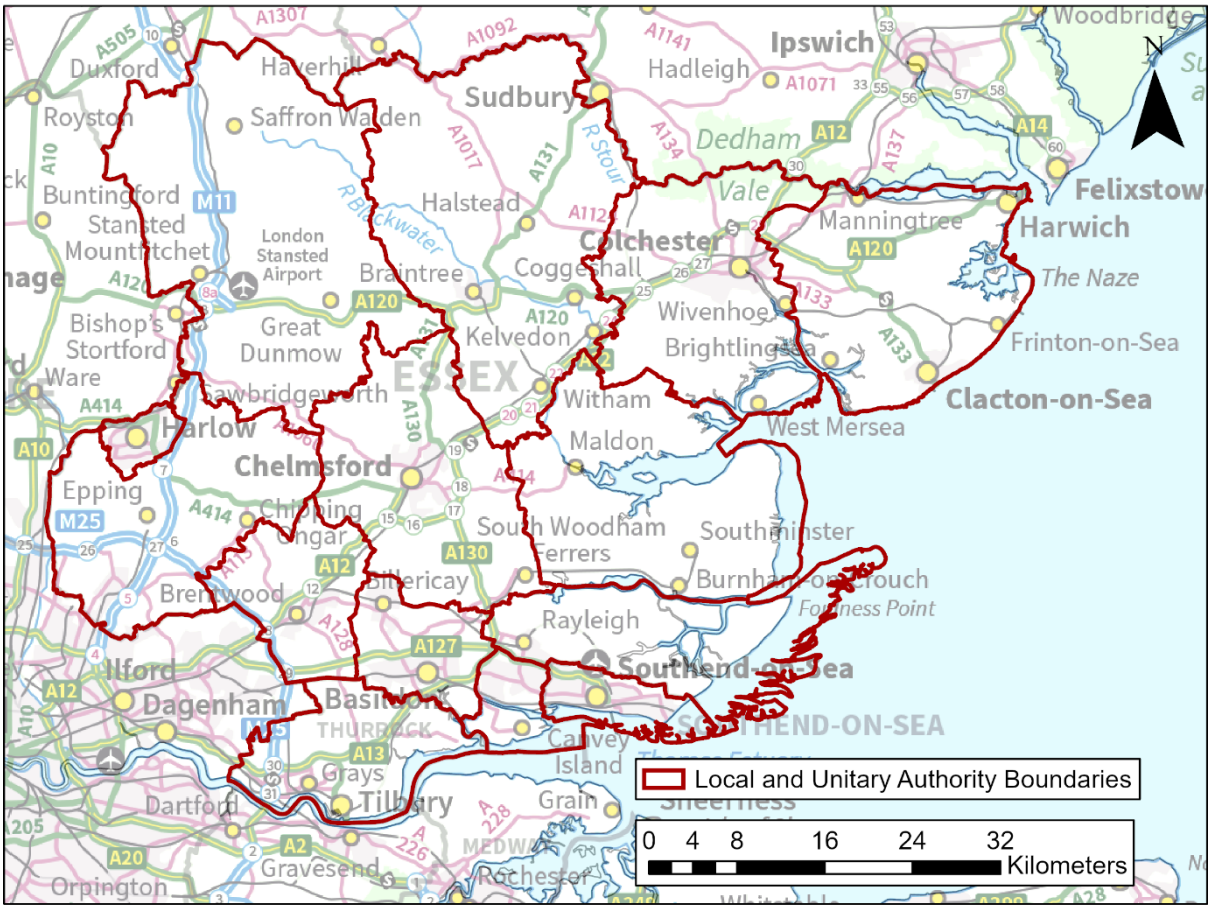
Local Authorities in Essex

The county of Essex includes the following 12 local authorities:

- Basildon
- Braintree
- Brentwood
- Castle Point
- Chelmsford
- Colchester
- Epping Forest
- Harlow
- Maldon
- Rochford
- Tendring
- Uttlesford

There are also two unitary authorities:

- Southend-on-Sea
- Thurrock



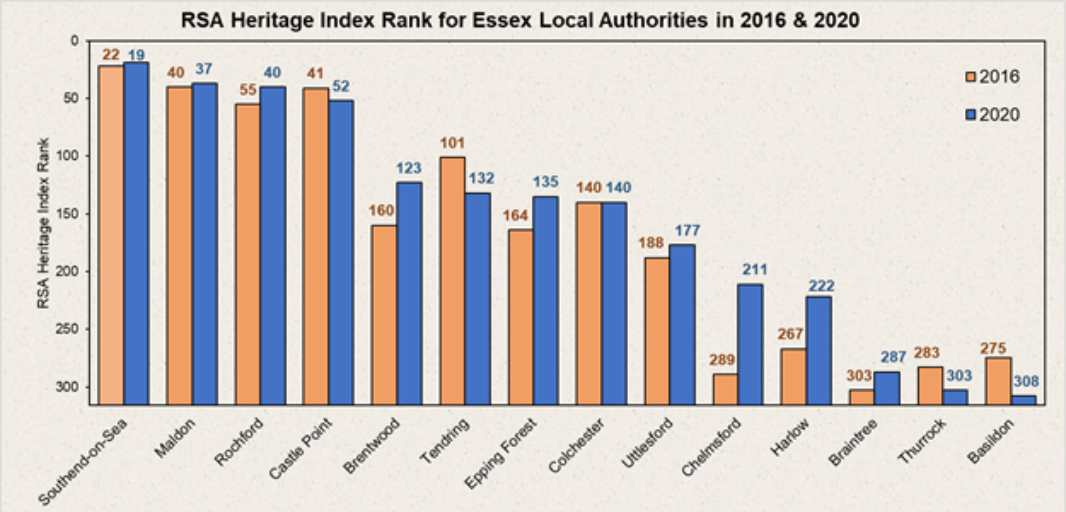
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2021

Rankings

Each local authority in England (316) and Wales (22) is ranked using the strands of data presented in the themes embedded within the index.

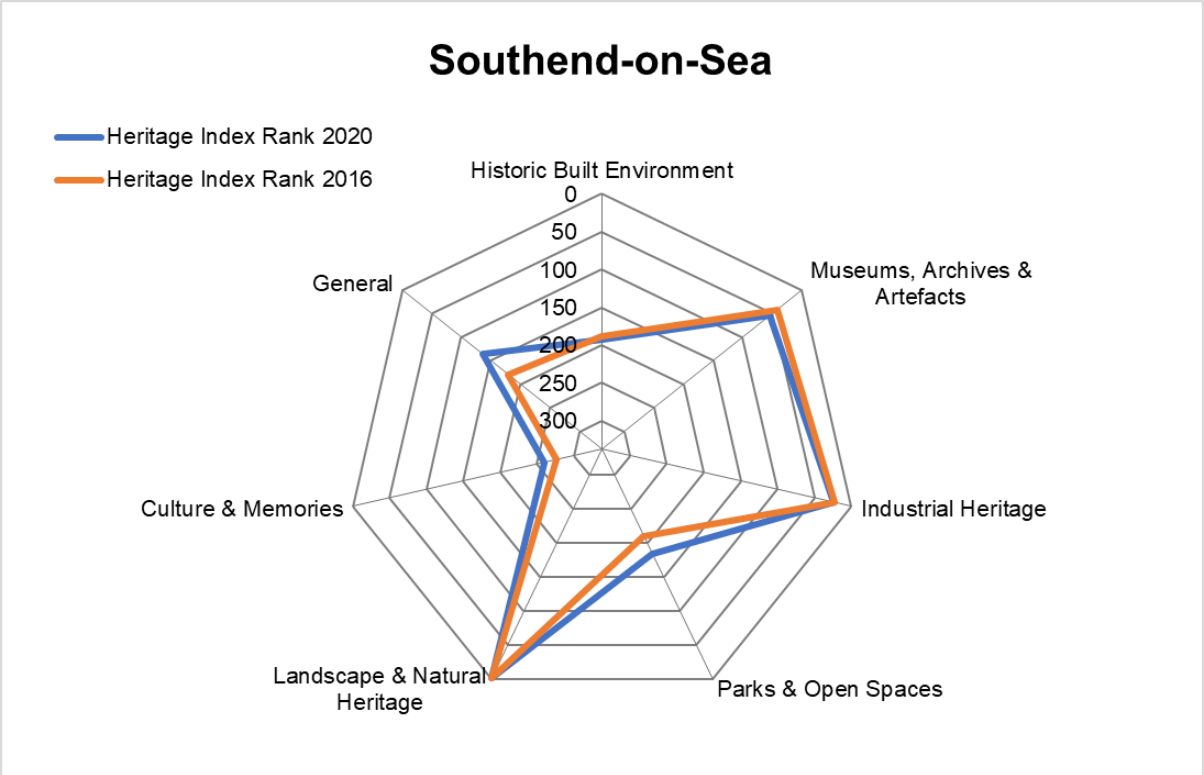
Local Authority	Heritage Index Rank: Overall		
	2020	2016	Change
Southend-on-Sea	19	22	3
Maldon	37	40	3
Rochford	40	55	15
Castle Point	52	41	-11
Brentwood	123	160	37
Tendring	132	101	-31
Epping Forest	135	164	29
Colchester	140	140	0
Uttlesford	177	188	11
Chelmsford	211	289	78
Harlow	222	267	45
Braintree	287	303	16
Thurrock	303	283	-20
Basildon	308	275	-33

Essex has a strong heritage base with Southend-on-Sea, Maldon, Rochford, and Castle Point in the top 100 places in England. These four are higher than the strongest local authority in Suffolk (Ipswich, 87).

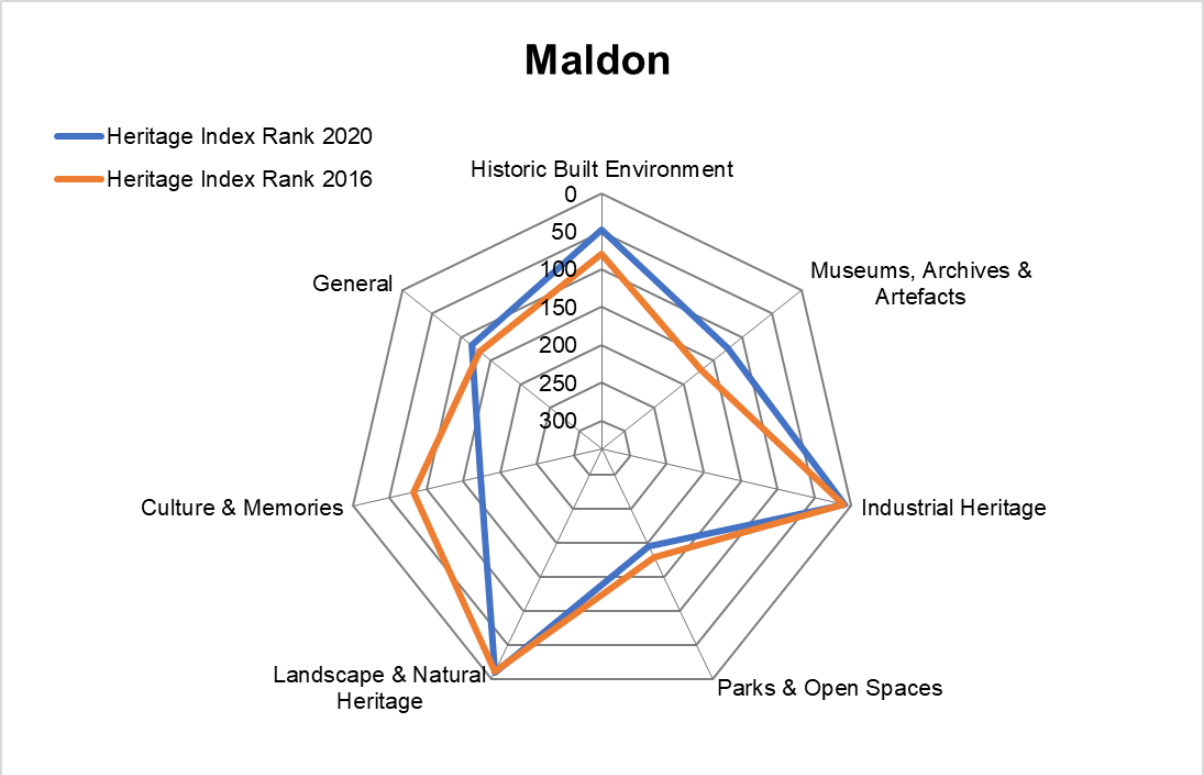


The RSA report has highlighted the Thames Estuary for its heritage potential: with Castle Point (1), Rochford (5), Southend-on-Sea (16), as well as on the other side of the Thames, Gravesham (4), Medway (9), and Dartford (39).

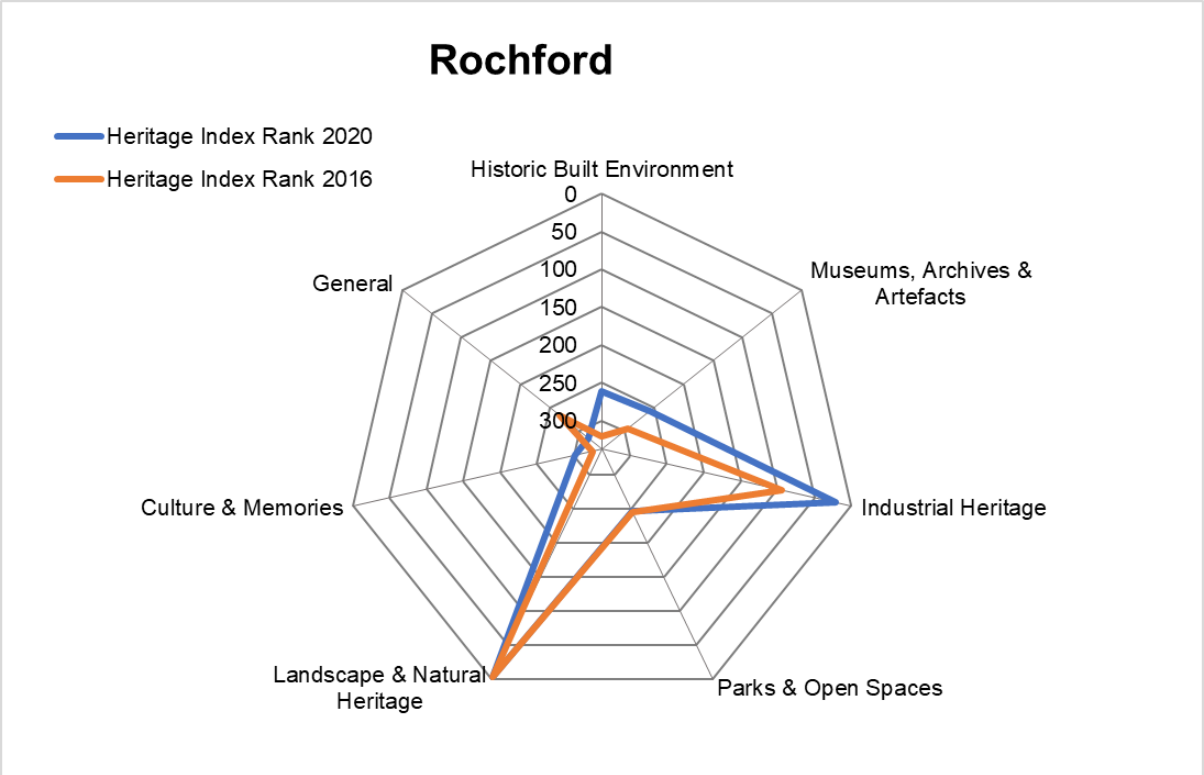
Southend-on-Sea



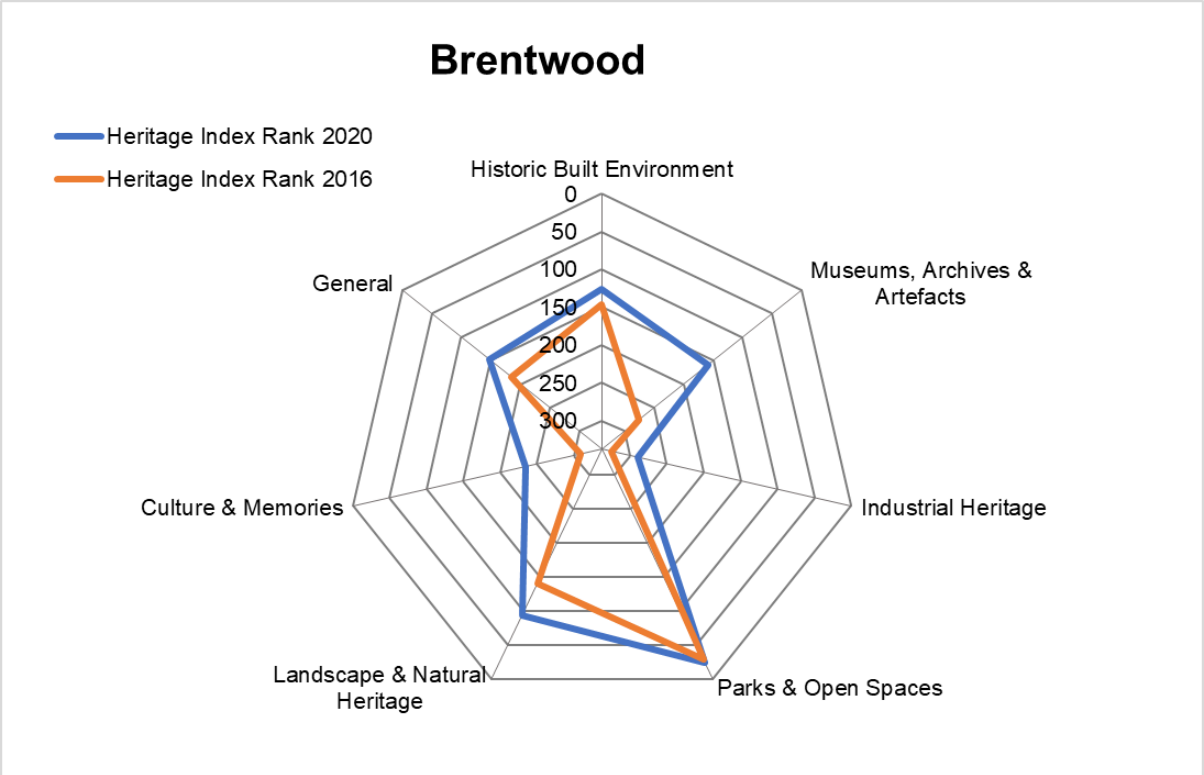
Maldon



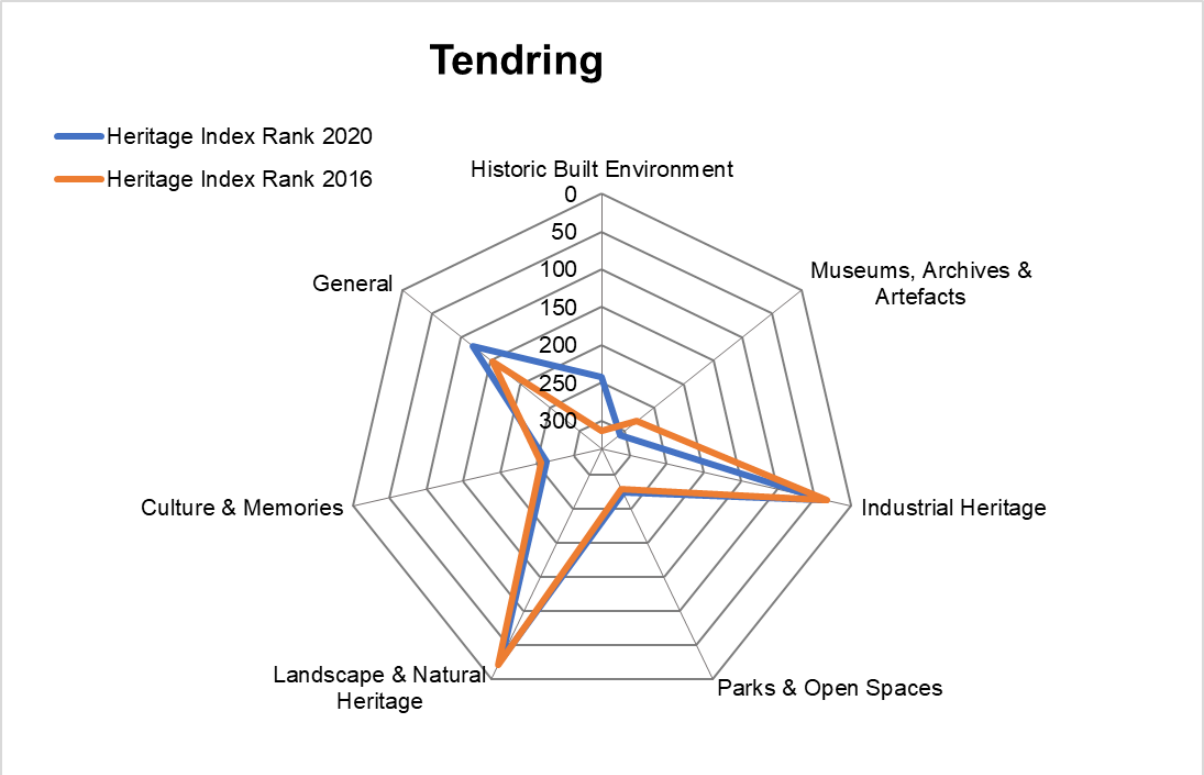
Rochford



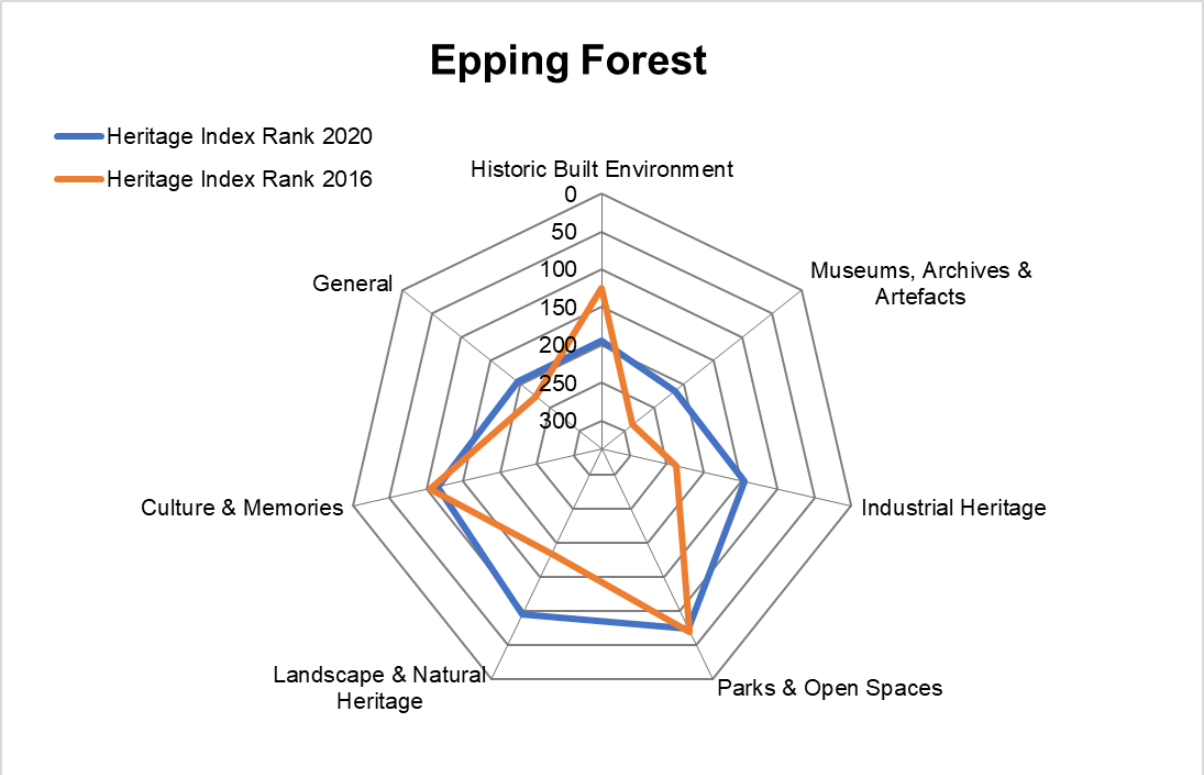
Brentwood



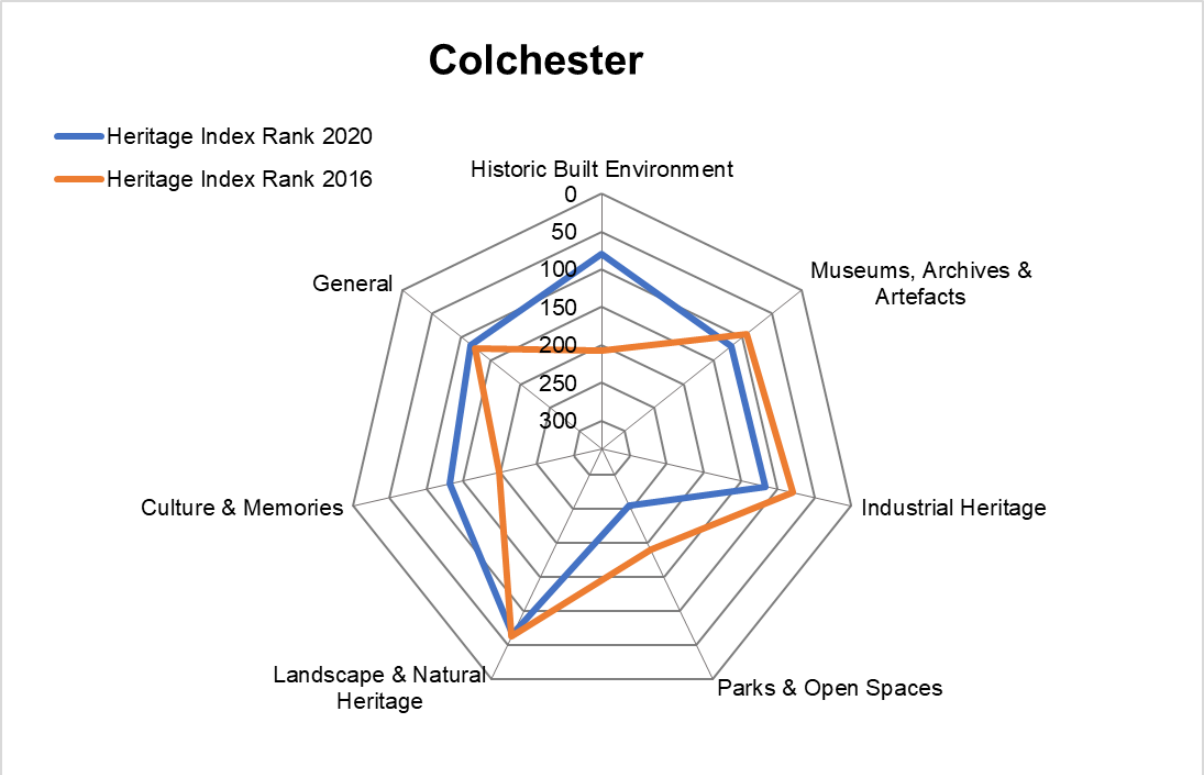
Tendring



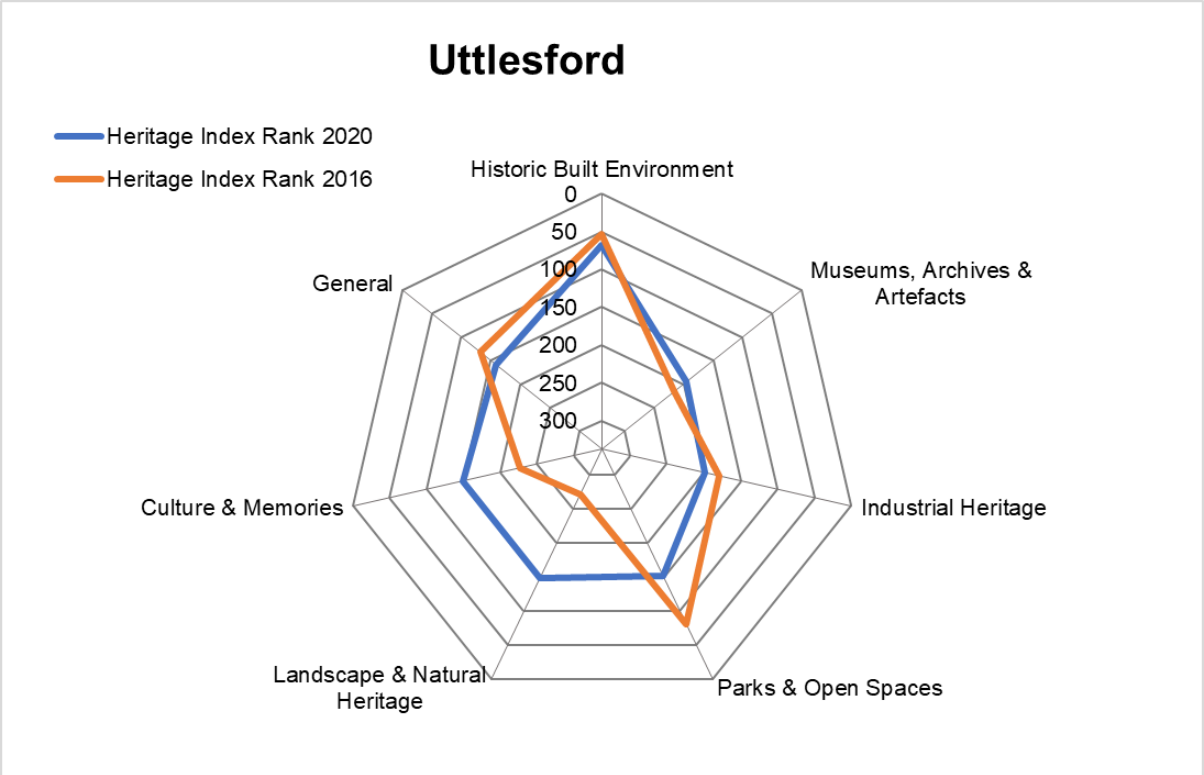
Epping Forest



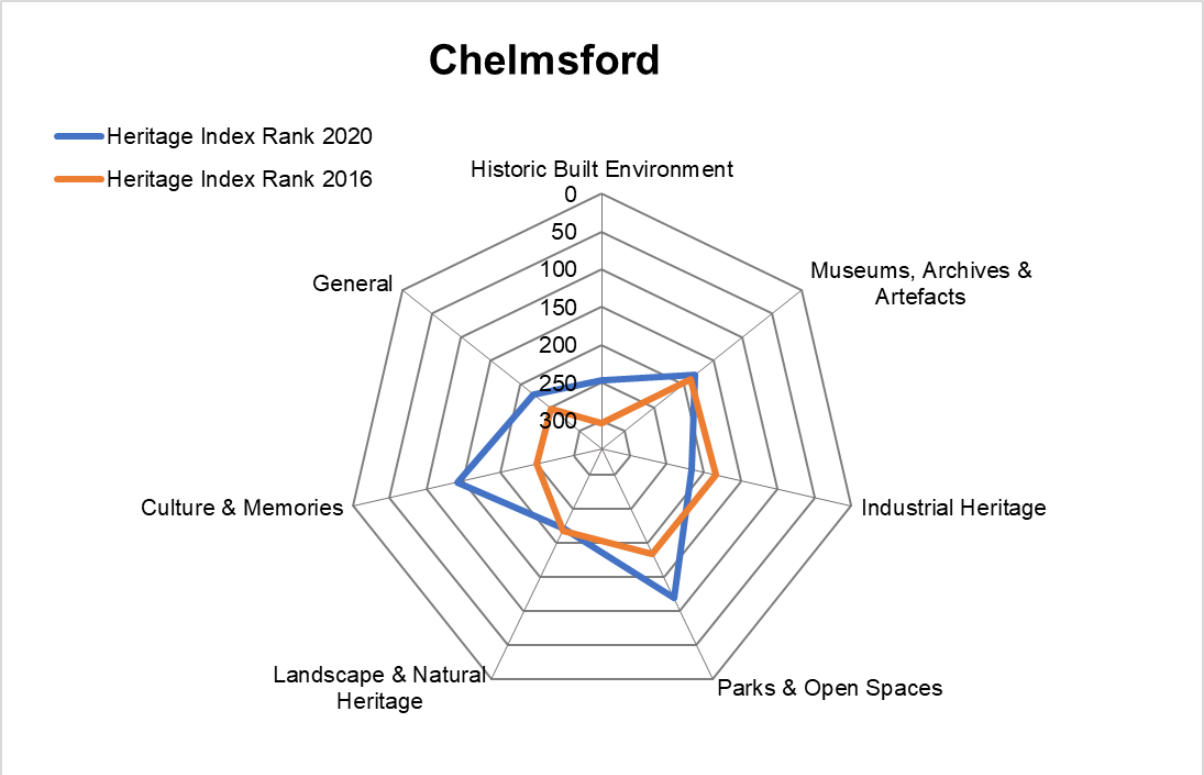
Colchester



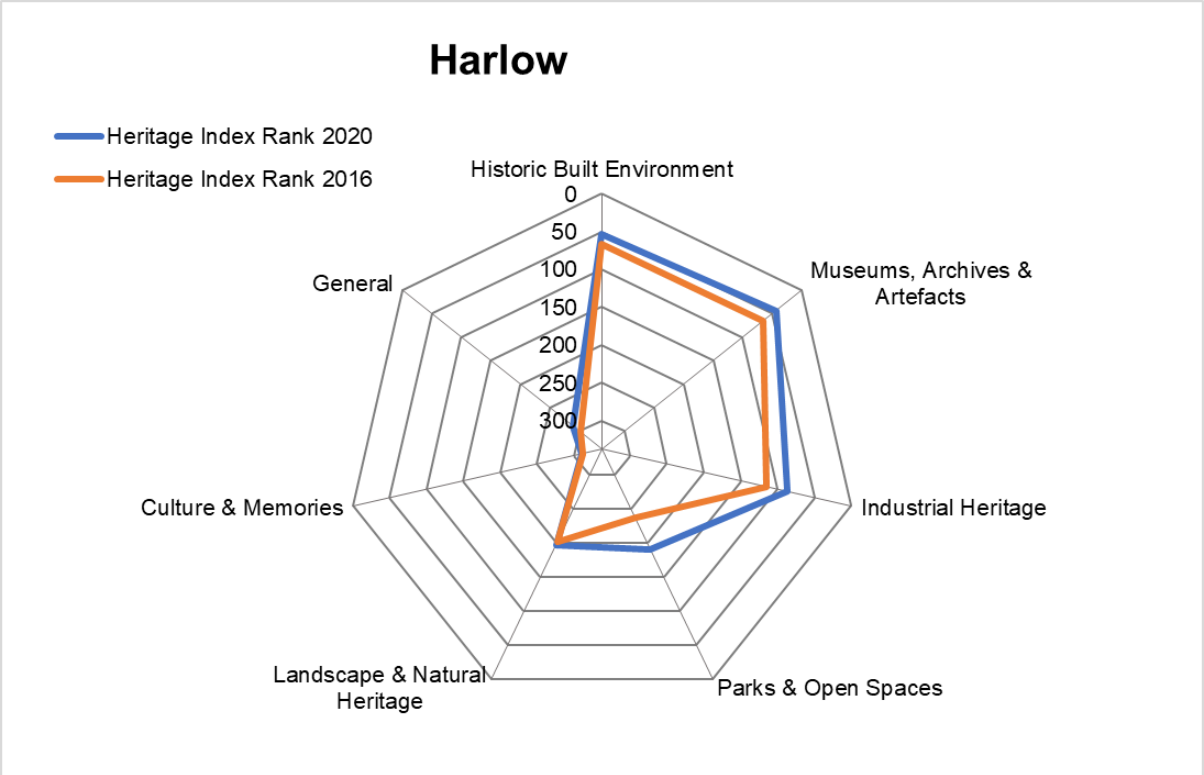
Uttlesford



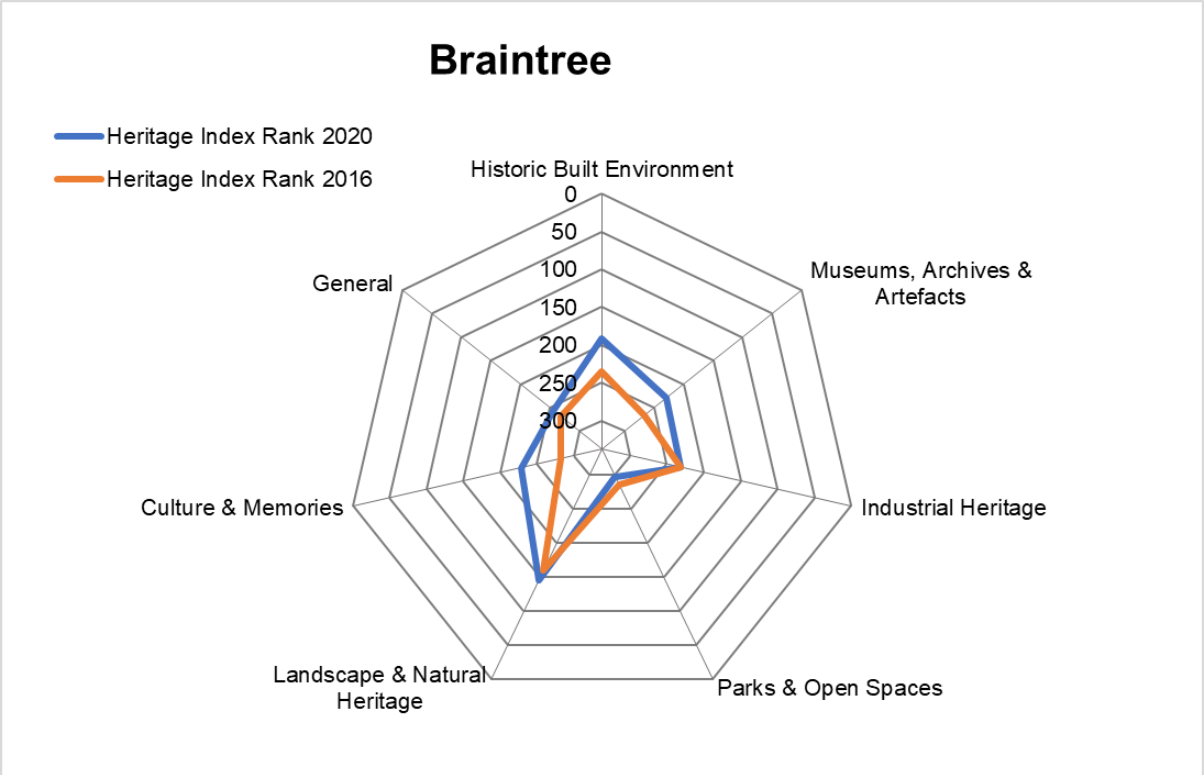
Chelmsford



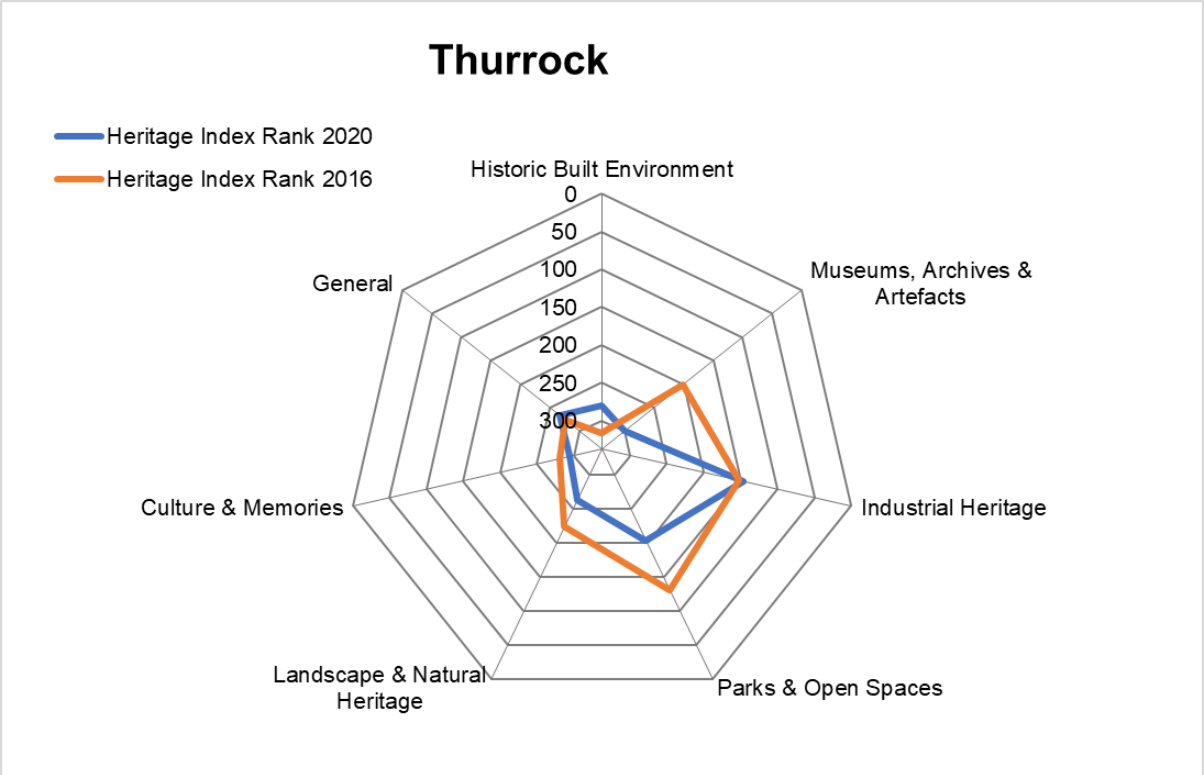
Harlow



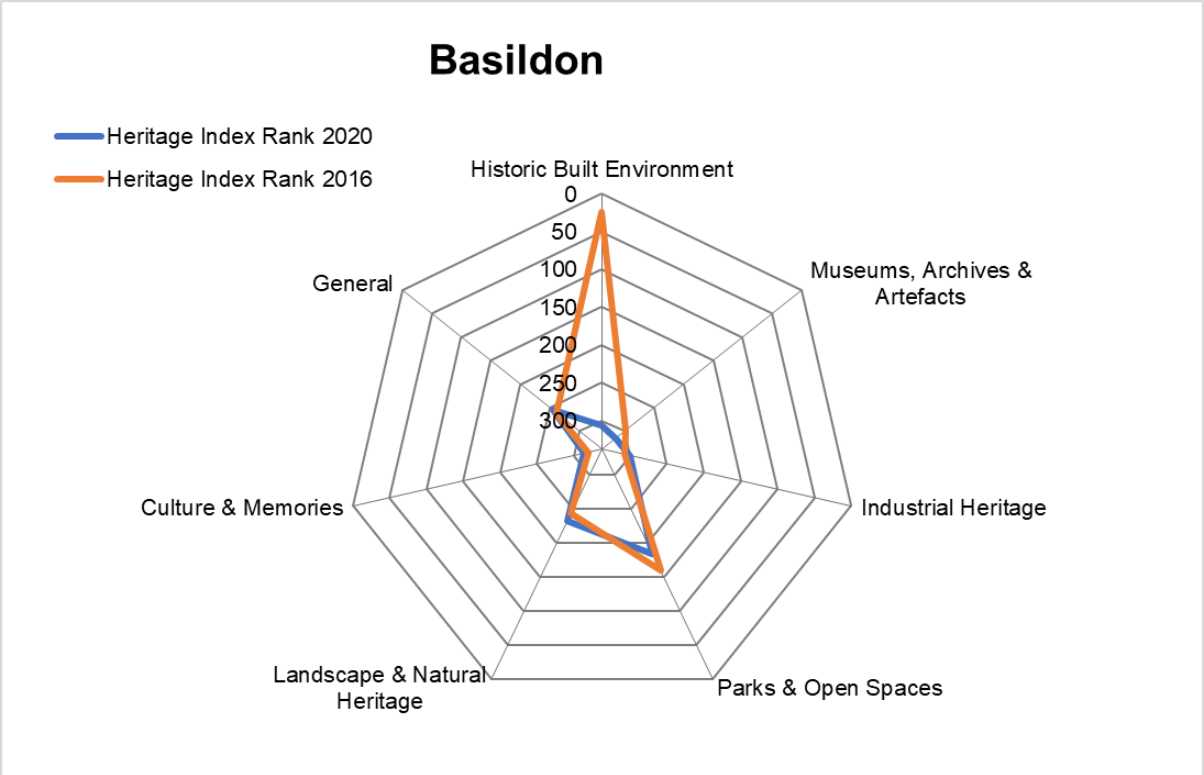
Braintree



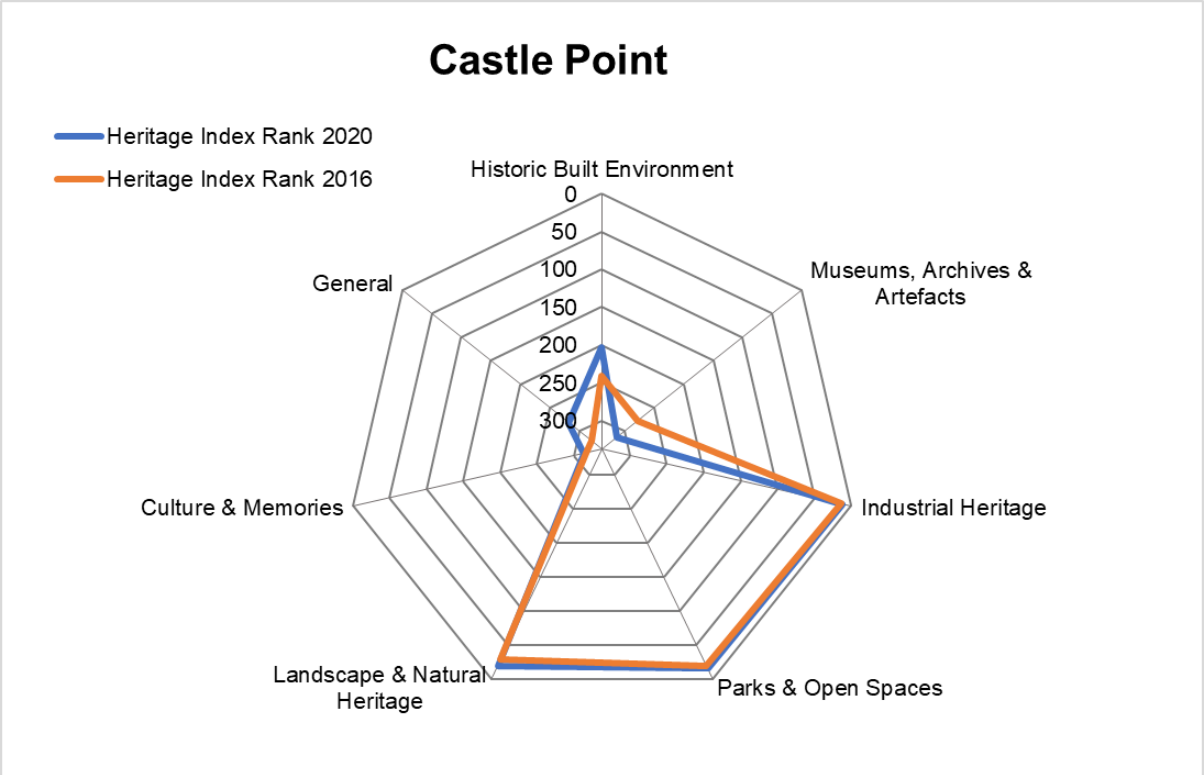
Thurrock



Basildon



Castle Point

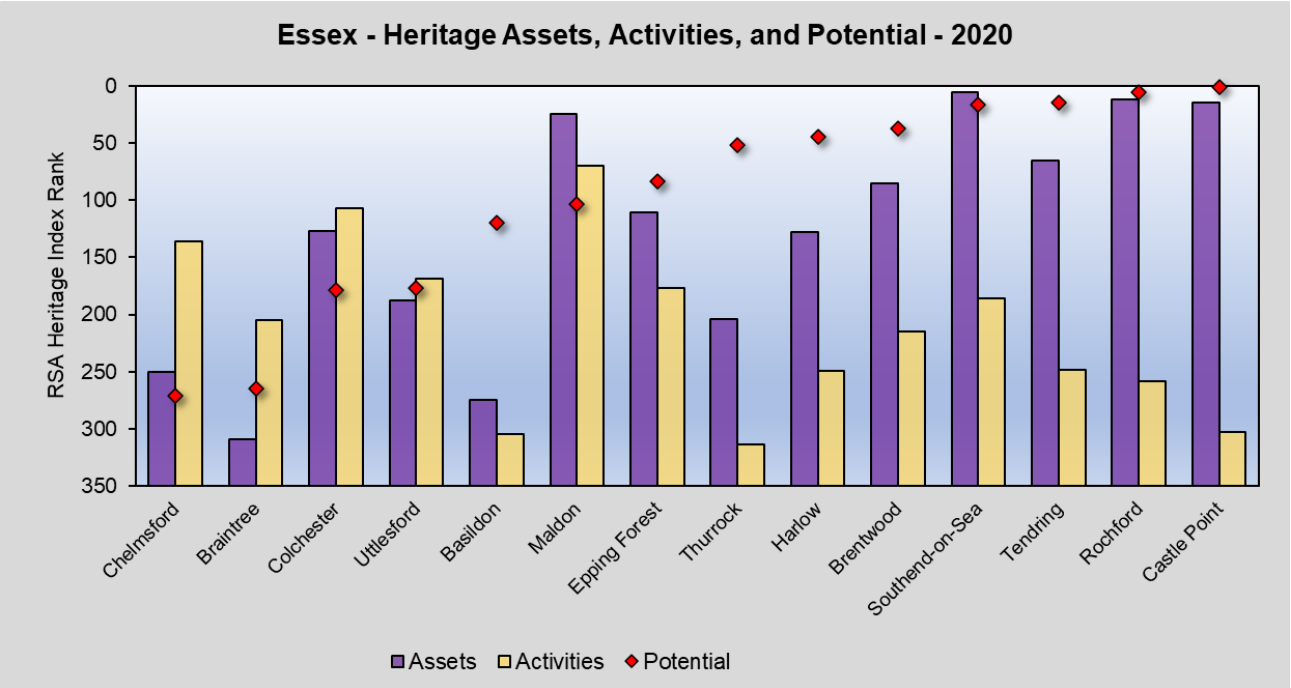


Eastern Region

Local Authority	County	Heritage Index Rank: Overall		
		2020	2016	Change
Norwich	Norfolk	3	9	6
Cambridge	Cambridgeshire	9	12	3
Southend-on-Sea	Unitary Authority	19	22	3
North Norfolk	Norfolk	25	36	11
Maldon	Essex	37	40	3
Great Yarmouth	Norfolk	38	64	26
Rochford	Essex	40	55	15
Castle Point	Essex	52	41	-11
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	Norfolk	54	48	-6
Ipswich	Suffolk	87	70	-17
East Suffolk	Suffolk	98	73 / 127	n/a
Fenland	Cambridgeshire	115	133	18
West Suffolk	Suffolk	122	105 / 134	n/a
Brentwood	Essex	123	160	37
Tendring	Essex	132	101	-31
Epping Forest	Essex	135	164	29
Colchester	Essex	140	140	0
Breckland	Norfolk	150	152	2
Uttlesford	Essex	177	188	11
Babergh	Suffolk	188	181	-7
Broadland	Norfolk	190	205	15
Peterborough	Unitary Authority	198	216	18
Mid Suffolk	Suffolk	210	223	13
Chelmsford	Essex	211	289	78
East Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire	216	139	-77
South Norfolk	Norfolk	219	255	36
Harlow	Essex	222	267	45
Huntingdonshire	Cambridgeshire	244	233	-11
Braintree	Essex	287	303	16
South Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire	291	291	0
Thurrock	Unitary Authority	303	283	-20
Basildon	Essex	308	275	-33

The unitary authorities of Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea, and Thurrock have been included in this report under the information for the counties of Cambridgeshire and Essex.

Heritage Potential



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 Essex reveals differences in the extent to which each Local Authority has been able to make use of its heritage assets. While Chelmsford, Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford are all ranked higher for heritage activities than assets, and therefore have low to moderate rankings for heritage potential, the opposite is true for other parts of Essex.

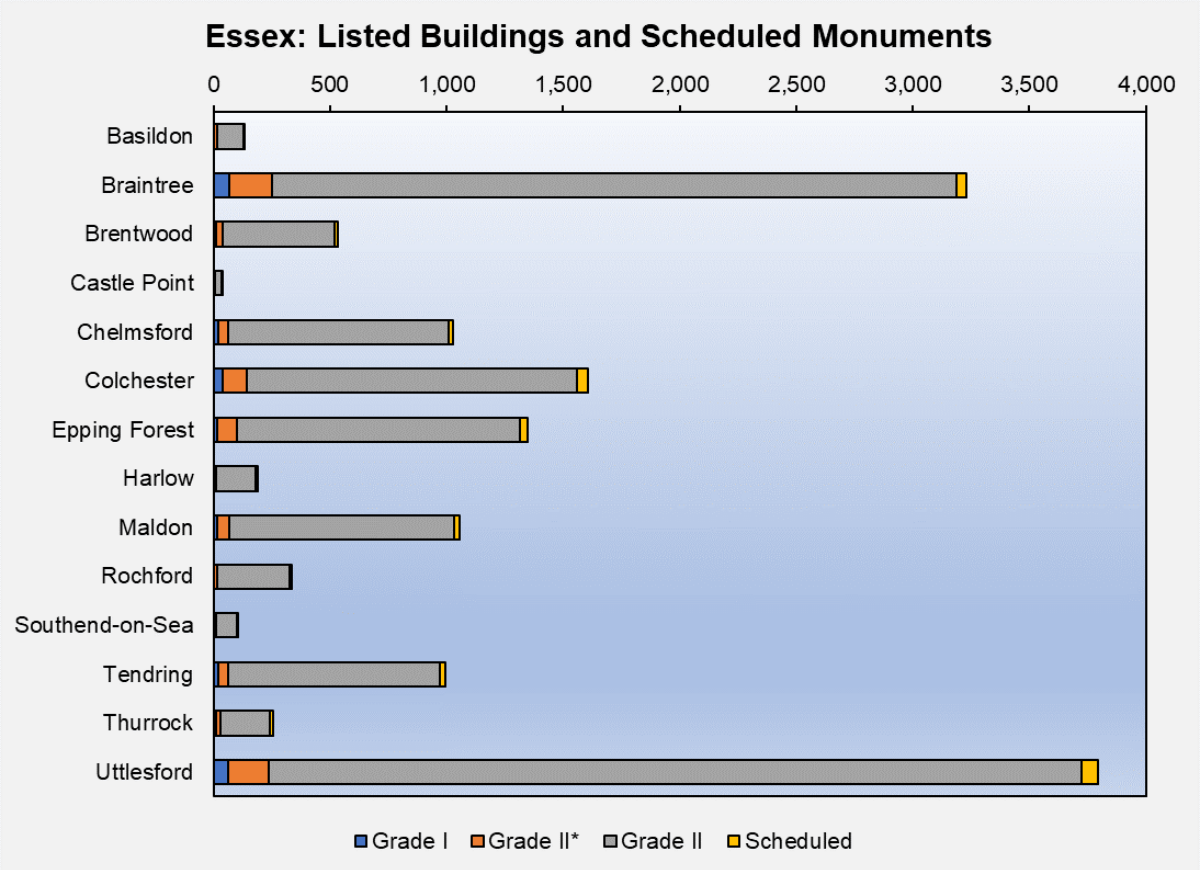
The RSA report has highlighted the Thames Estuary for its heritage potential: with Castle Point (1), Rochford (5), and Southend-on-Sea (16), all showing high levels of potential. High heritage potential is also a feature of the authorities on the other side of the Thames, particularly for Gravesham (4), Medway (9), and Dartford (39).

Historic Built Environment

The data used for the analysis are derived from Historic England and only includes the Historic Built Environment (Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II Listed buildings as well as Scheduled monuments).

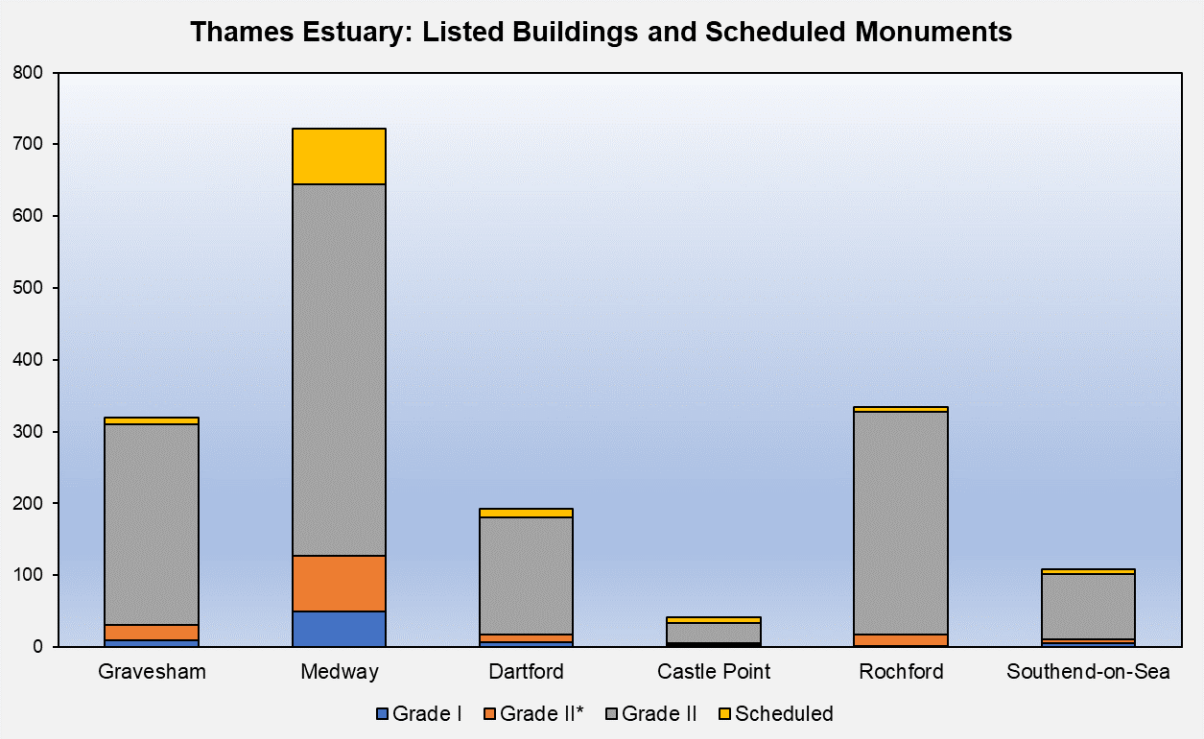
	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change
Maldon	48	79	31
Harlow	53	67	14
Uttlesford	68	54	-14
Colchester	80	207	127
Brentwood	126	146	20
Braintree	191	235	44
Southend-on-Sea	192	188	-4
Epping Forest	195	125	-70
Castle Point	203	241	38
Tendring	243	313	70
Chelmsford	247	303	56
Rochford	262	321	59
Thurrock	280	316	36
Basildon	307	25	-282

Some part of Essex saw an improvement in their rankings for the Historic Built Environment. However, there were some dramatic drops, e.g. Basildon. There are 284 Grade I listed buildings in the county (including Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock).



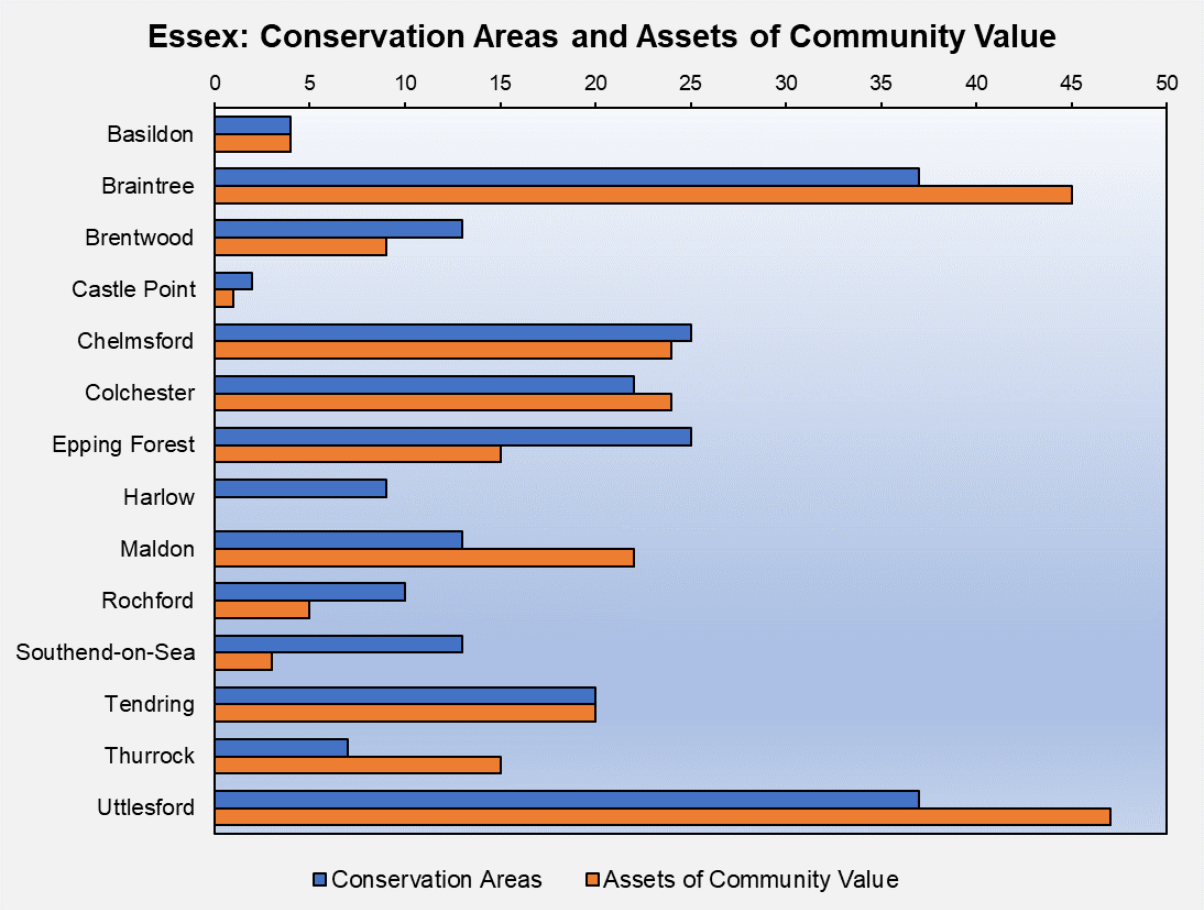
There are 284 Grade I, 776 Grade II*, and 13,270 Grade II listed buildings in Essex. In addition, there are 323 scheduled monuments. Braintree has the highest number of Grade I listed buildings (67).

Thames Estuary



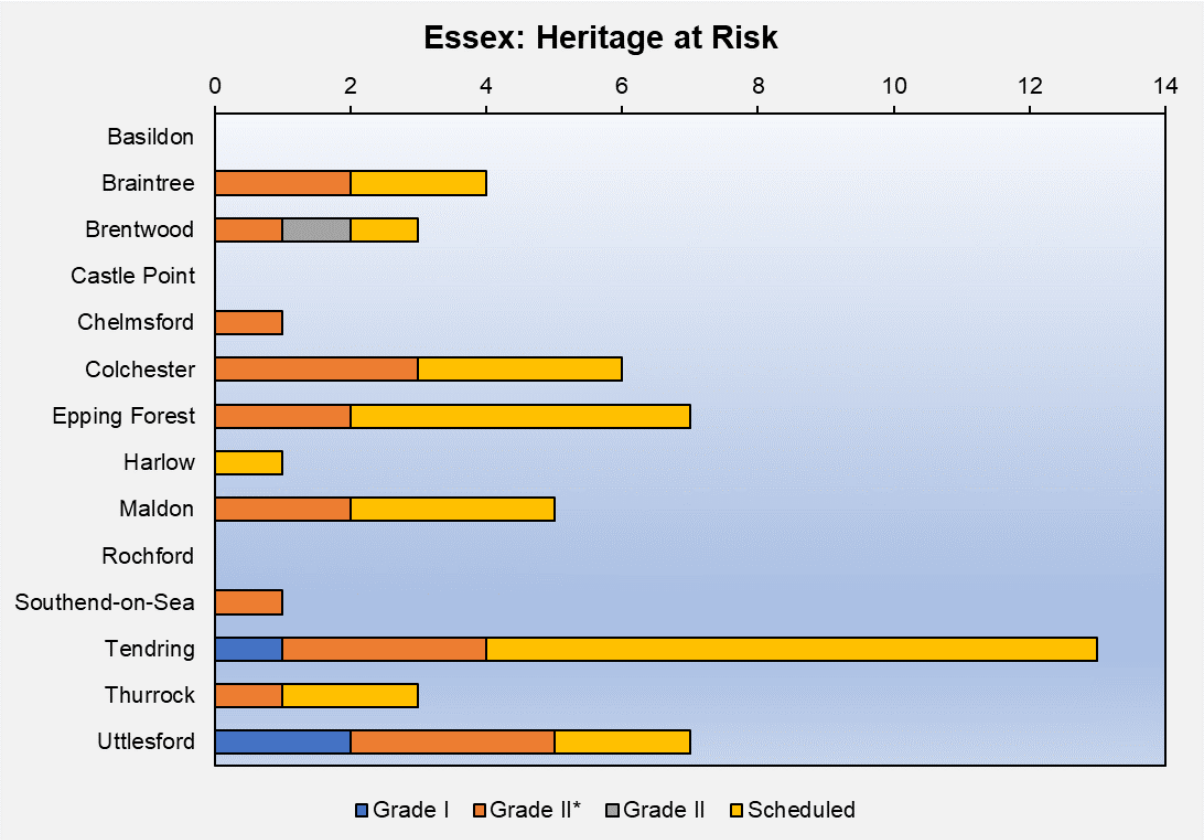
This suggests that the Kent side of the Thames has a considerably larger number of Listed Buildings.

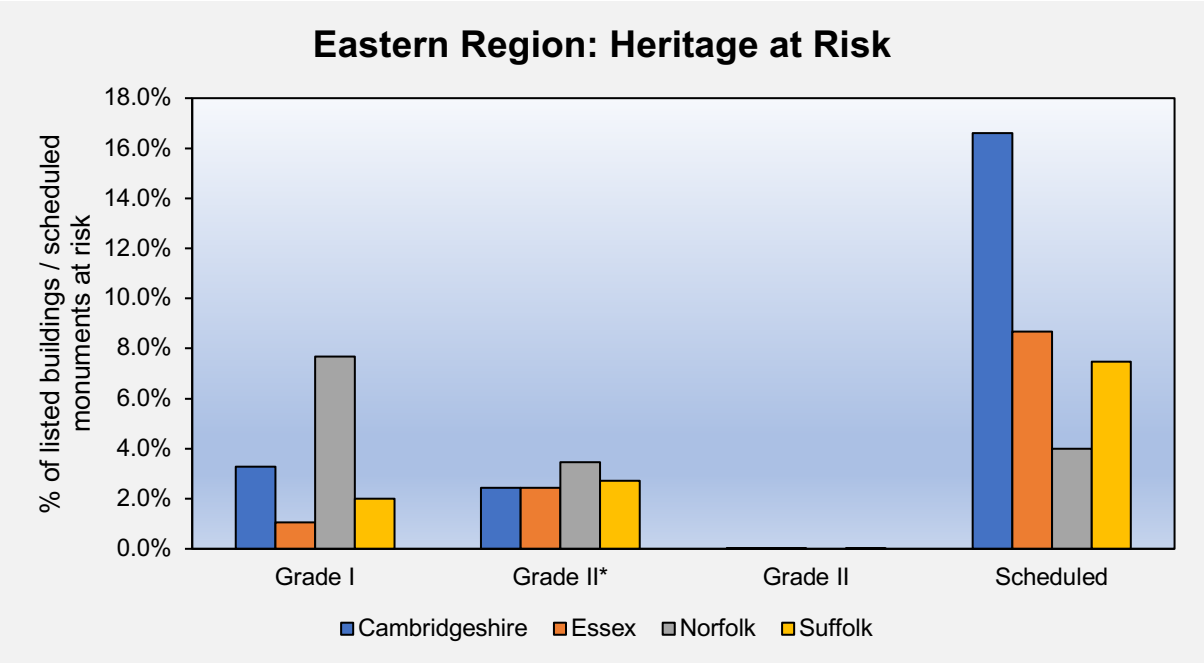
Conservation Areas and Assets of Community Value



Heritage at Risk

Listed buildings or scheduled monuments that are deemed to be at risk detract from the rankings in the section on the Historic Built Environment. The data used for analysis are derived from Historic England.





The percentage of listed buildings and scheduled monuments that are at risk indicates that Norfolk has a higher percentage of Grade I listed buildings that are at risk. Cambridgeshire has a high percentage of scheduled monuments at risk.

Listed Parks

Parks and Open Spaces include National Parks, Country Parks, Traditional Orchards, National Trust land always open to the public, and Listed Parks and Gardens.

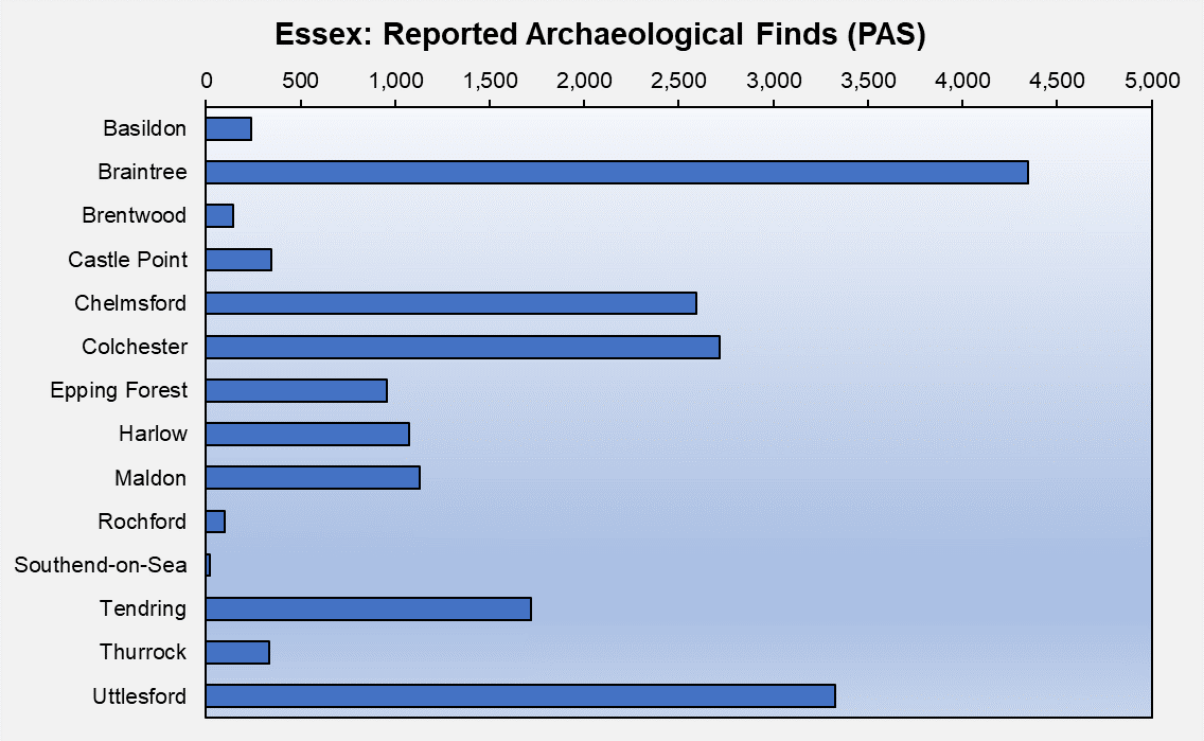
	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change
Castle Point	16	20	4
Brentwood	25	29	4
Epping Forest	75	70	-5
Chelmsford	120	184	64
Uttlesford	152	81	-71
Basildon	184	160	-24
Southend-on-Sea	185	211	26
Harlow	191	237	46
Maldon	196	179	-17
Thurrock	204	131	-73
Rochford	247	245	-2
Colchester	256	190	-66
Tendring	274	279	5
Braintree	298	286	-12

Museums, Archives and Artefacts

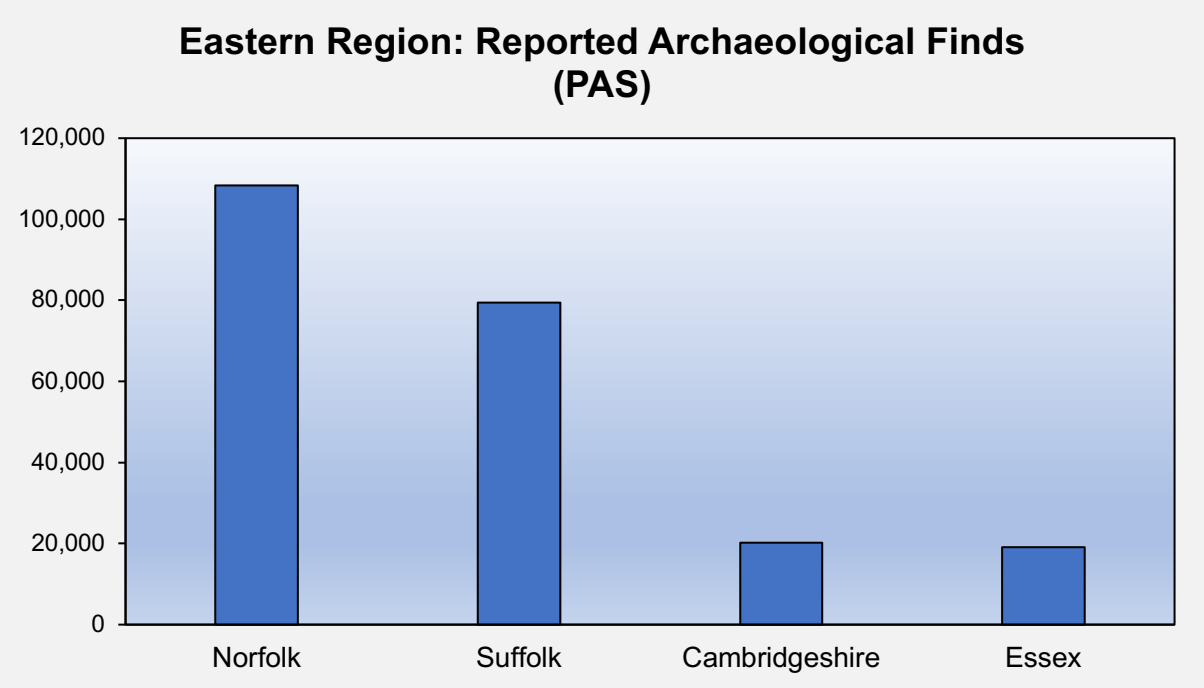
	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change
Harlow	44	65	21
Southend-on-Sea	54	42	-12
Colchester	120	93	-27
Maldon	125	170	45
Brentwood	159	276	117
Chelmsford	181	189	8
Uttlesford	195	216	21
Epping Forest	215	286	71
Braintree	229	267	38
Rochford	257	294	37
Thurrock	300	202	-98
Tendring	308	279	-29
Castle Point	313	277	-36
Basildon	315	298	-17

Archaeological Finds

Archaeological finds discovered by the public and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). The results show active searching and recording of finds in East Anglia. The number of undeclared finds is unknown.



Eastern Region



Industrial Heritage

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change
Maldon	9	10	1
Castle Point	12	13	1
Rochford	21	94	73
Southend-on-Sea	24	22	-2
Tendring	36	33	-3
Harlow	86	115	29
Colchester	117	79	-38
Epping Forest	145	237	92
Thurrock	146	153	7
Uttlesford	198	179	-19
Chelmsford	216	183	-33
Braintree	231	232	1
Brentwood	289	325	36
Basildon	300	307	7

Landscapes 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.

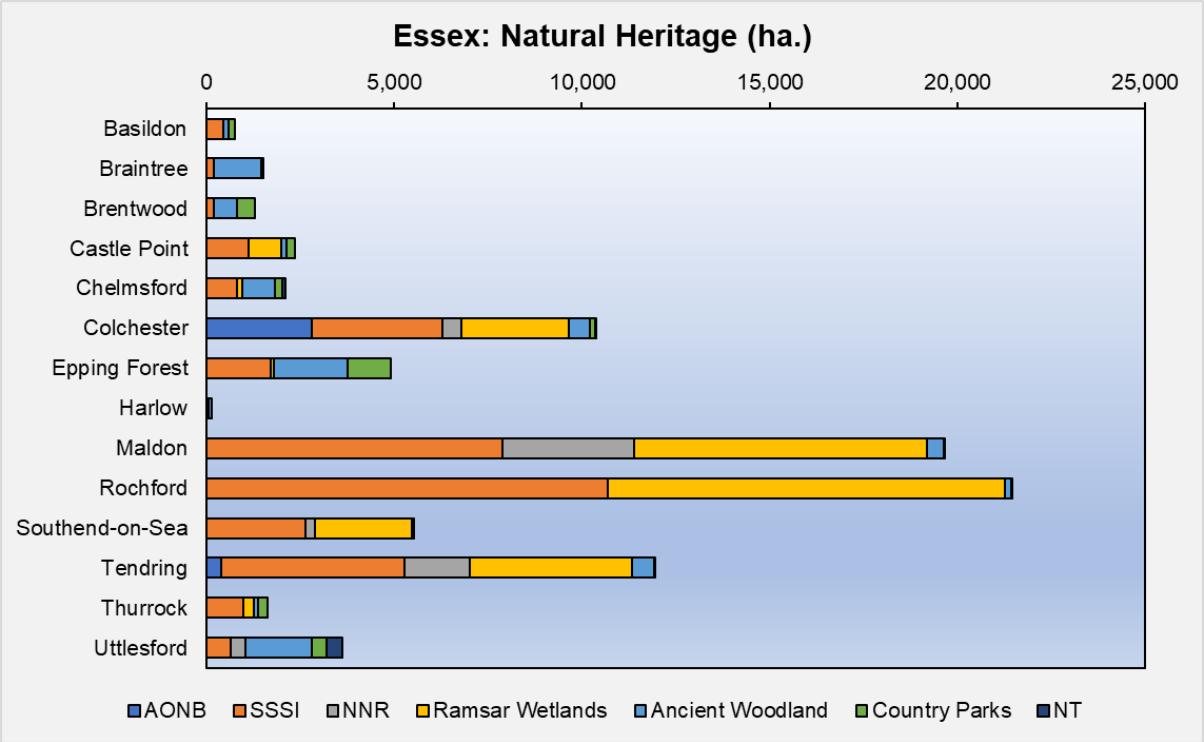
Ancient woodland is identified using presence or absence of woods from old maps, information about the wood's name, shape, internal boundaries, location relative to other features, ground survey, and aerial photography.

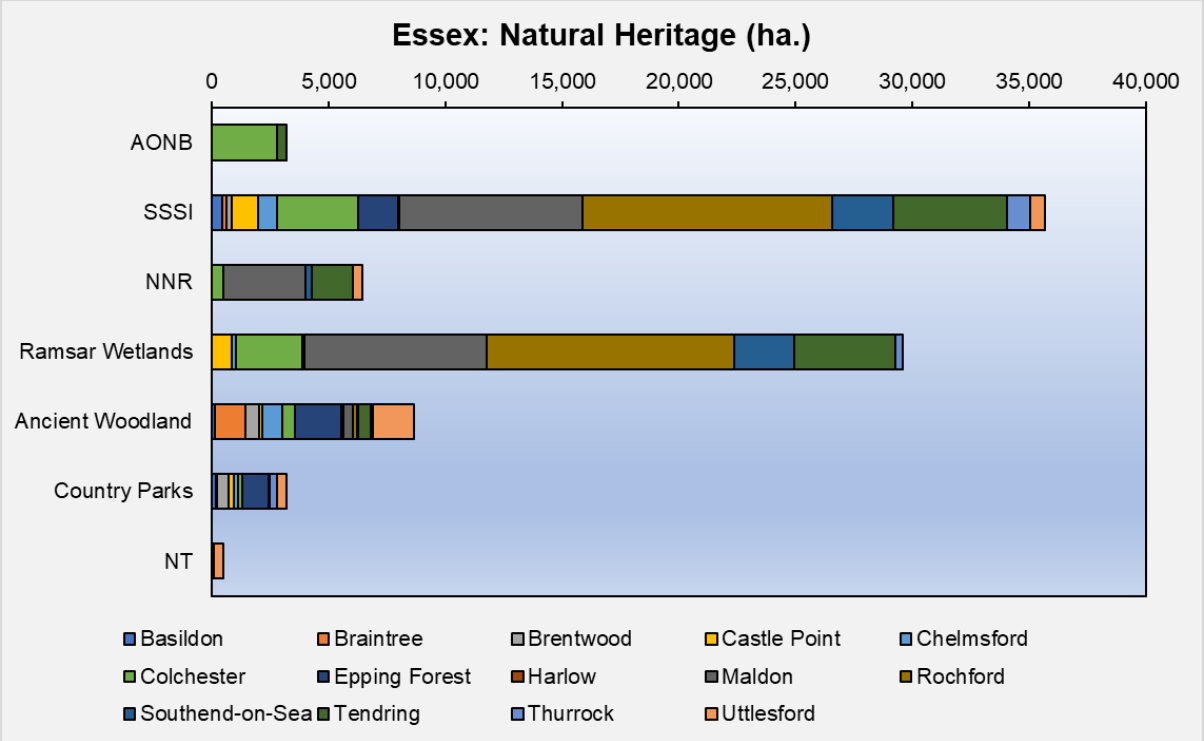
Country Parks

Natural England defines Country Parks as:

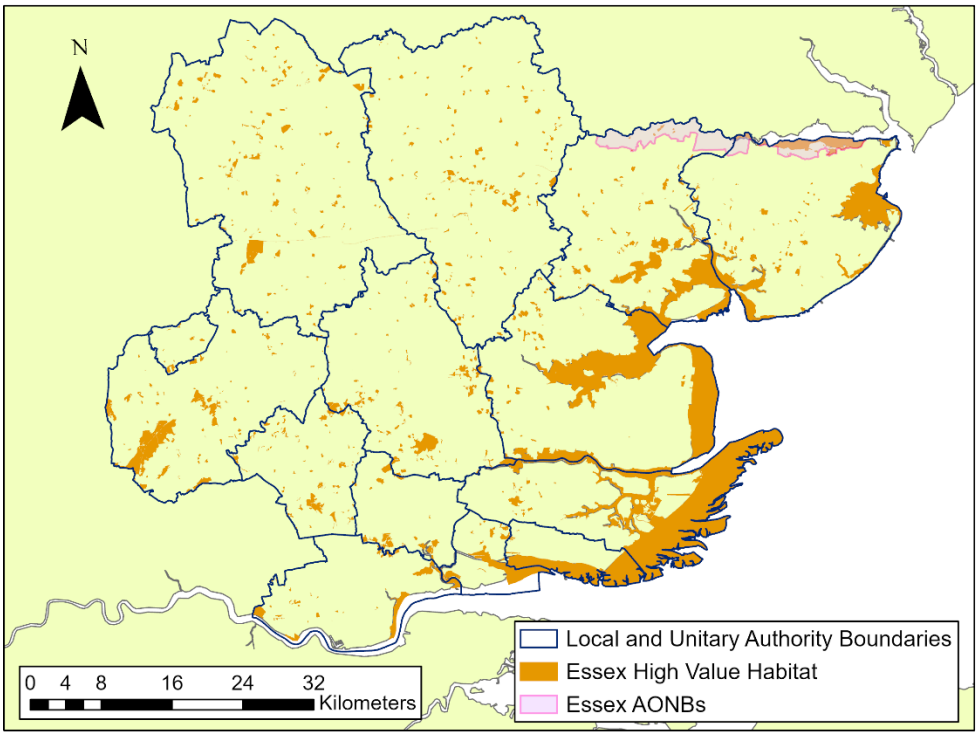
> More than 400 Country Parks exist. They are public green spaces often at the edge of urban areas which provide places to enjoy the outdoors and experience nature in an informal semi-rural park setting. Country Parks normally have some facilities such as a car park, toilets, perhaps a cafe or kiosk, 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.

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change
Southend-on-Sea	2	2	0
Rochford	4	4	0
Maldon	10	12	2
Castle Point	20	29	9
Tendring	30	21	-9
Colchester	66	63	-3
Brentwood	94	141	47
Epping Forest	95	185	90
Braintree	146	160	14
Uttlesford	149	272	123
Harlow	198	202	4
Chelmsford	221	218	-3
Basildon	232	244	12
Thurrock	263	224	-39


Essex: Natural Heritage (ha.)
0
5,000
10,000
15,000
20,000
25,000
Basildon
Braintree
Brentwood
Castle Point
Chelmsford
Colchester
Epping Forest
Harlow
Maldon
Rochford
Southend-on-Sea
Tendring
Thurrock
Uttlesford
AONB
SSSI
NNR
Ramsar Wetlands
Ancient Woodland
Country Parks
NT


Essex: Natural Heritage (ha.)
0
5,000
10,000
15,000
20,000
25,000
30,000
35,000
40,000
AONB
SSSI
NNR
Ramsar Wetlands
Ancient Woodland
Country Parks
NT
Basildon
Braintree
Brentwood
Castle Point
Chelmsford
Colchester
Epping Forest
Harlow
Maldon
Rochford
Southend-on-Sea
Tendring
Thurrock
Uttlesford

Essex's High Value Habitat and Landscape



© Natural England copyright. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2021

High value habitat includes:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

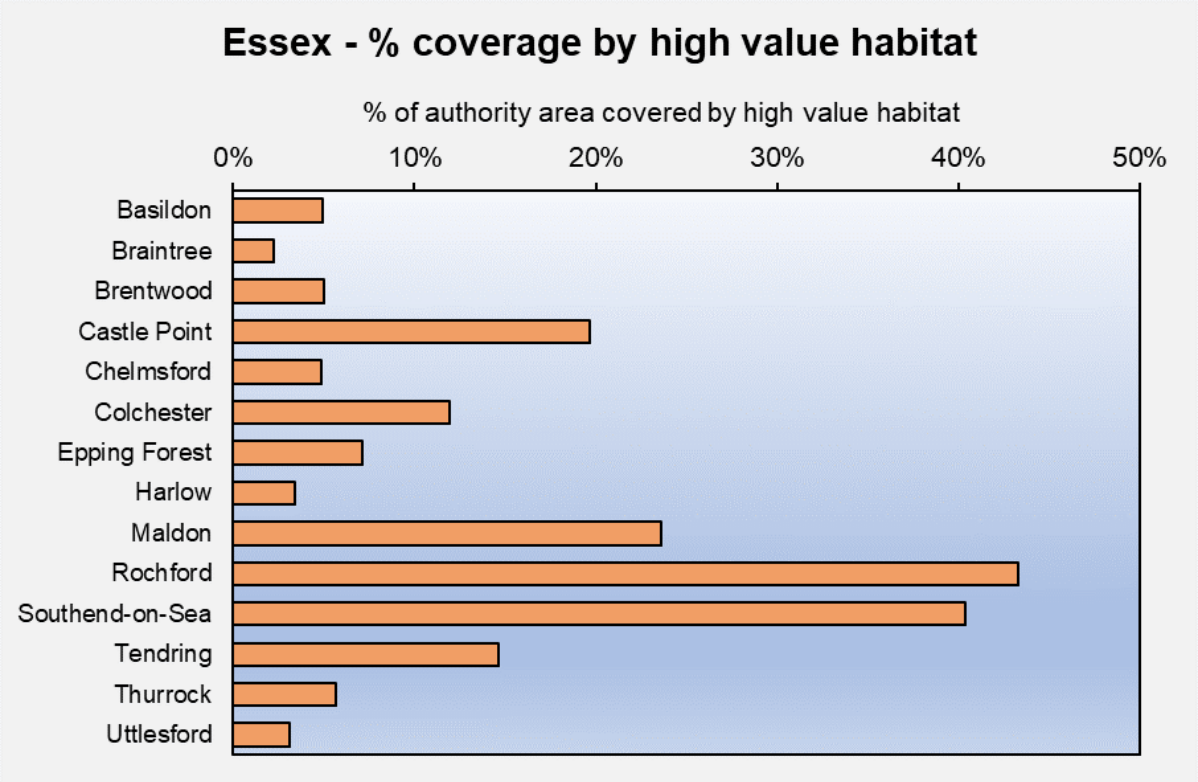
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

- National Nature Reserves (NNRs)

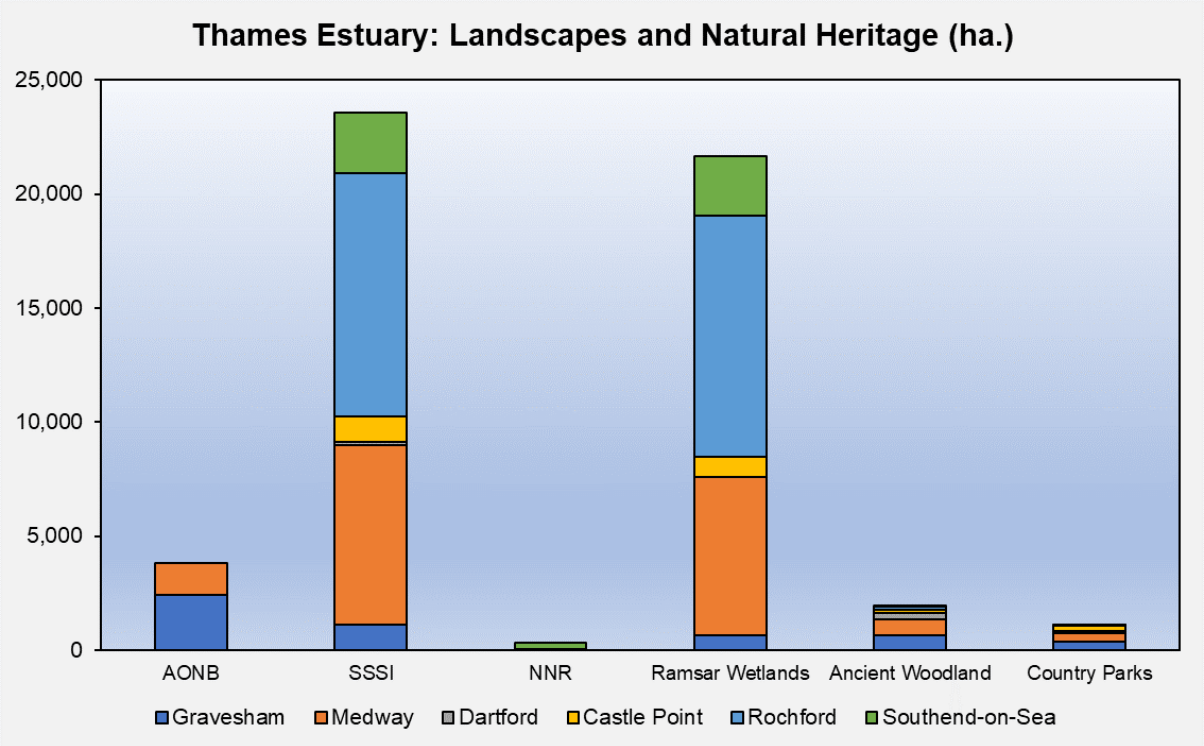
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

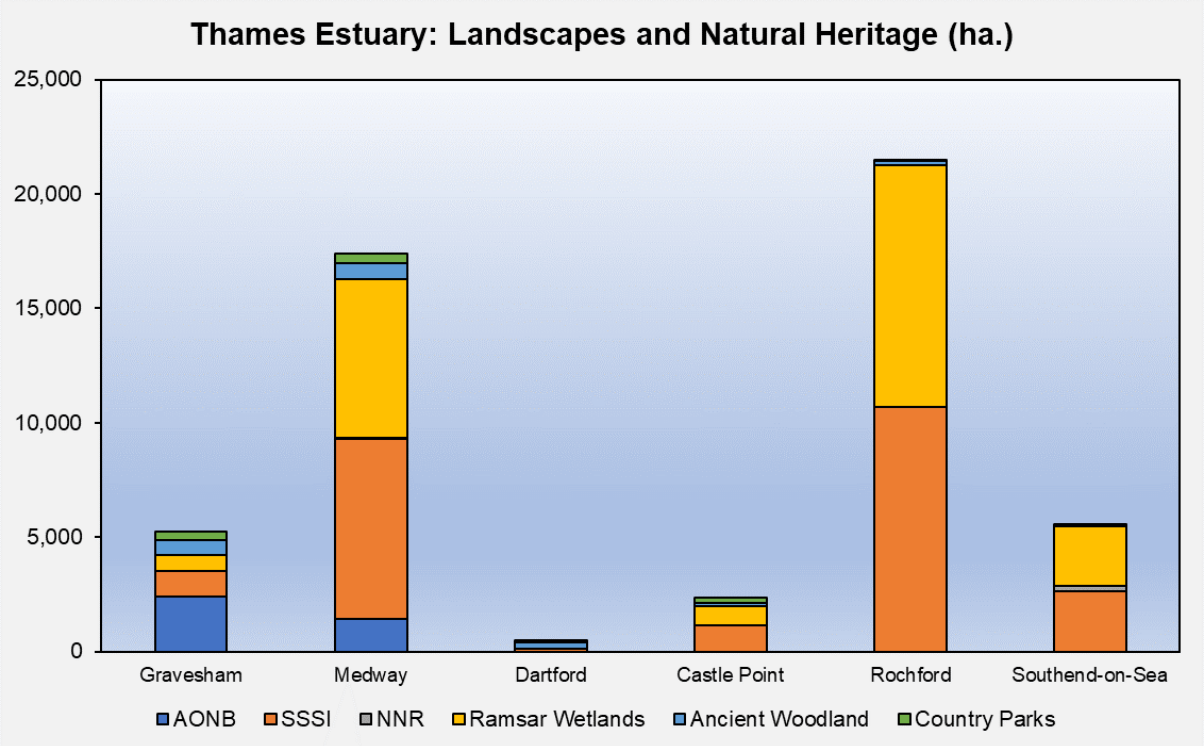
- Ancient Woodland

- Ramsar wetlands



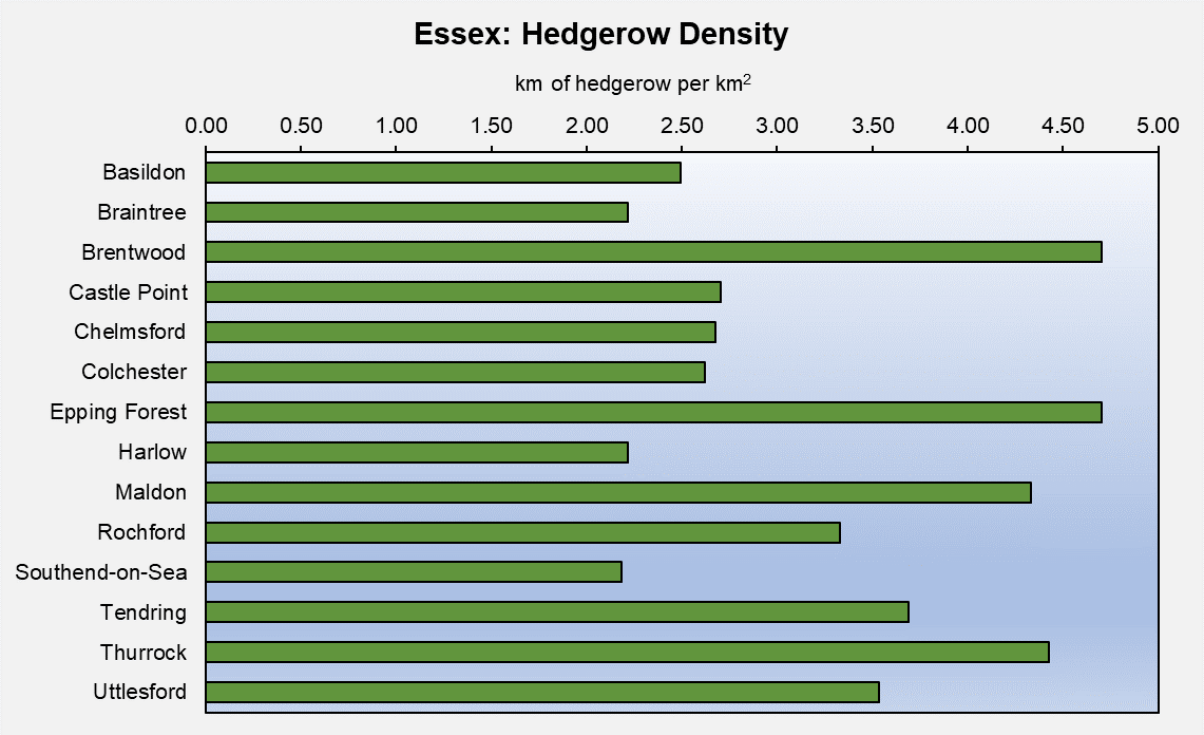
Thames Estuary





Hedgerows

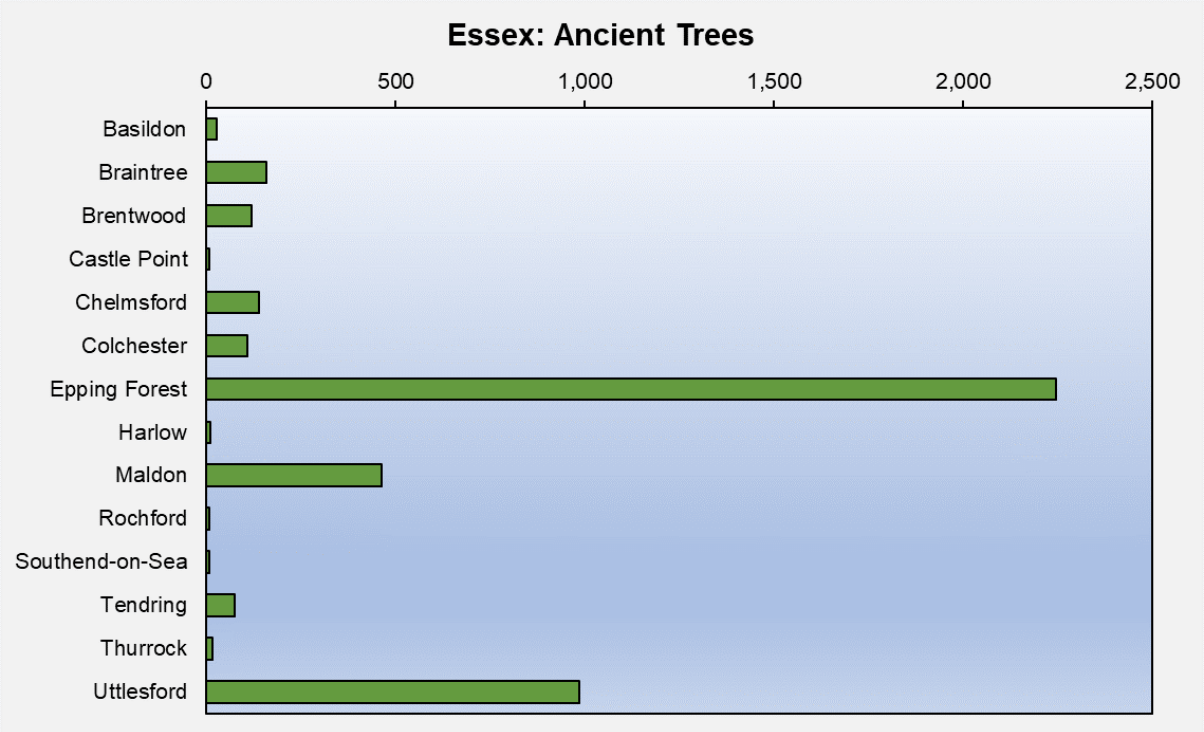
There are some 13,000 km of hedgerows in Essex.



Ancient Trees

The information is from the Woodland Trust.

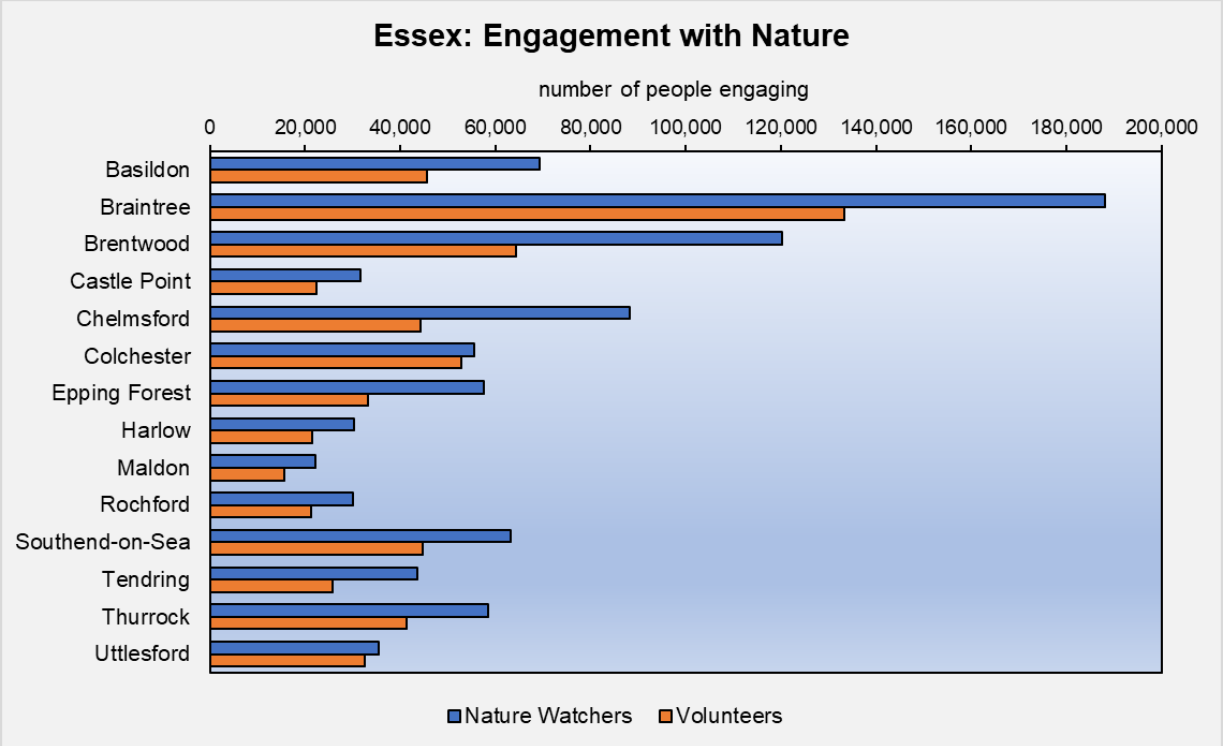
There are over 4,000 ancient trees recorded for Essex, largely in Epping Forest and Uttlesford.



Engagement with Nature

The data are derived from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey.

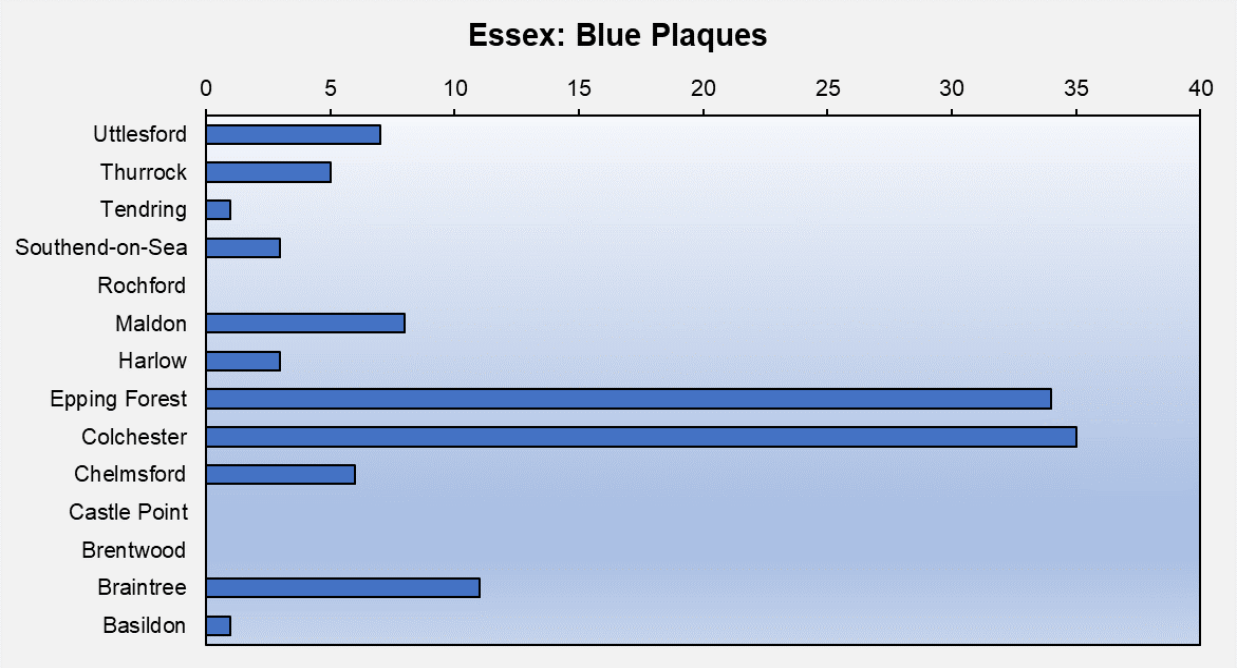
There are just under 894,000 nature watchers, and 600,000 nature volunteers in Essex.

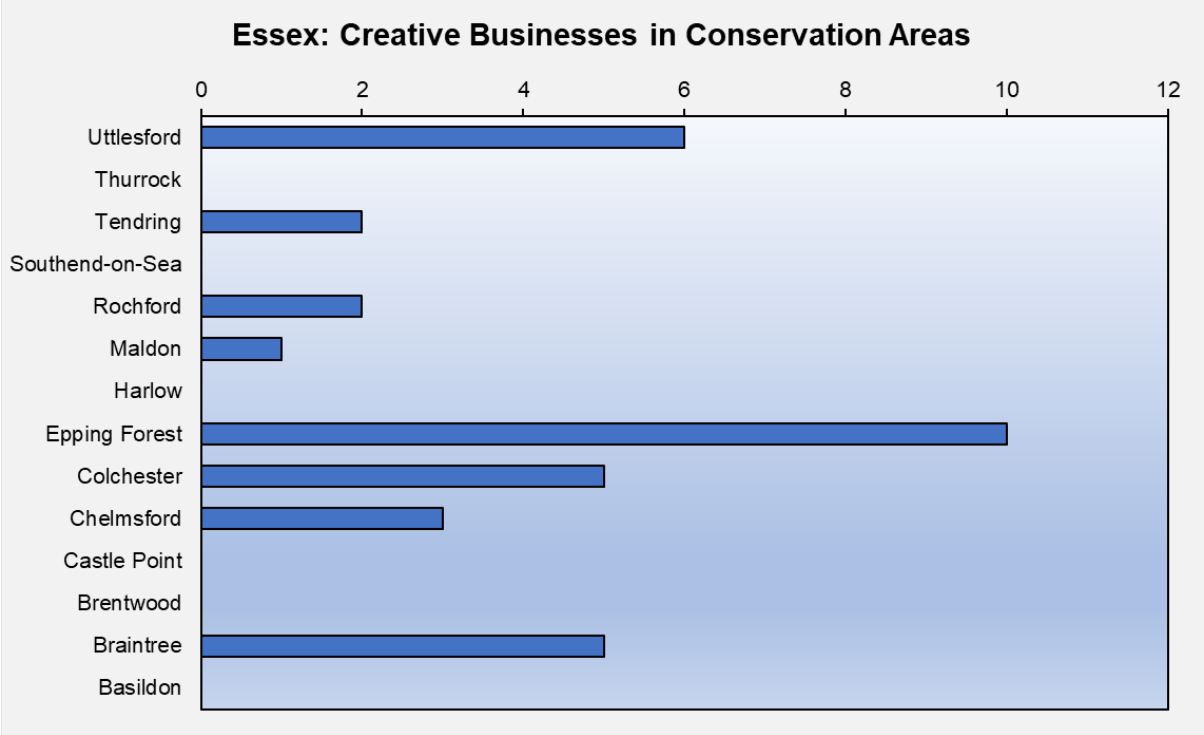


Culture and Memories

This section includes the number of blue plaques displayed, European Designated Protection for Food and Drink, Intangible Cultural Events, and Creative Businesses in Conservation Areas.

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Change
Epping Forest	115	104	-11
Colchester	131	199	68
Chelmsford	142	249	107
Uttlesford	149	227	78
Maldon	173	82	-91
Braintree	228	282	54
Brentwood	235	309	74
Southend-on-Sea	260	276	16
Tendring	263	256	-7
Thurrock	294	281	-13
Rochford	302	325	23
Harlow	310	312	2
Castle Point	313	317	4
Basildon	314	319	5

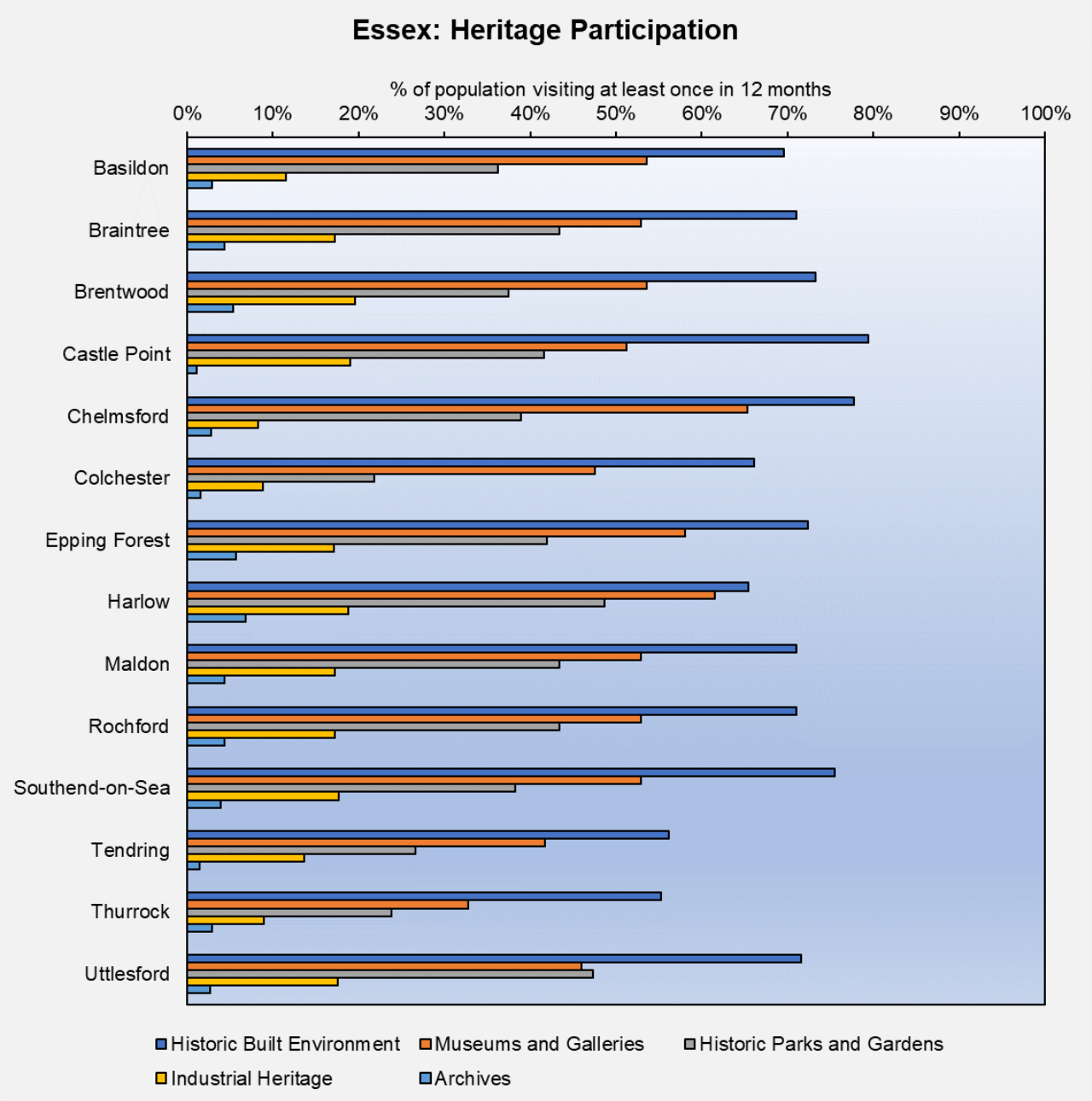


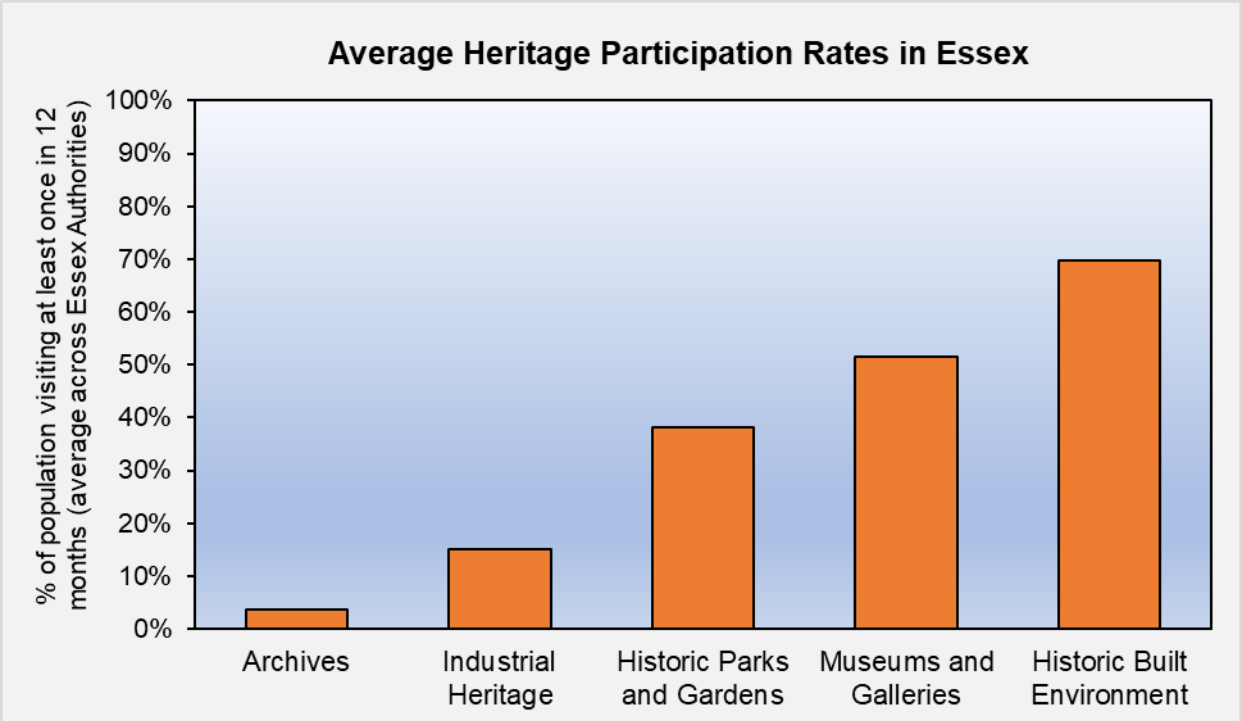


Civic Societies

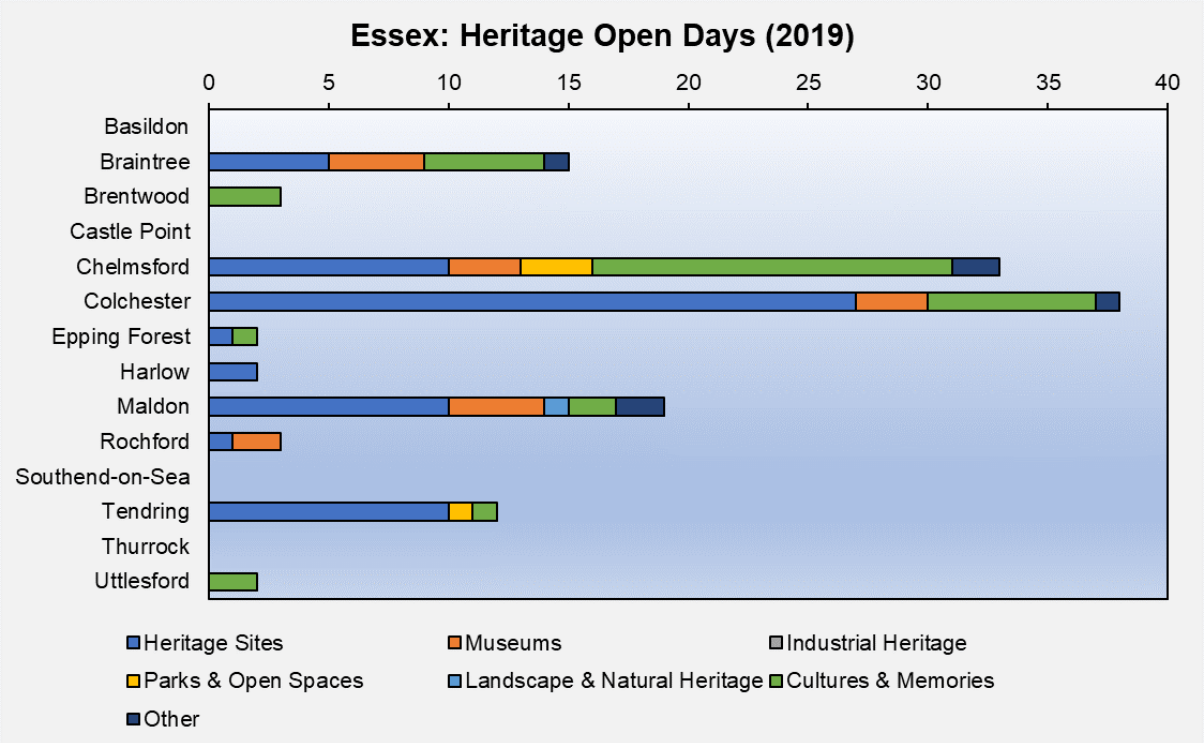
There are two civic societies in Southend-on-Sea, and one each in Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, and Thurrock.

Participation in Heritage



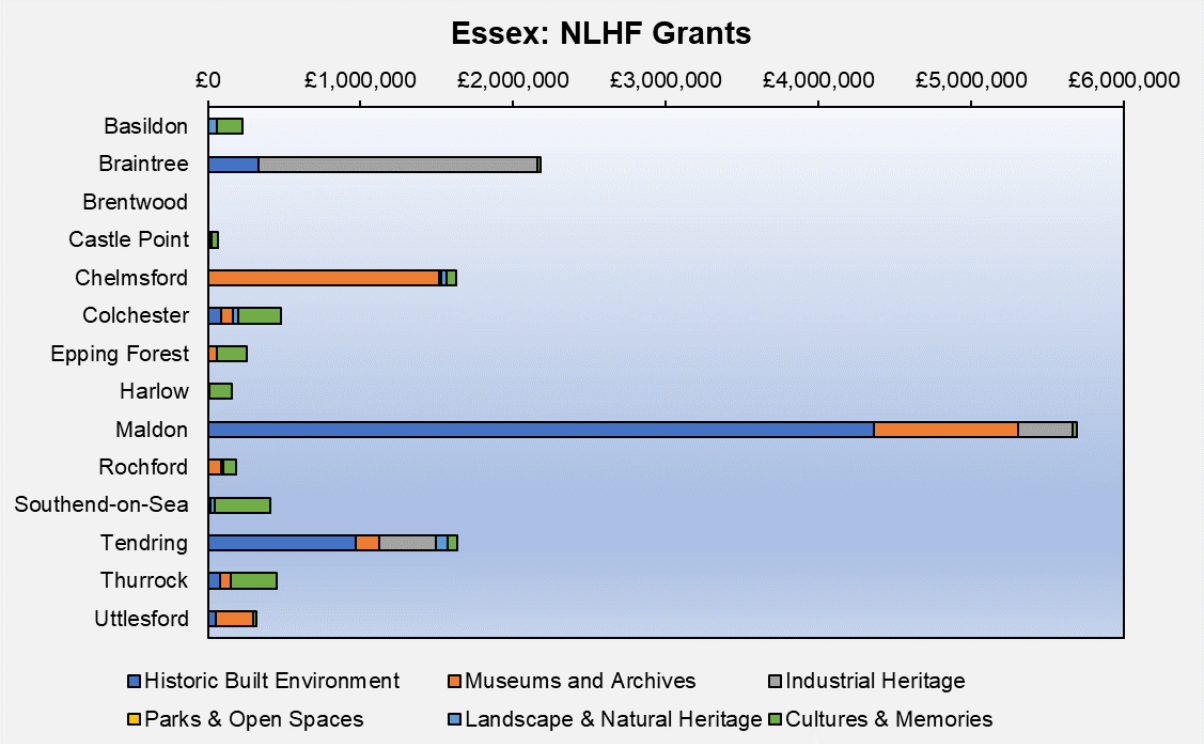

Average Heritage Participation Rates in Essex
% of population visiting at least once in 12 months (average across Essex Authorities)
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Archives
Industrial Heritage
Historic Parks and Gardens
Museums and Galleries
Historic Built Environment

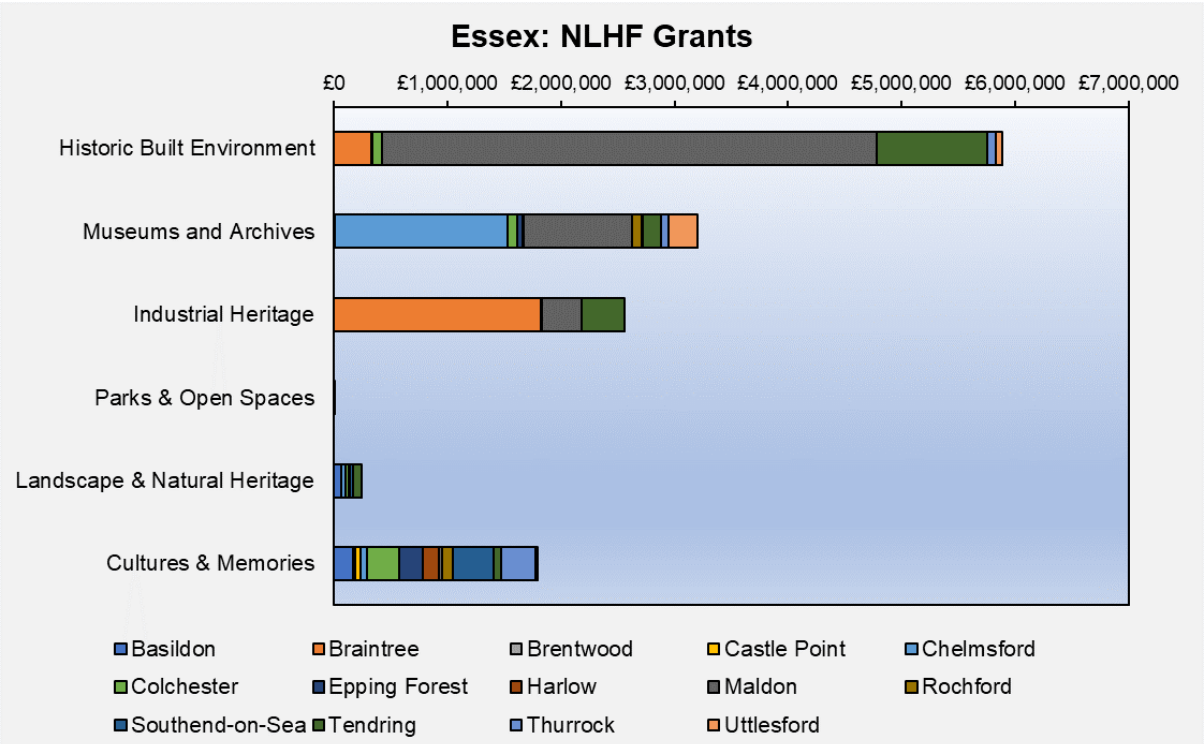
Heritage Open Days



There was uneven support for the Heritage Open Days across Essex. The focal points for activity were in Colchester, Chelmsford, and Maldon.

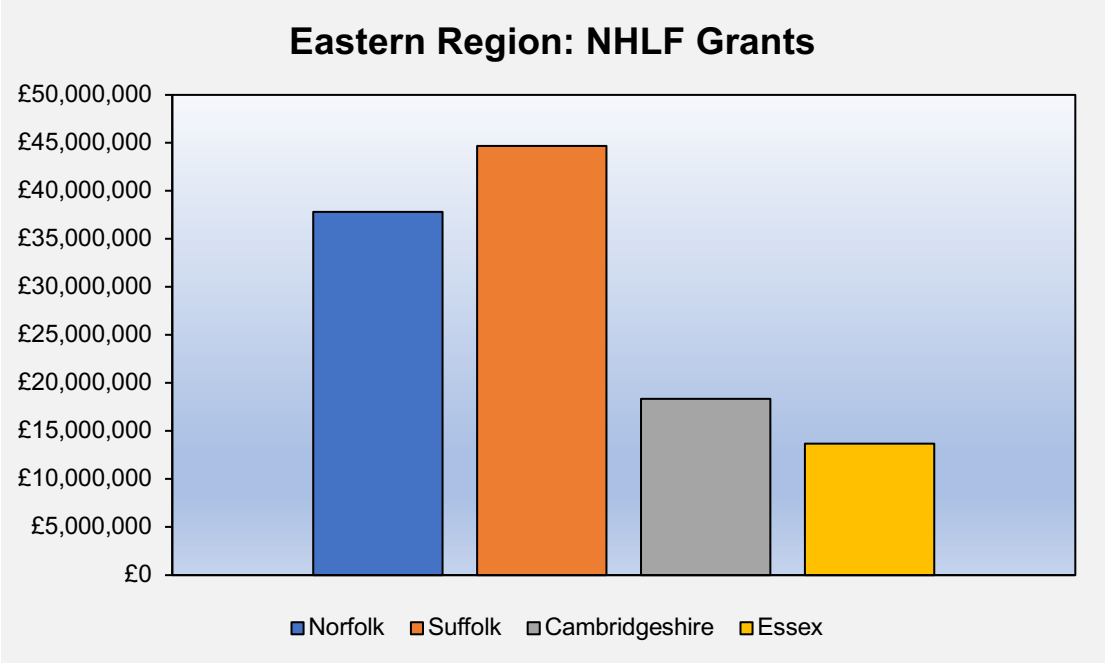
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Grants



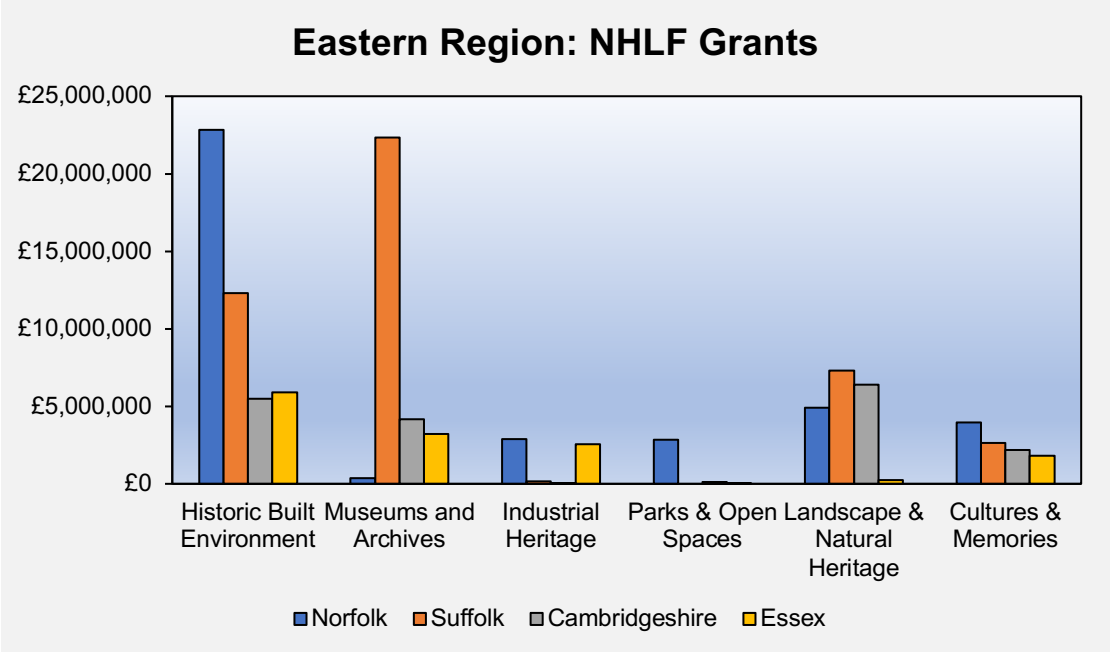


Eastern Region

The four counties have received over £114 million worth of NLHF Grants, with Suffolk leading with £44,717,200.

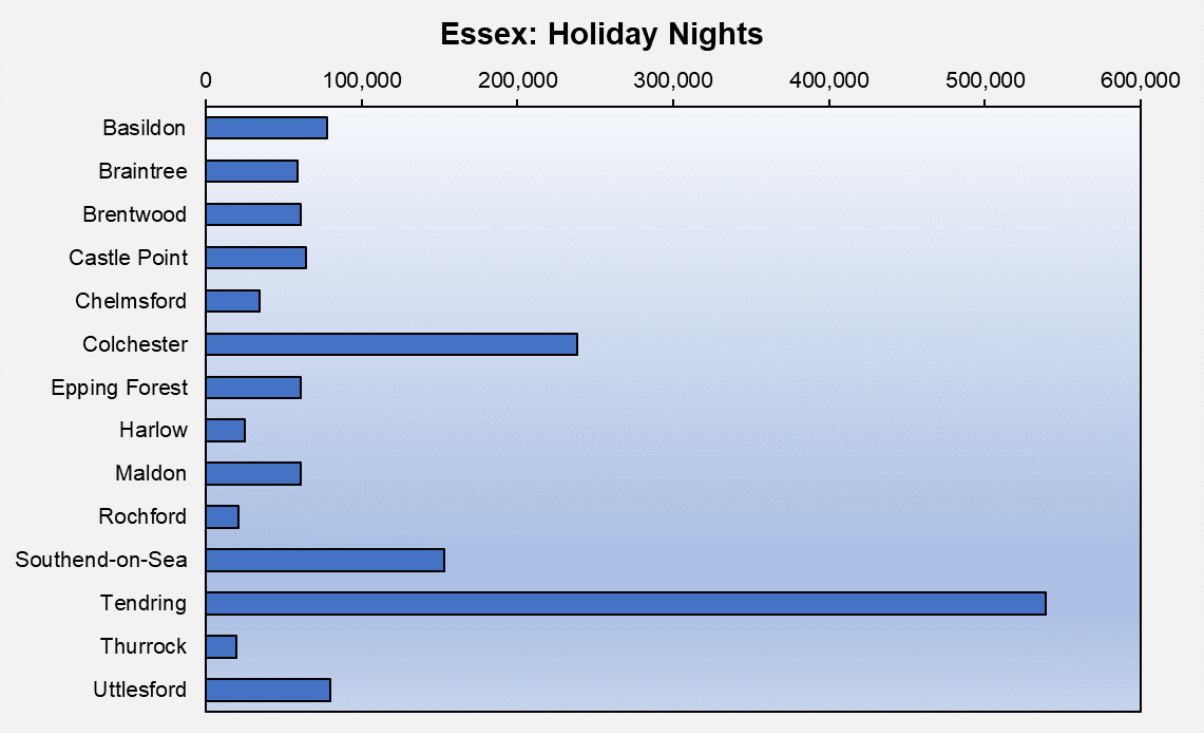


There are clearly differences in the types of project supported in each county: Historic Built Environment in Norfolk; Museums and Archives in Suffolk; and Landscape and Natural Heritage for Cambridgeshire.

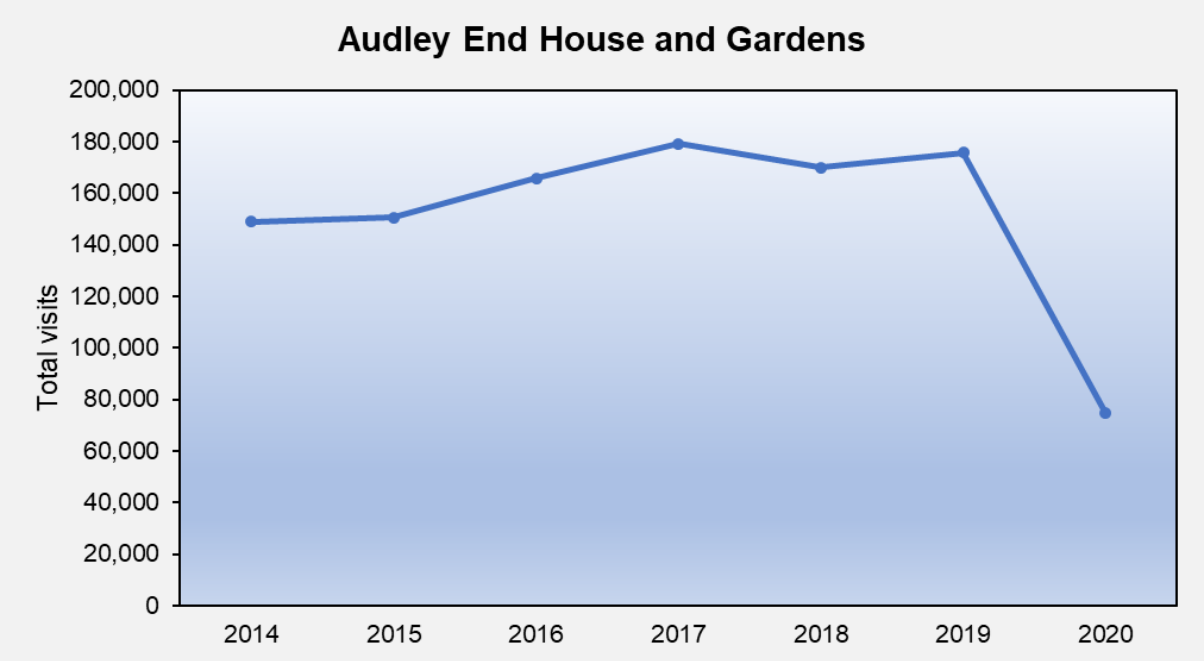


Heritage and the Tourism Economy

Information on holiday nights is compiled by Visit Britain. These data exclude nights spent for business purposes, or for visiting friends and family.



Audley End House and Gardens (English Heritage) report their numbers through ALVA.



Sources

The RSA Heritage Index

The RSA Heritage Index (2016)
https://www.thersa.org/projects/heritage/index

The RSA Heritage Index (2020)
https://www.thersa.org/reports/heritage-index-2020

Webster, Hannah. 2020. *Pride in Place: The RSA Heritage Index 2020*. London: The RSA. < https://www.thersa.org/reports/heritage-index-2020>

Data Sources

Assets of Community Value
https://mycommunity.org.uk/what-are-assets-of-community-value-acv

Gov.uk
DCMS Taking Part Survey
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/taking-part-survey

National Trust Land Open to the Public
https://data.gov.uk/dataset/171dcad3-ed21-4afe-966d-e3f255987d57/national-trust-open-data-land-always-open

Heritage Open Days
https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

Historic England
Historic Built Environment and Heritage at Risk
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/

Heritage Counts
https://historicengland.org.uk/research/heritage-counts/

National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)
https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/about/insight/open-data

Natural England
Ancient Woodlands
https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ancient-woodland-england

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/areas-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-england

Country Parks
https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/country-parks-england

National Nature Reserves (NNR)
https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/national-nature-reserves-england

Ramsar Wetlands
https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ramsar-england

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/sites-of-special-scientific-interest-england

Portable Antiquities Scheme
https://finds.org.uk/

Visit Britain

Visit Britain, Annual Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions
https://www.visitbritain.org/annual-survey-visits-visitor-attractions-latest-results

Visit Britain, GB Tourism Survey (Domestic Overnight Tourism)
https://www.visitbritain.org/great-britain-tourism-survey-latest-monthly-overnight-data

Visit Britain, Inbound Accommodation Research
https://www.visitbritain.org/inbound-accommodation-research

Visit Britain, Inbound Culture, Heritage and Attractions Research
https://www.visitbritain.org/inbound-culture-heritage-attractions-research

Visit Britain, Inbound Research and Insights
https://www.visitbritain.org/inbound-research-insights

Regional Report for the RSA Heritage Index

Centre for Heritage
University of Kent
2021

research.kent.ac.uk/heritage/
d.gill@kent.ac.uk