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Gill, David W J (2021) East Anglia: State of the historic environment 2021. Technical report. Centre for Heritage, Kent, UK

### DOI

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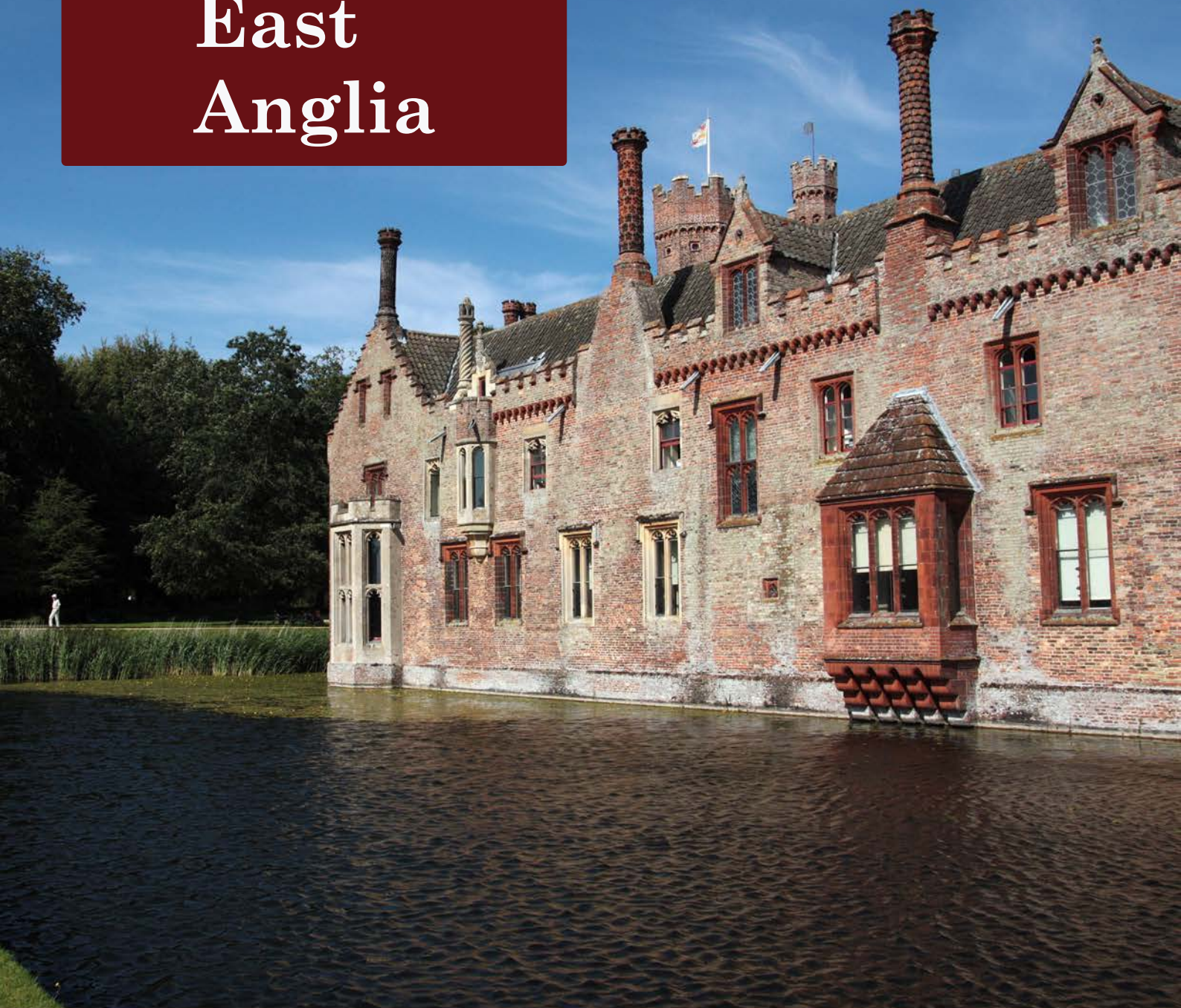
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# East Anglia



## State of the Historic Environment 2021

Compiled by David W. J. Gill



*Cover*

**Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk.** © David Gill

*Back Cover*

**Museum of East Anglian Life, Suffolk.** © David Gill

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## 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 is grouped around six main themes:

- Historic Built Environment;
- Museums, Archives and Artefacts;
- Industrial Heritage;
- Parks and Open Spaces;
- Landscape and Natural Heritage;
- Cultures and Memories.

There is a further category looking at basic infrastructure.

The Index is presented by local or unitary 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.

## 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:

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.

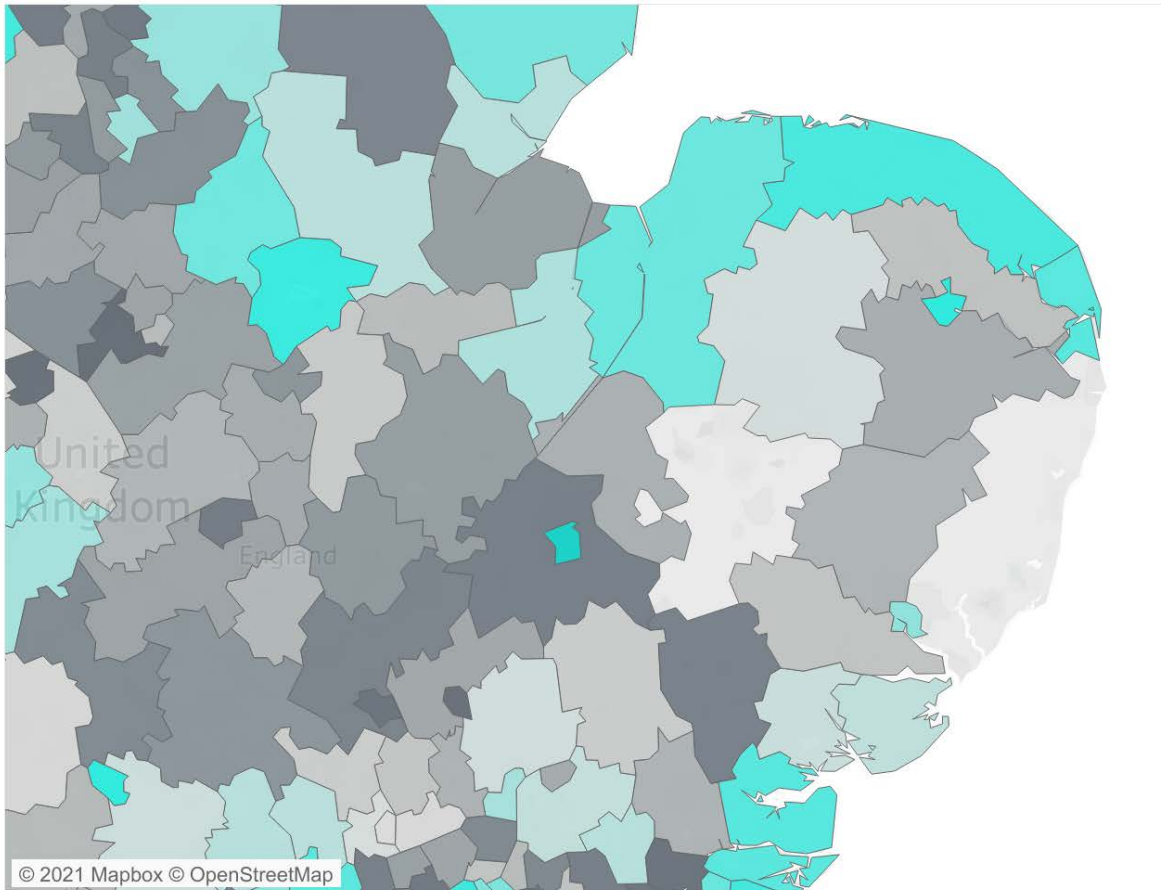




# Heritage Index 2020

Select a country to view the Heritage Index 2020.  
The full Heritage Index for each country can be downloaded and analysed from the RSA website.

Select:  
England



*Note: there are five new local authorities in England (established in April 2019) which are not included in this map. Please consult the Heritage Index data downloads to view this data.*

## Rankings

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

### Norfolk

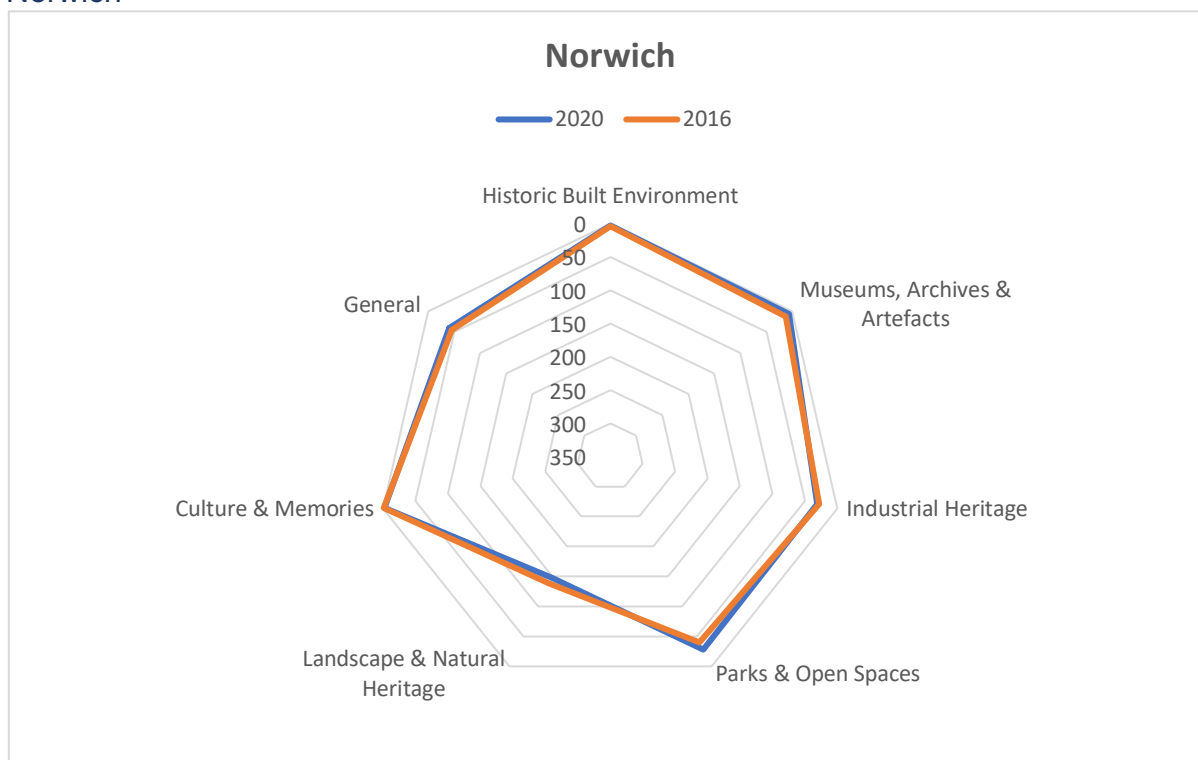
	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Heritage Potential
<b>Norwich</b>	<b>3</b>	9	190
<b>North Norfolk</b>	<b>25</b>	36	257
<b>Great Yarmouth</b>	<b>38</b>	64	193
<b>Kings Lynn and West Norfolk</b>	<b>54</b>	48	266
<b>Breckland</b>	<b>150</b>	152	297
<b>Broadland</b>	<b>190</b>	205	261
<b>South Norfolk</b>	<b>219</b>	255	305

Norwich is now recognised as one of the leading centres for heritage behind the City of London (1) and Kensington and Chelsea (2), and ahead of Oxford (4). In the eastern region, Cambridge (9) also fell in the top 10.

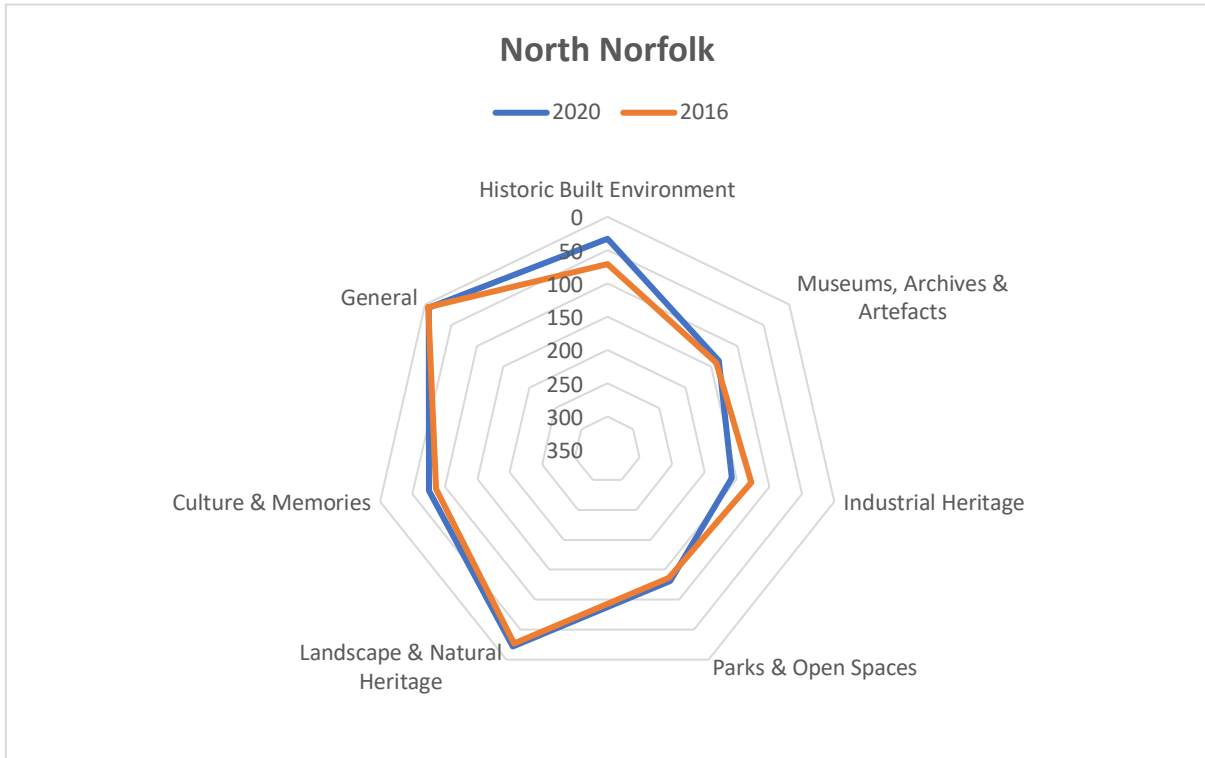
All but one local authority in Norfolk saw a rise in their ranking from 2016.

The heritage potential rankings suggest that heritage assets in the county are being used.

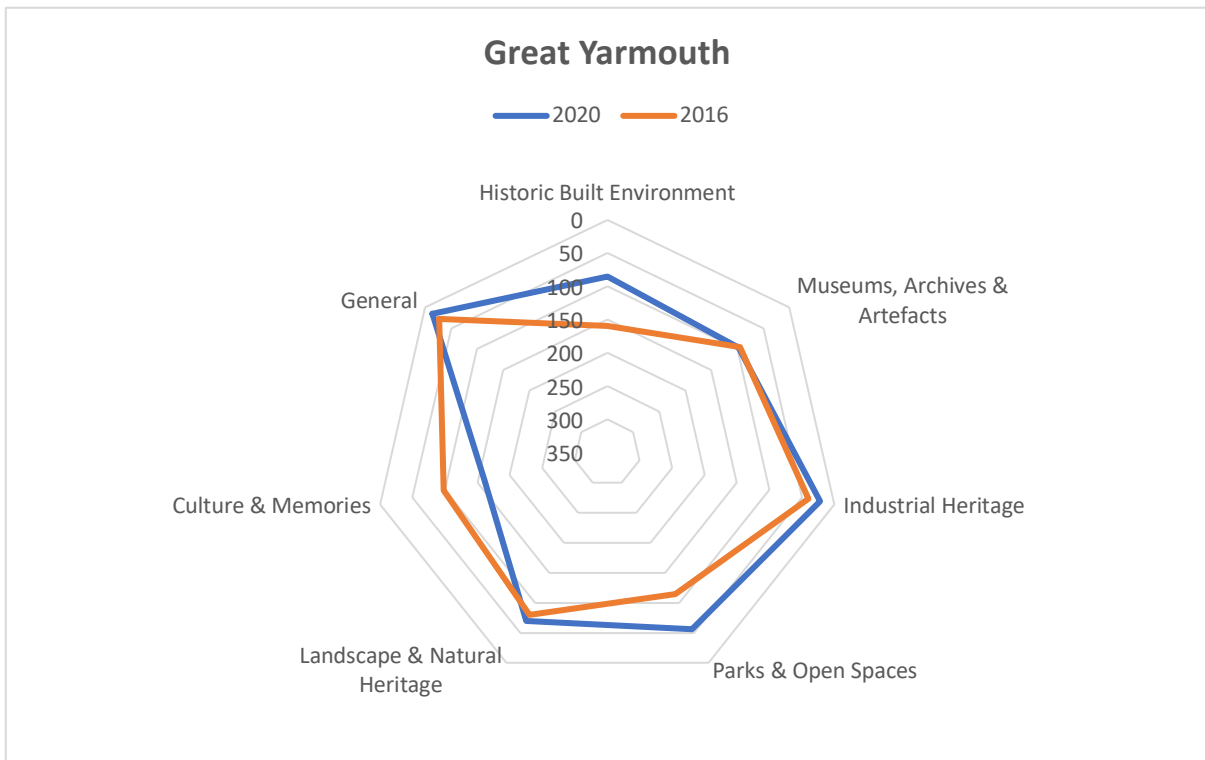
### Norwich



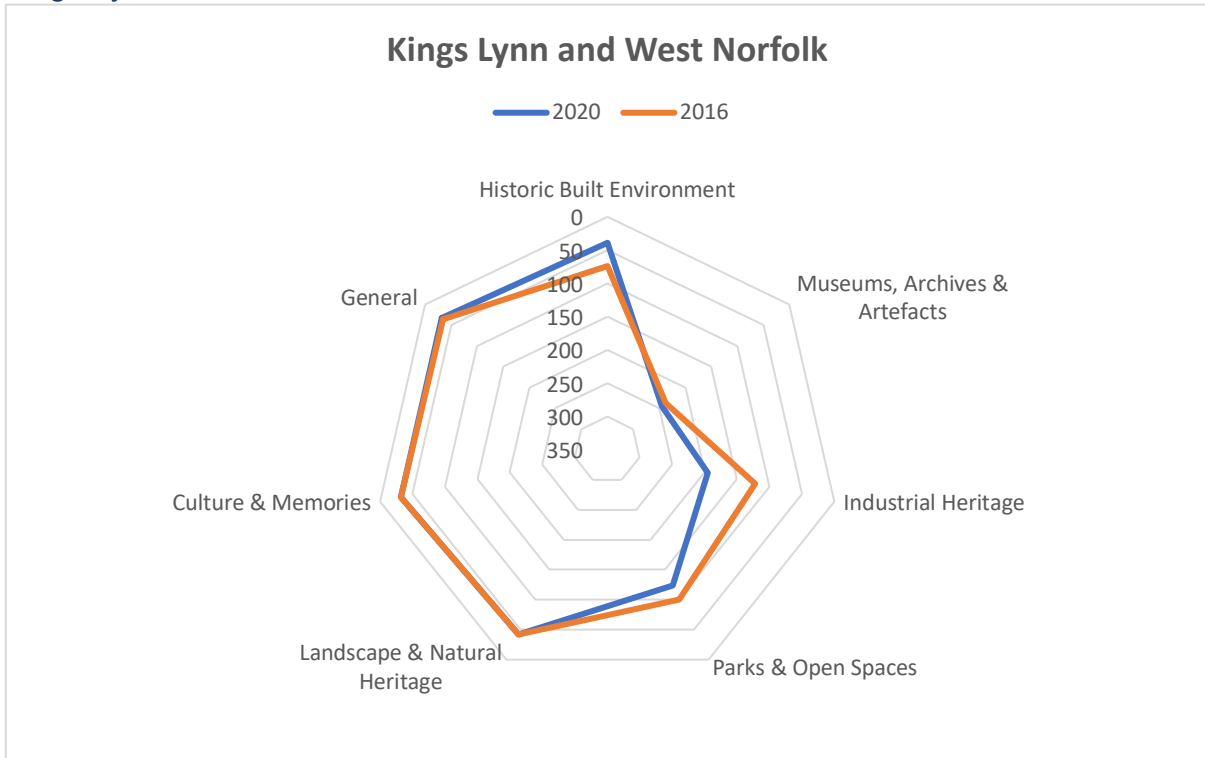
## North Norfolk



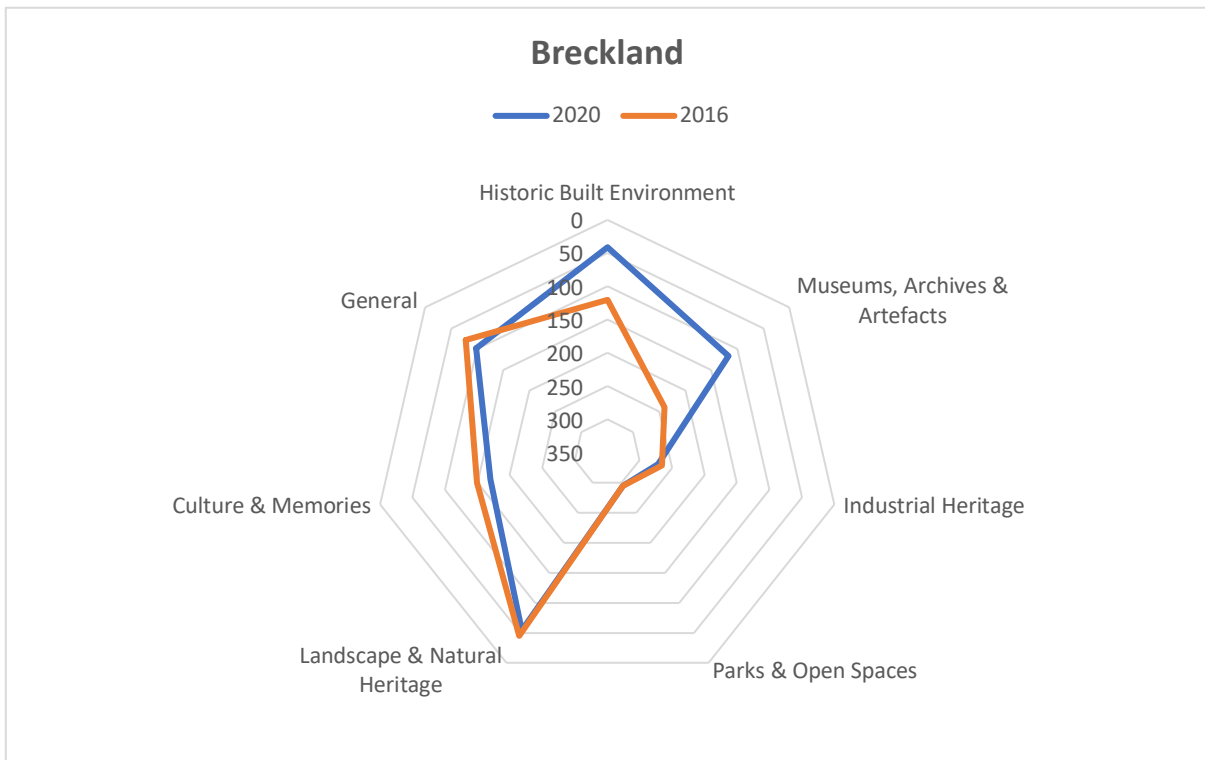
## Great Yarmouth



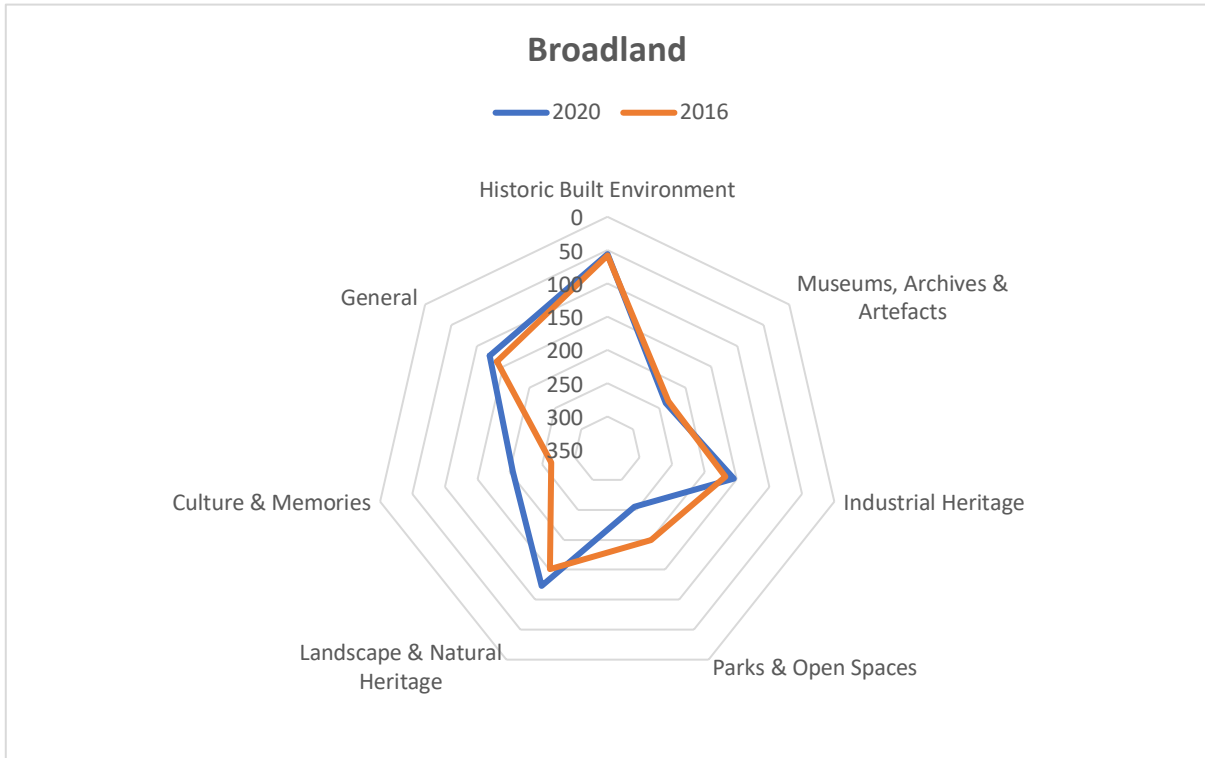
## Kings Lynn and West Norfolk



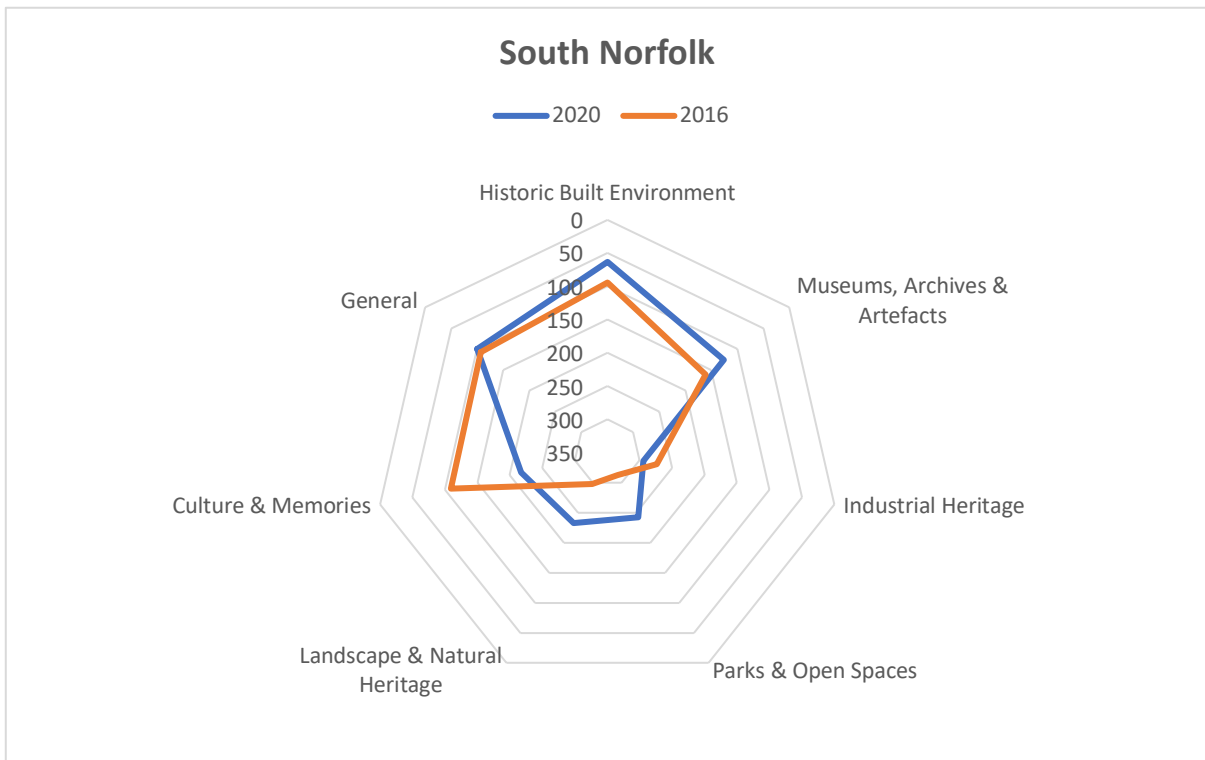
## Breckland



## Broadland



## South Norfolk



## Suffolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016	Heritage Potential
<b>Ipswich</b>	<b>87</b>	70	126
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>98</b>		284
<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>		73	
<i>Waveney</i>		127	
<b>West Suffolk</b>	<b>122</b>		296
<i>Forest Heath</i>		105	
<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>		134	
<b>Babergh</b>	<b>188</b>	181	279
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>	<b>210</b>	223	268

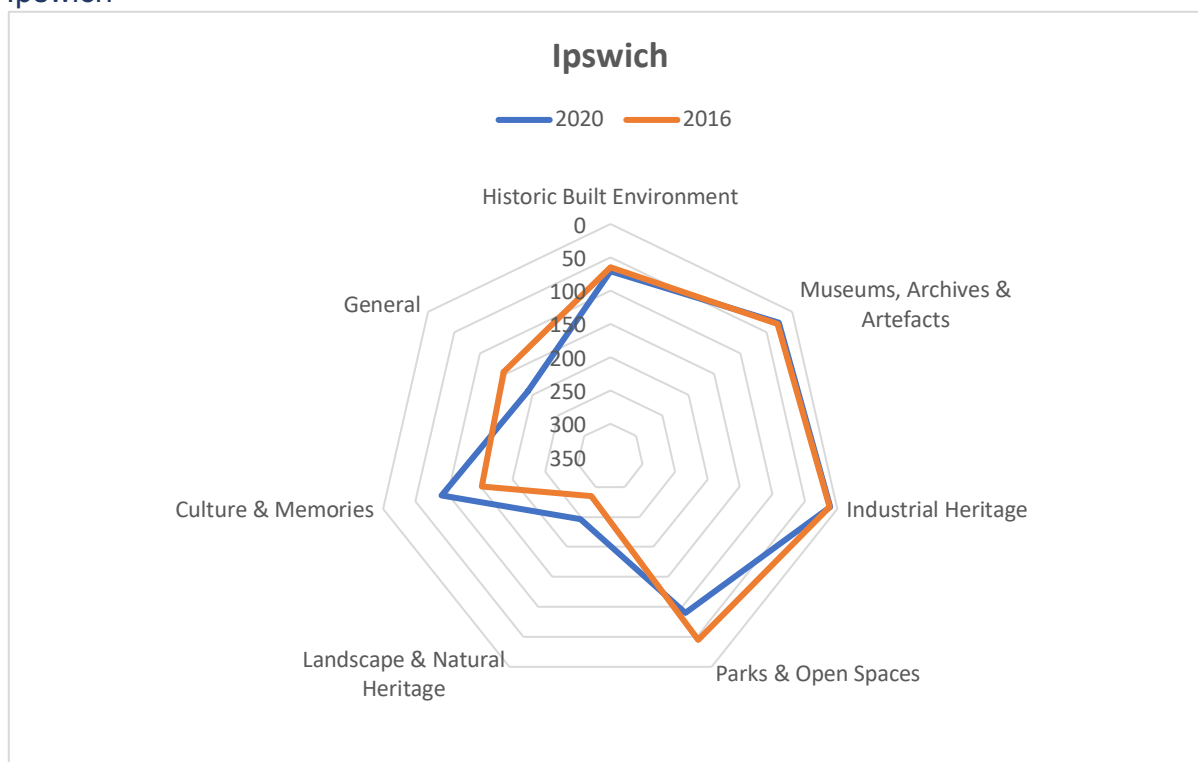
Mid Suffolk saw a modest rise in the rankings. The two new combined authorities of East Suffolk and West Suffolk did not perform as well as the constituent parts (Suffolk Coastal, Forest Heath) from the 2016 Heritage Index.

Suffolk falls behind Essex (including the unitary authority of Southend-on-Sea) which had four authorities in the Top 100: Southend-on-Sea (19), Maldon (37), Rochford (40), Castle Point (52). Colchester was placed at 140.

West Suffolk is ahead of neighbouring East Cambridgeshire (216) and South Cambridgeshire (291).

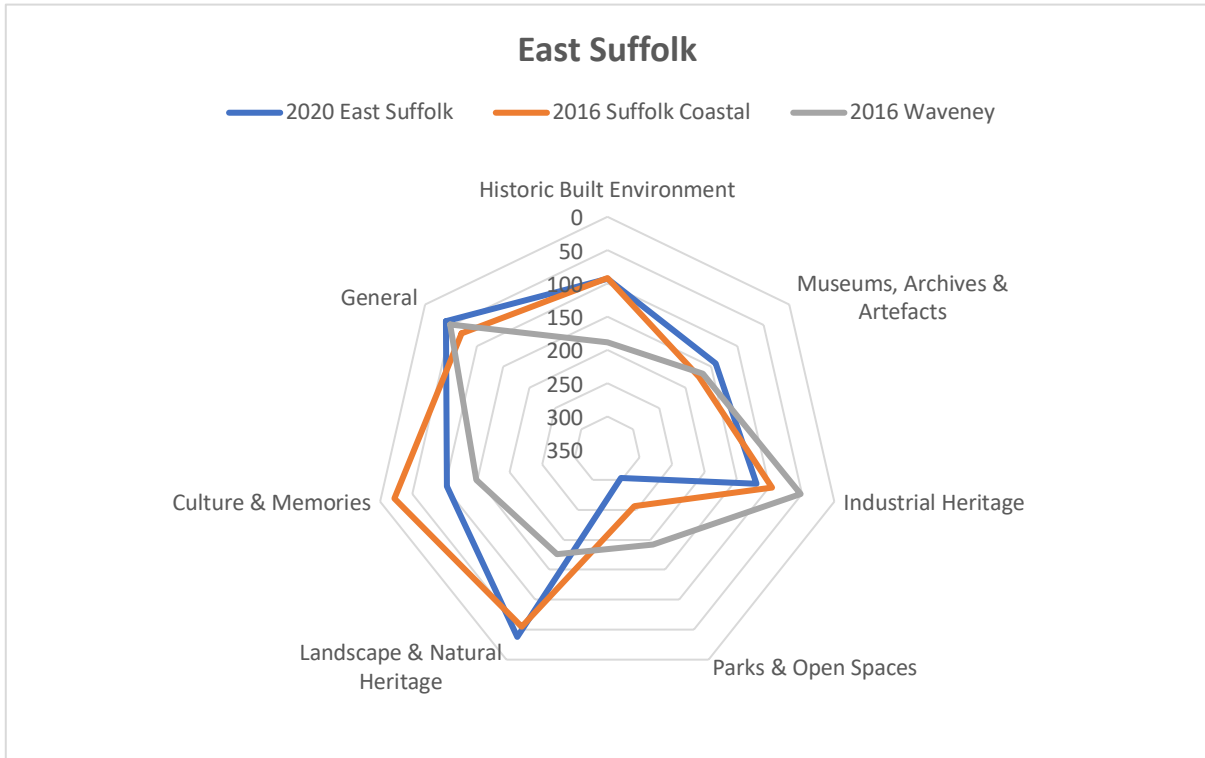
Ipswich has the highest heritage ranking for the region suggesting that it could do more to utilise its heritage assets.

## Ipswich

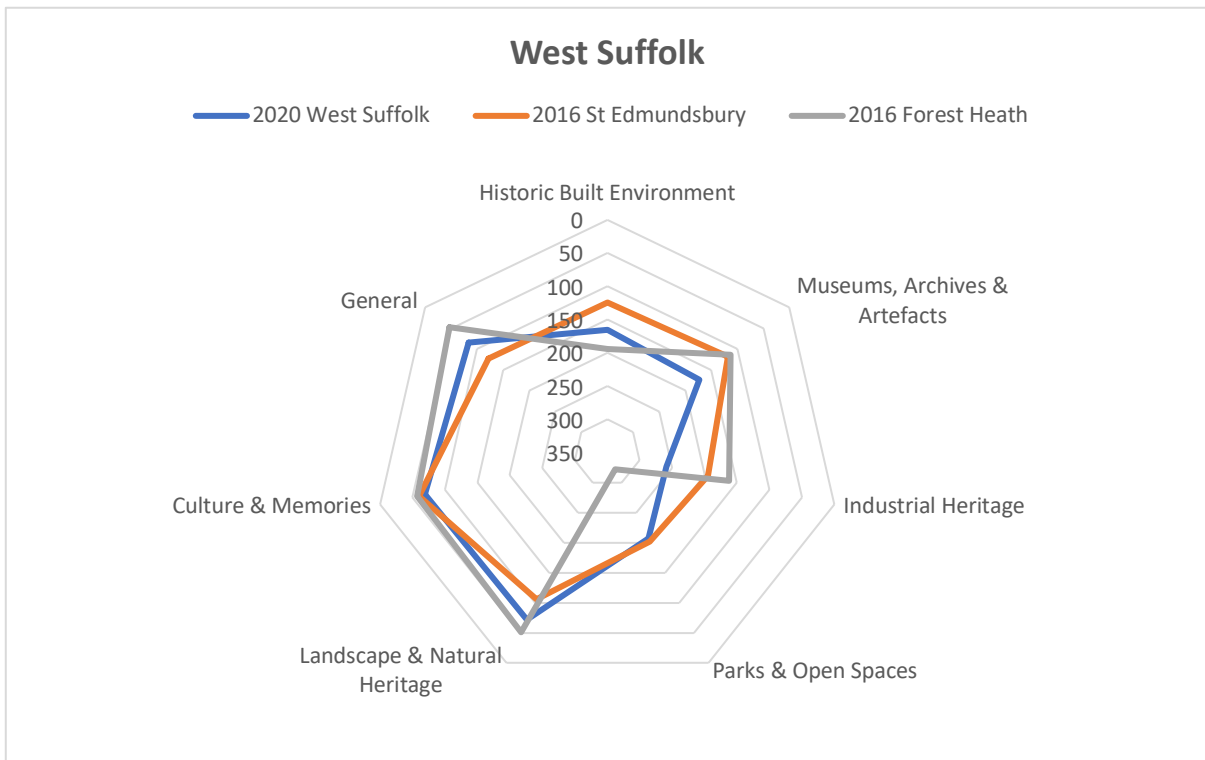




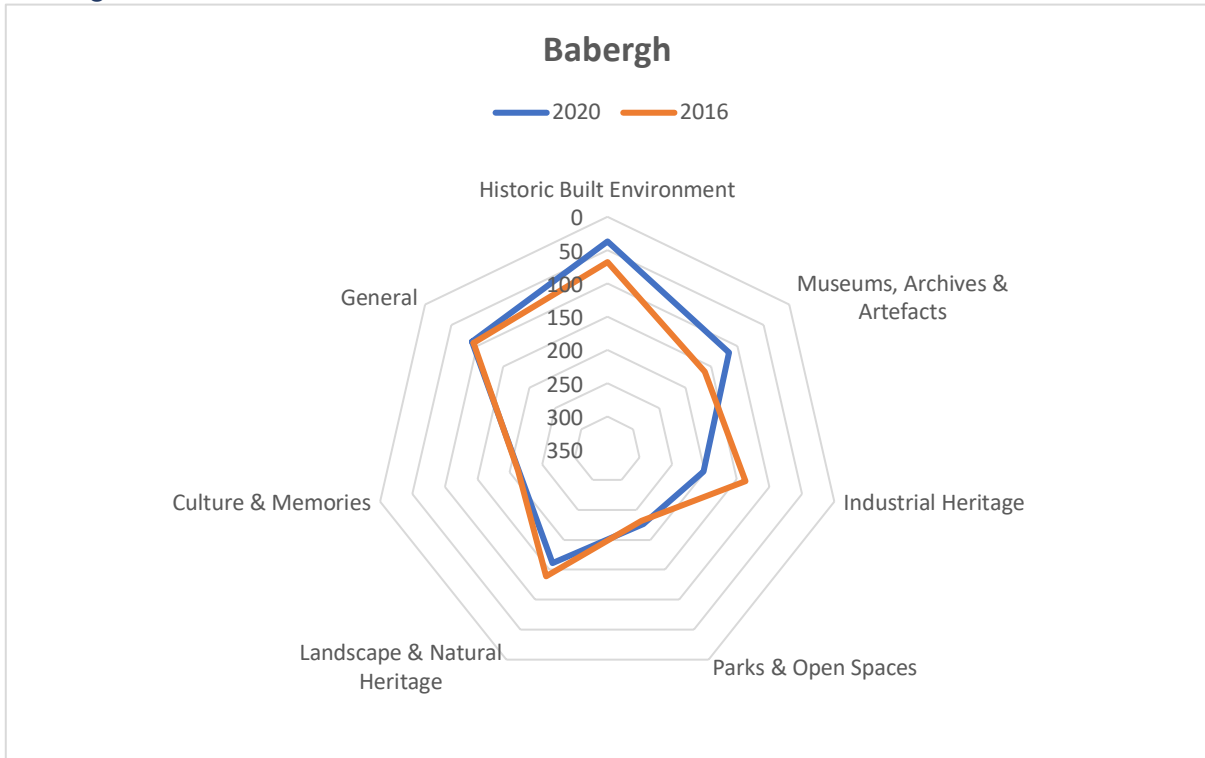
## East Suffolk



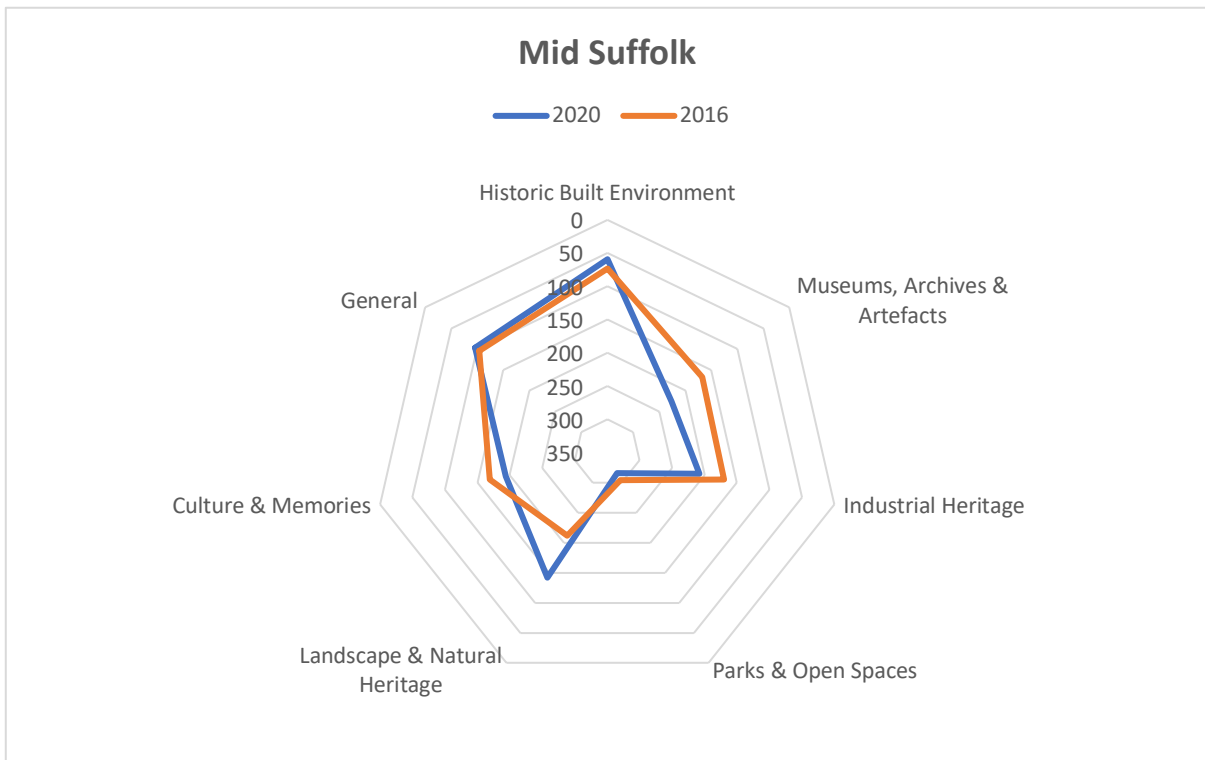
## West Suffolk



## Babergh



## Mid Suffolk



## Eastern Region

	<b>County</b>	<b>Ranking 2020</b>	<b>Ranking 2016</b>
<b>Norwich</b>	Norfolk	<b>3</b>	9
<b>Cambridge</b>	Cambridgeshire	<b>9</b>	12
<b>Southend-on-Sea</b>	Unitary Authority	<b>19</b>	22
<b>North Norfolk</b>	Norfolk	<b>25</b>	36
<b>Maldon</b>	Essex	<b>37</b>	40
<b>Great Yarmouth</b>	Norfolk	<b>38</b>	64
<b>Rochford</b>	Essex	<b>40</b>	55
<b>Castle Point</b>	Essex	<b>52</b>	41
<b>Kings Lynn and West Norfolk</b>	Norfolk	<b>54</b>	48
<b>Ipswich</b>	Suffolk	<b>87</b>	70
<b>East Suffolk</b>	Suffolk	<b>98</b>	73 / 127
<b>Fenland</b>	Cambridgeshire	<b>115</b>	133
<b>West Suffolk</b>	Suffolk	<b>122</b>	105 / 134
<b>Brentwood</b>	Essex	<b>123</b>	160
<b>Tendring</b>	Essex	<b>132</b>	101
<b>Epping Forest</b>	Essex	<b>135</b>	164
<b>Colchester</b>	Essex	<b>140</b>	140
<b>Breckland</b>	Norfolk	<b>150</b>	152
<b>Uttlesford</b>	Essex	<b>177</b>	188
<b>Babergh</b>	Suffolk	<b>188</b>	181
<b>Broadland</b>	Norfolk	<b>190</b>	205
<b>Peterborough</b>	Unitary Authority	<b>198</b>	216
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>	Suffolk	<b>210</b>	223
<b>Chelmsford</b>	Essex	<b>211</b>	289
<b>East Cambridgeshire</b>	Cambridgeshire	<b>216</b>	139
<b>South Norfolk</b>	Norfolk	<b>219</b>	255
<b>Harlow</b>	Essex	<b>222</b>	267
<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	Cambridgeshire	<b>244</b>	233
<b>Braintree</b>	Essex	<b>287</b>	303
<b>South Cambridgeshire</b>	Cambridgeshire	<b>291</b>	291
<b>Thurrock</b>	Unitary Authority	<b>303</b>	283
<b>Basildon</b>	Essex	<b>308</b>	275

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.

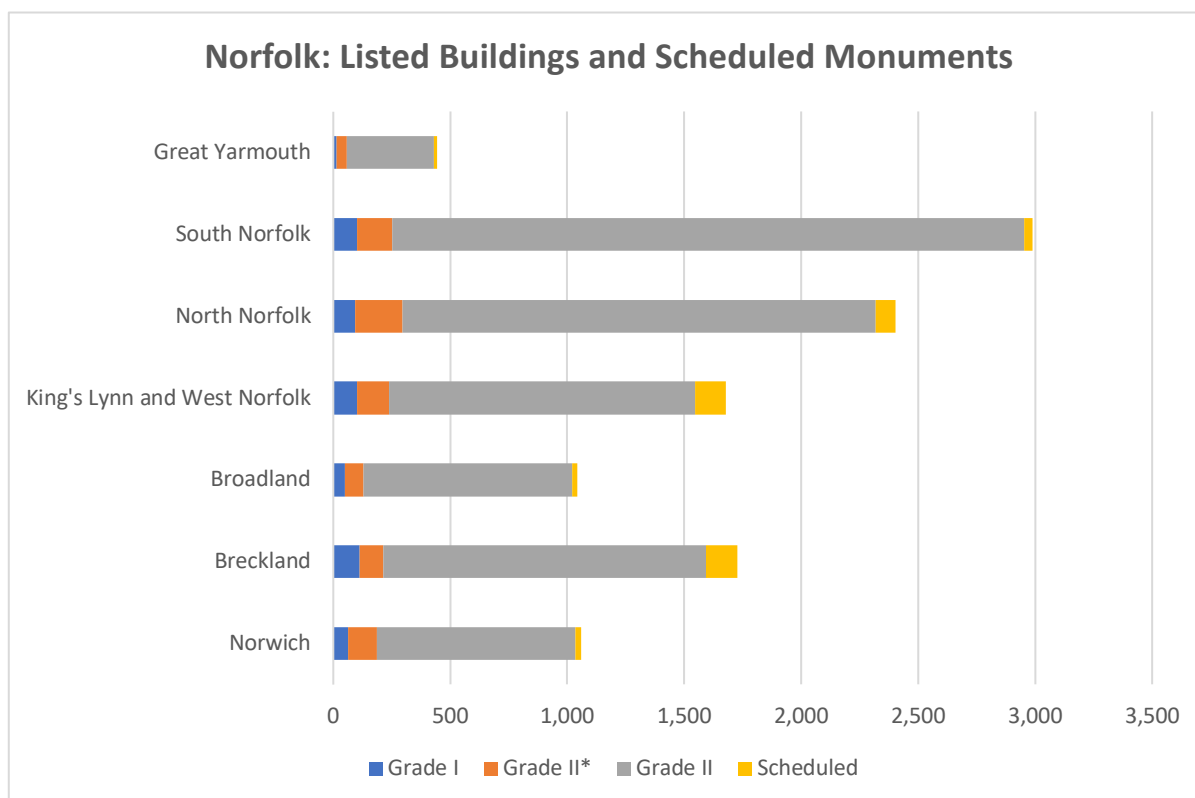
## Historic Built Environment

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

### Norfolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
<b>Norwich</b>	<b>3</b>	4
<b>North Norfolk</b>	<b>33</b>	71
<b>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</b>	<b>39</b>	74
<b>Breckland</b>	<b>41</b>	120
<b>Broadland</b>	<b>56</b>	58
<b>South Norfolk</b>	<b>63</b>	94
<b>Great Yarmouth</b>	<b>85</b>	159

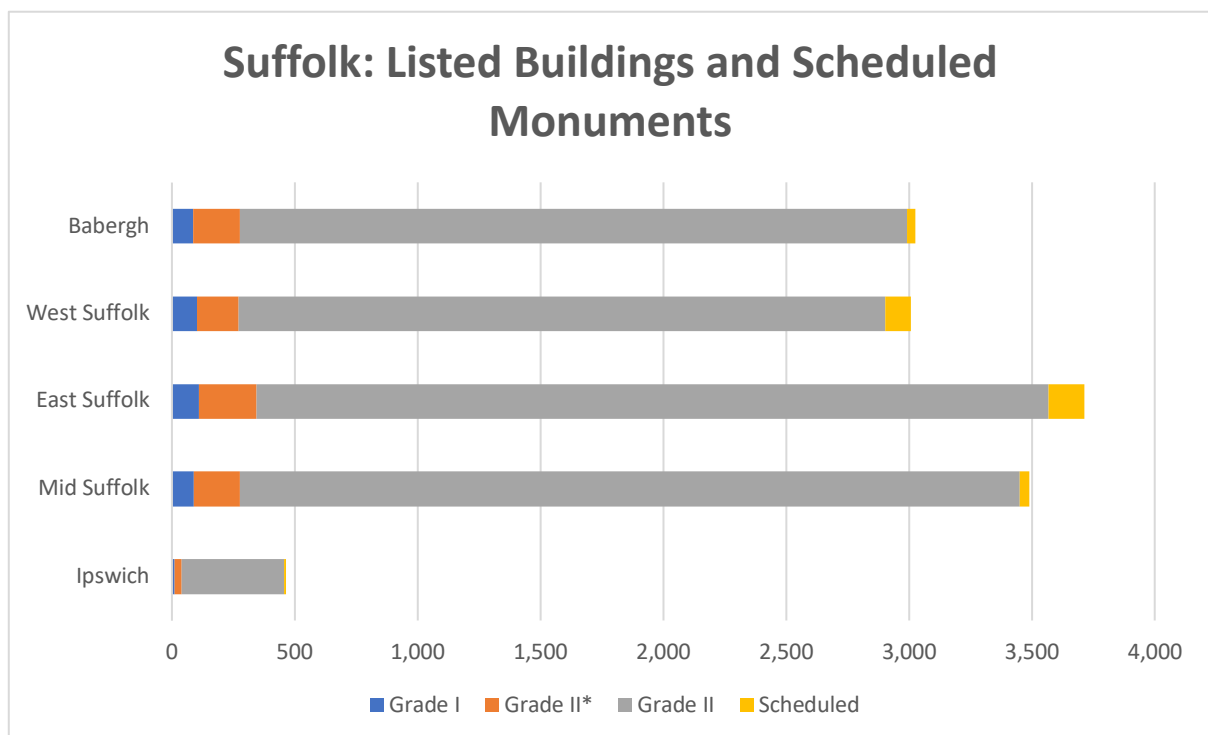
The number of listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments across Norfolk place all authorities in the Top 100 of the rankings for Historic Built Environment. There are 534 Grade I listed buildings in the county.



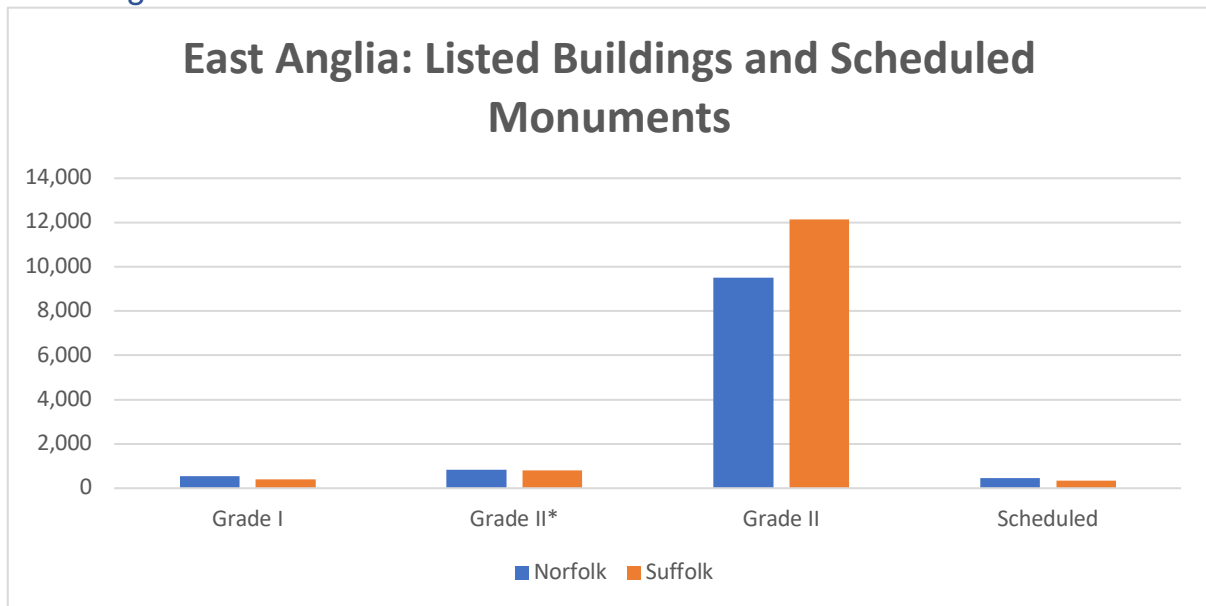
## Suffolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
<b>Babergh</b>	<b>37</b>	68
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>	<b>59</b>	73
<b>Ipswich</b>	<b>71</b>	65
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>93</b>	
<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>		92
<i>Waveney</i>		189
<b>West Suffolk</b>	<b>165</b>	
<i>Forest Heath</i>		194
<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>		124

Four of the five local authorities are placed in the Top 100 of the Historic Built Environment rankings. There are 399 Grade I listed buildings in the county.



## East Anglia

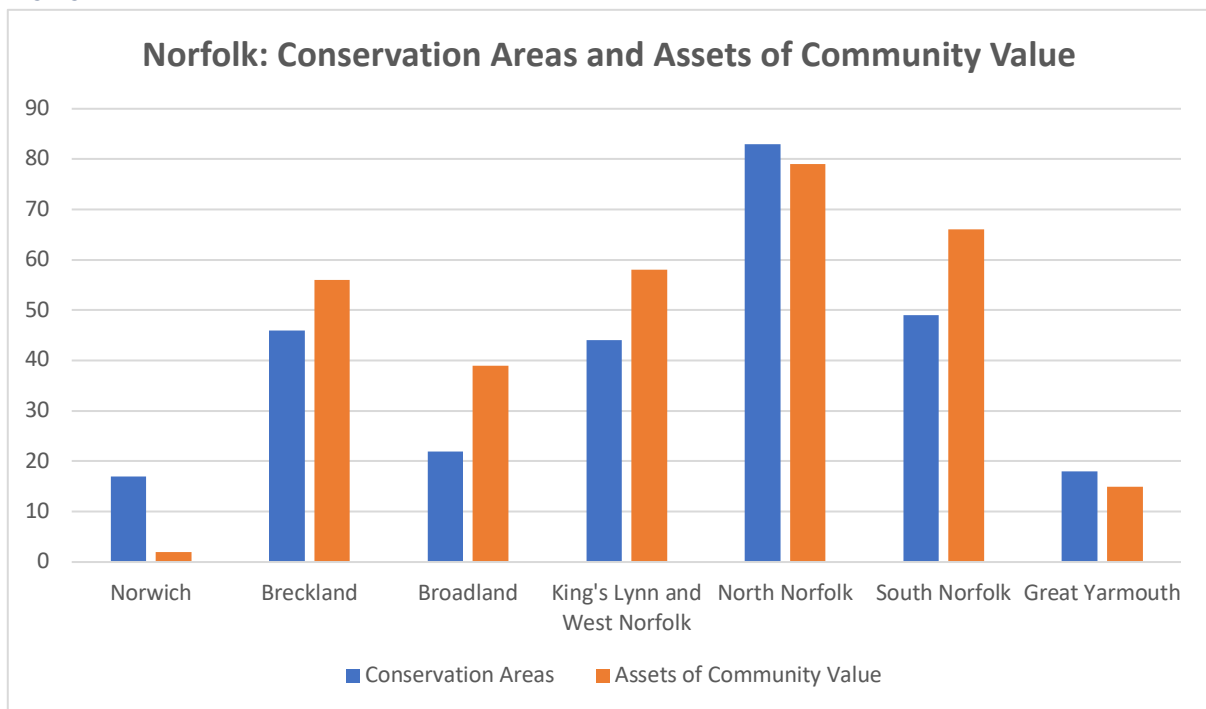


Norfolk and Suffolk have over 24,000 listed buildings, of which 933 are Grade I, and 1,648 are Grade II\*. This compares with just over 8,000 in Cambridgeshire, and 14,000 in Essex.

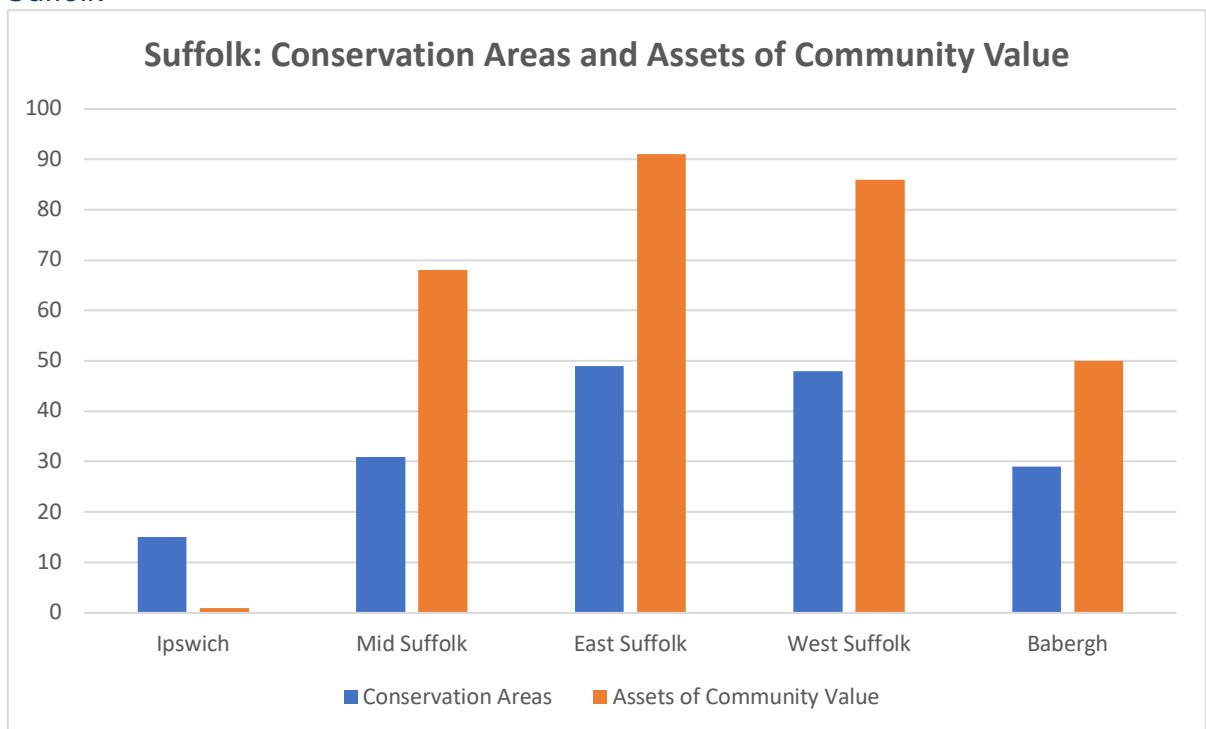
Norfolk (449) and Suffolk (334) have 783 scheduled monuments. This compares with 337 in Cambridgeshire, and 323 in Essex.



## Conservation Areas and Assets of Community Value Norfolk



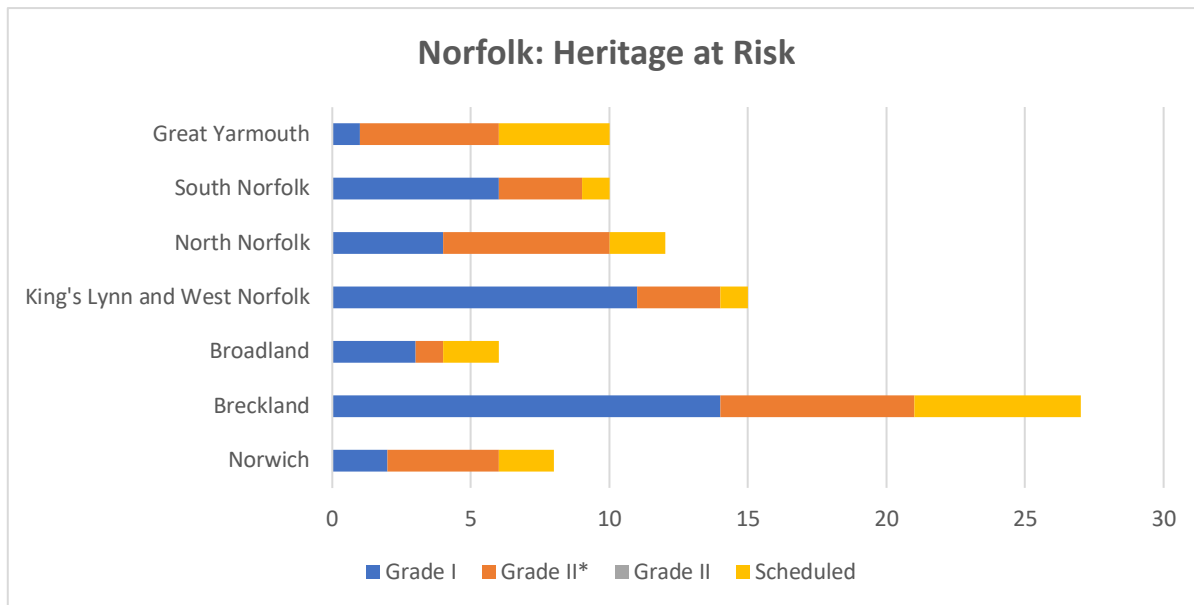
## Suffolk



## Heritage at Risk

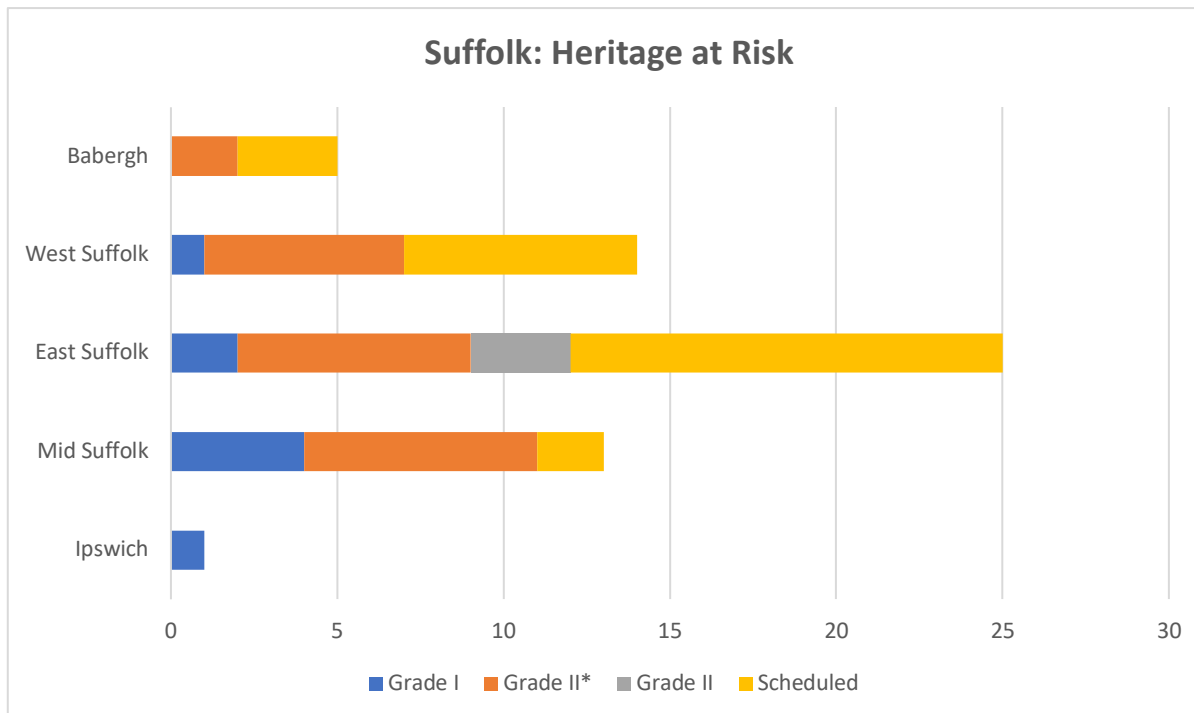
Listed buildings or scheduled monuments that are deemed to be at risk detract from the rankings in the section on the Historic Built Environment. The data used for analysis are derived from Historic England.

### Norfolk



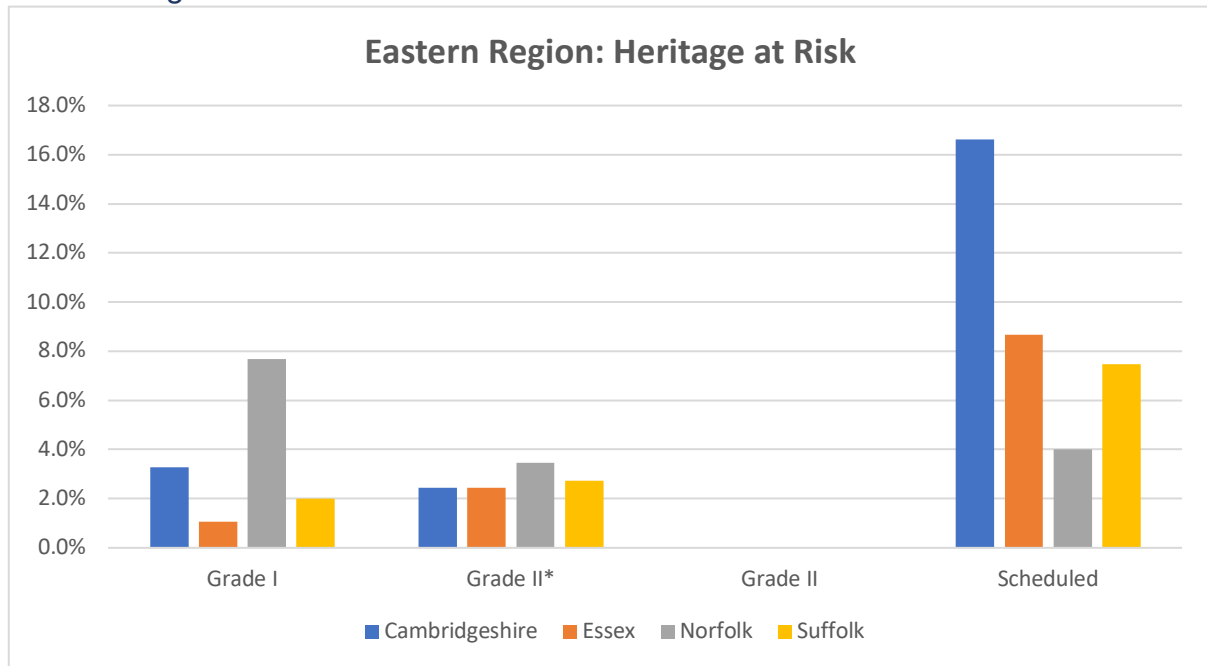
There is concern about the number of Grade I listed buildings at risk in King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and Breckland.

### Suffolk



These are concerns about the protection of listed buildings and scheduled monuments in East Suffolk.

## Eastern Region



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.

## Museums, Archives and Artefacts

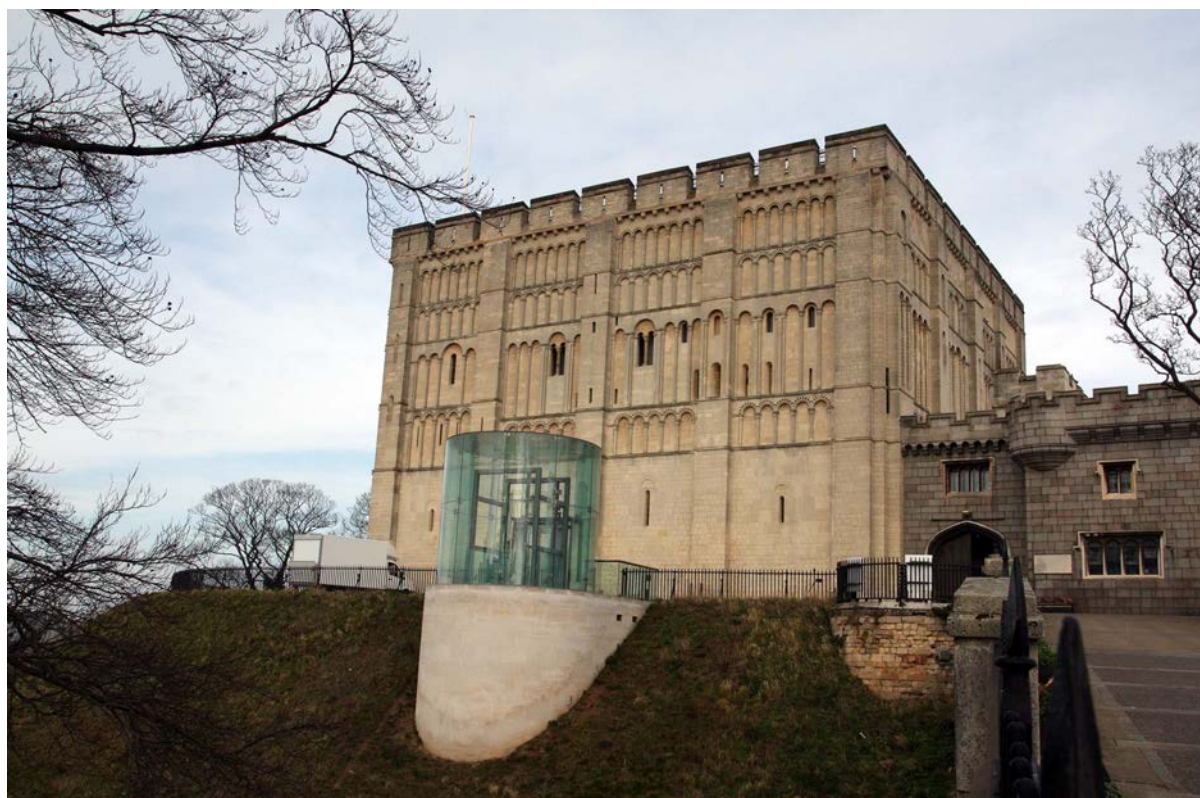
### Norfolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
Norwich	7	12
Great Yarmouth	97	95
Breckland	117	240
South Norfolk	126	161
North Norfolk	135	141
Broadland	238	233
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	245	238

### Suffolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
Ipswich	26	29
Babergh	116	162
East Suffolk	142	
<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>		174
<i>Waveney</i>		166
West Suffolk	173	
<i>Forest Heath</i>		114
<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>		118
Mid Suffolk	226	168

Colchester, that forms part of the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, is placed at 120 in the ranking for Museums, Archives and Artefacts.

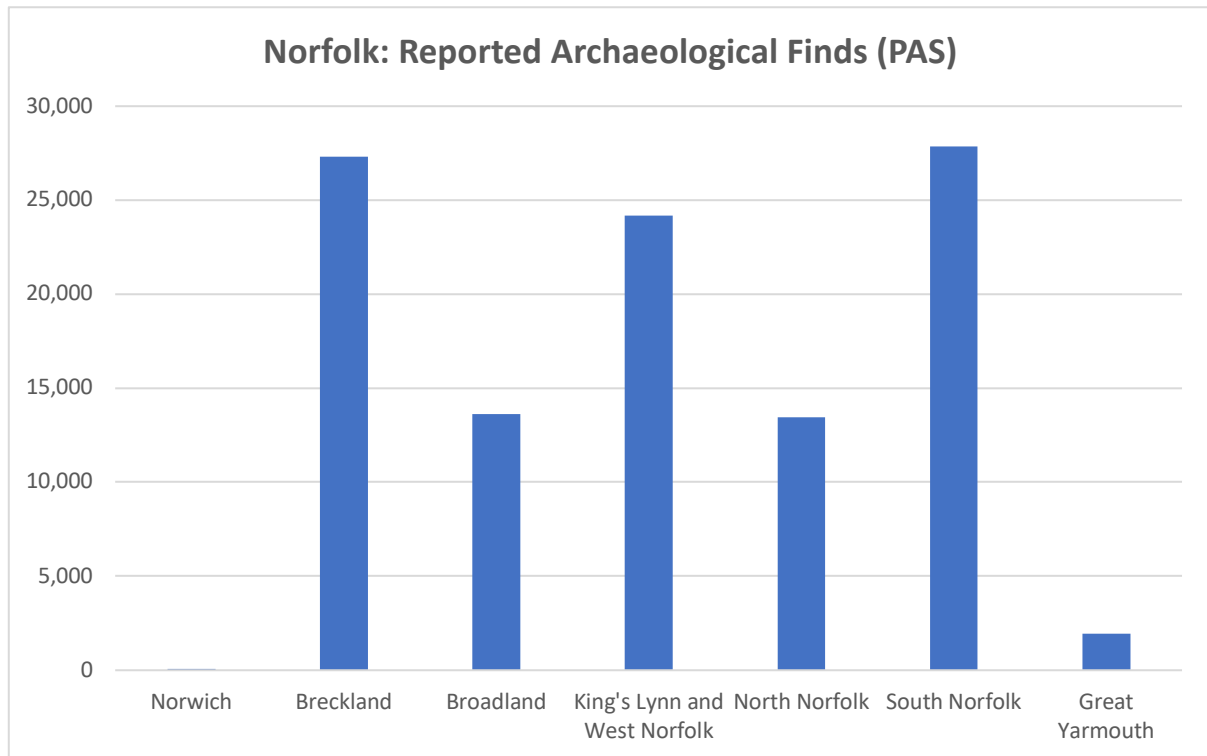


Norwich Castle Museum. © David Gill

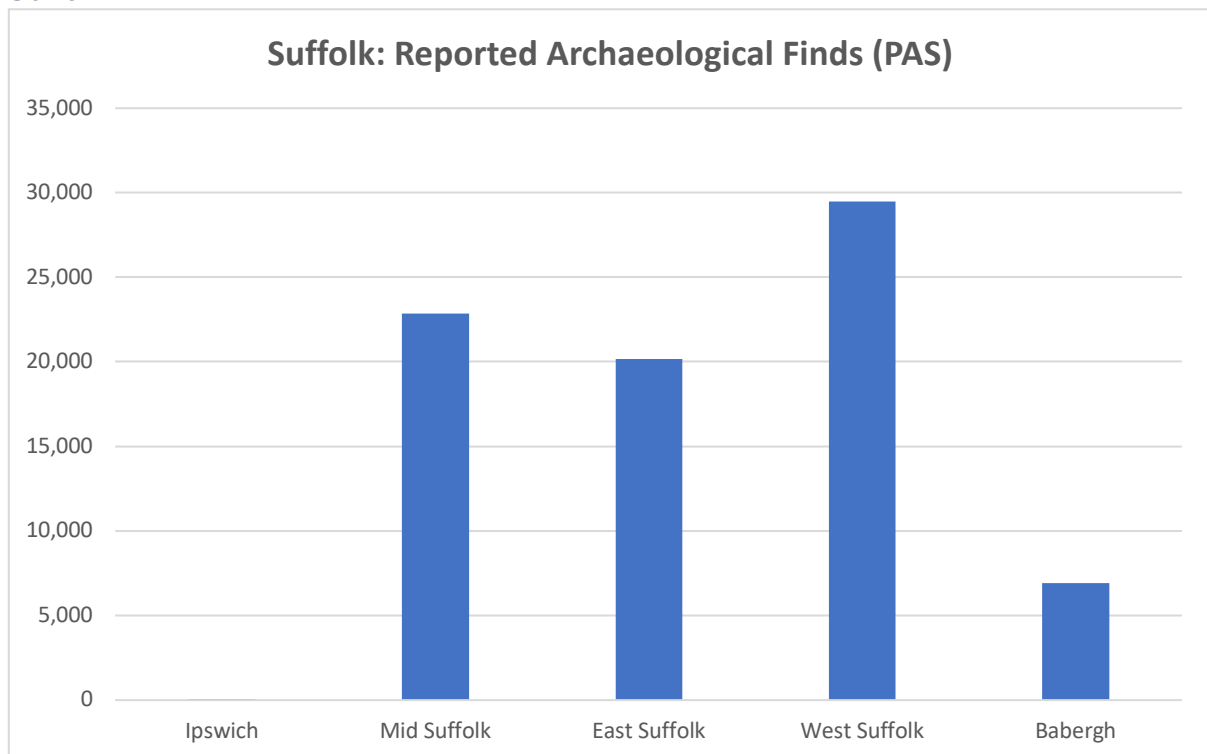
## Archaeological Finds

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

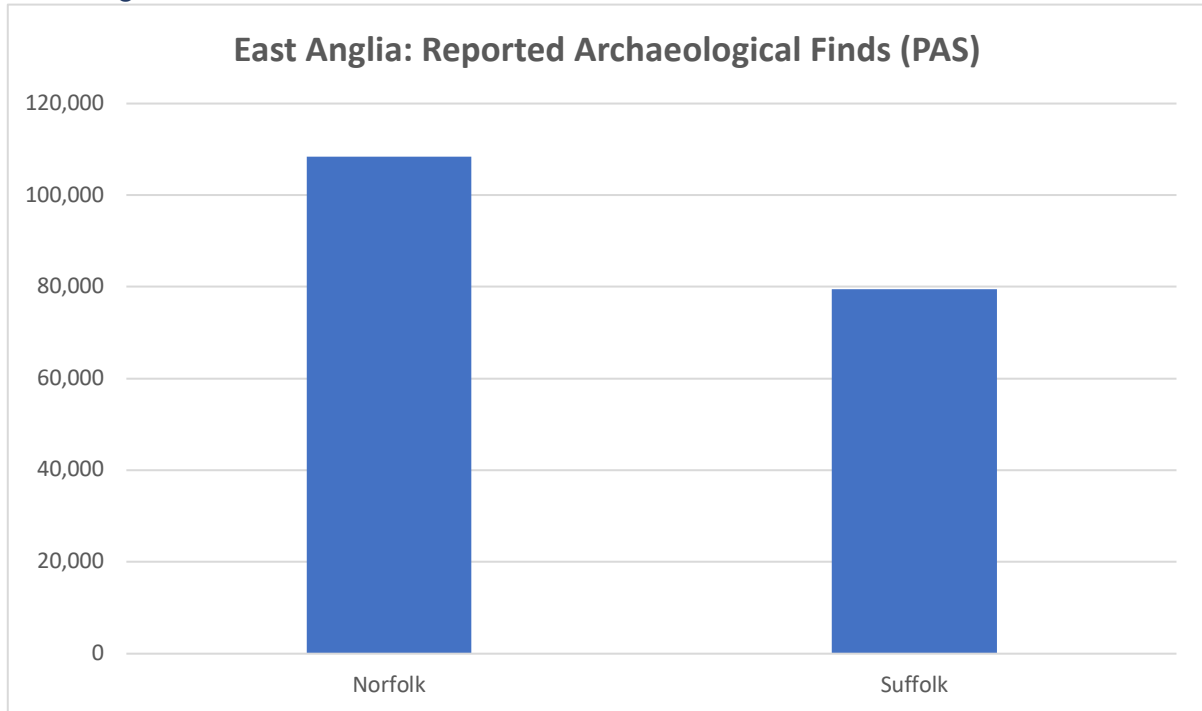
### Norfolk



### Suffolk

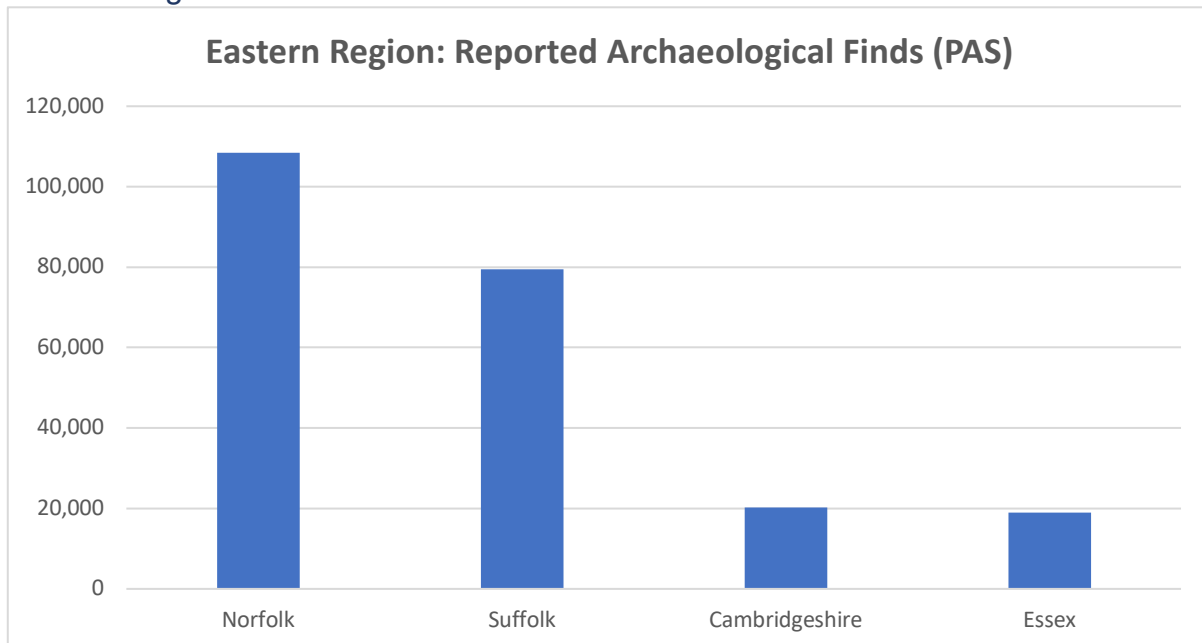


## East Anglia



The number of archaeological finds reported for Norfolk and Suffolk are considerably higher than for neighbouring counties.

## Eastern Region





## Industrial Heritage

### Norfolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
Great Yarmouth	22	40
Norwich	31	28
Broadland	155	168
North Norfolk	158	128
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	195	122
South Norfolk	204	274
Breckland	272	266

### Suffolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
Ipswich	11	12
East Suffolk	120	
<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>		96
<i>Waveney</i>		52
Babergh	202	137
West Suffolk	259	
<i>Forest Heath</i>		162
<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>		195
Mid Suffolk	208	170



North Norfolk Railway, Sheringham © David Gill

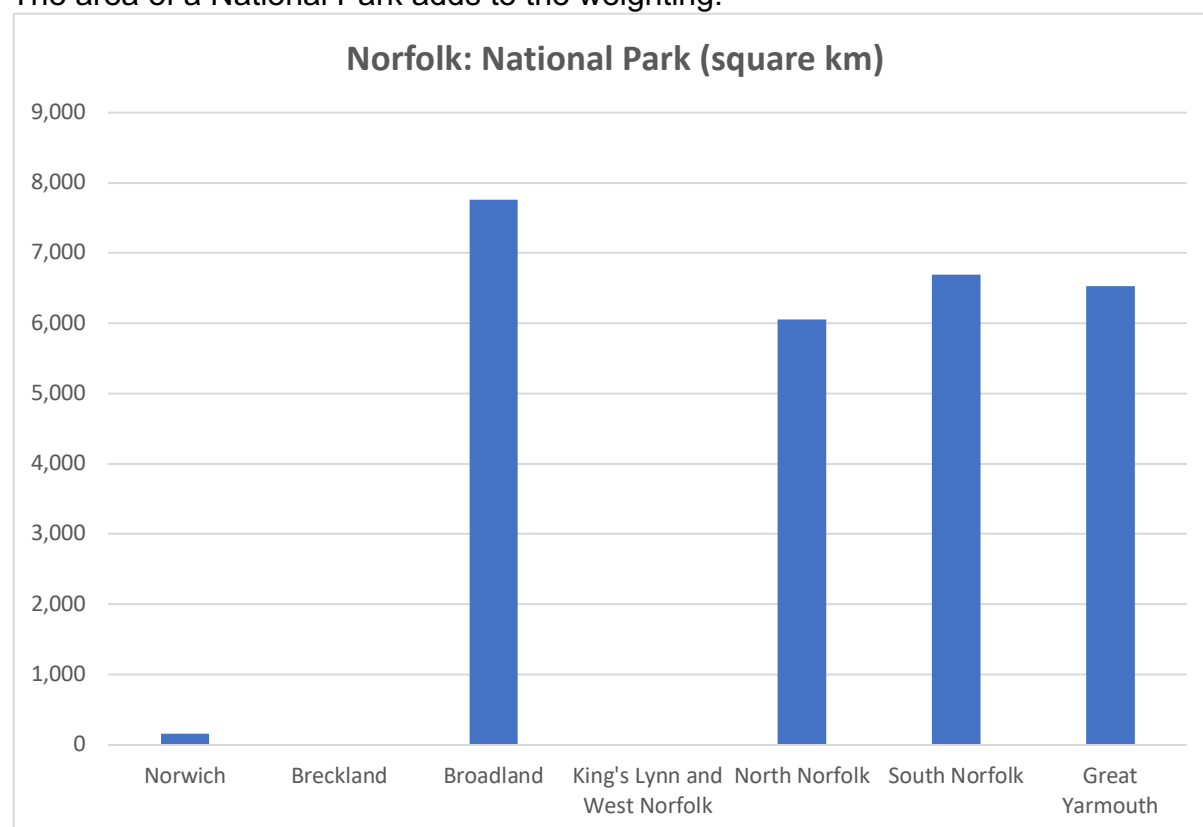
## Parks and Open Spaces

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

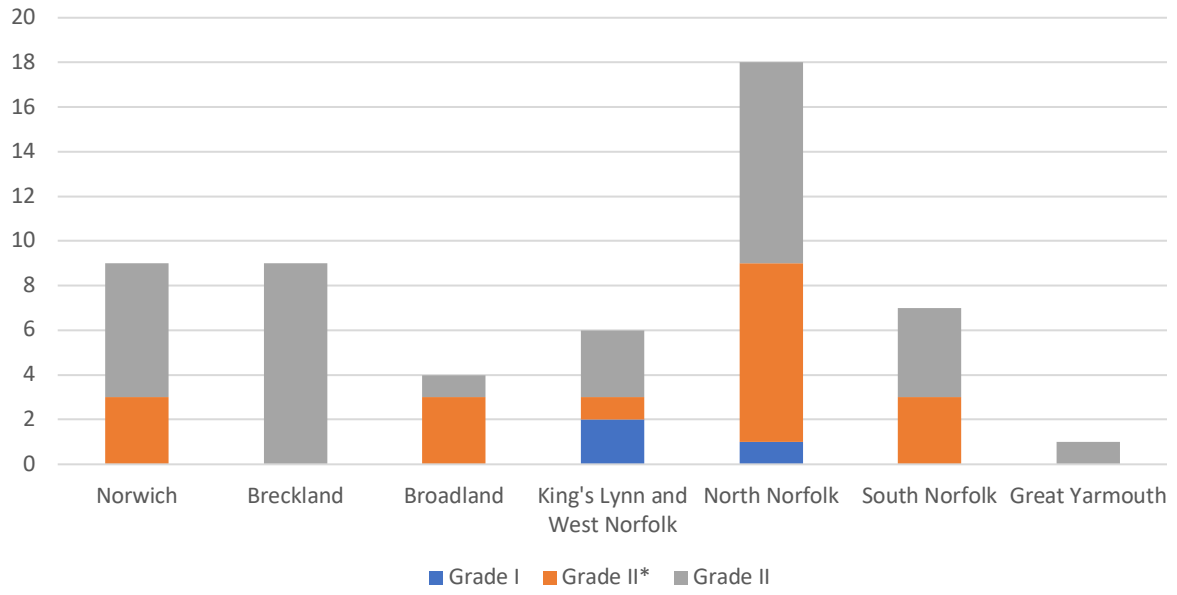
### Norfolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
<b>Norwich</b>	<b>28</b>	40
<b>Great Yarmouth</b>	<b>56</b>	115
<b>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</b>	<b>124</b>	100
<b>North Norfolk</b>	<b>131</b>	137
<b>South Norfolk</b>	<b>243</b>	313
<b>Broadland</b>	<b>255</b>	199
<b>Breckland</b>	<b>295</b>	295

The area of a National Park adds to the weighting.

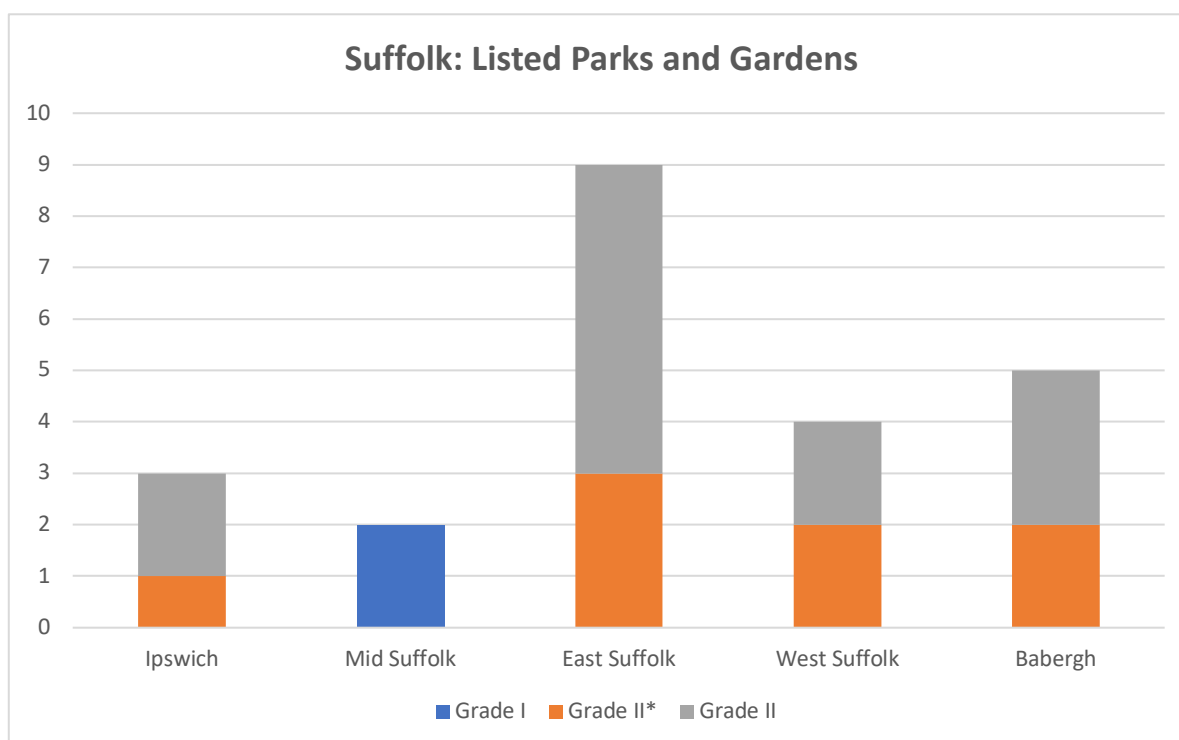


### Norfolk: Listed Parks and Gardens



## Suffolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
Ipswich	90	45
West Suffolk	208	
<i>Forest Heath</i>		323
<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>		202
Babergh	226	231
East Suffolk	303	
<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>		256
<i>Waveney</i>		192
Mid Suffolk	316	5



## 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:

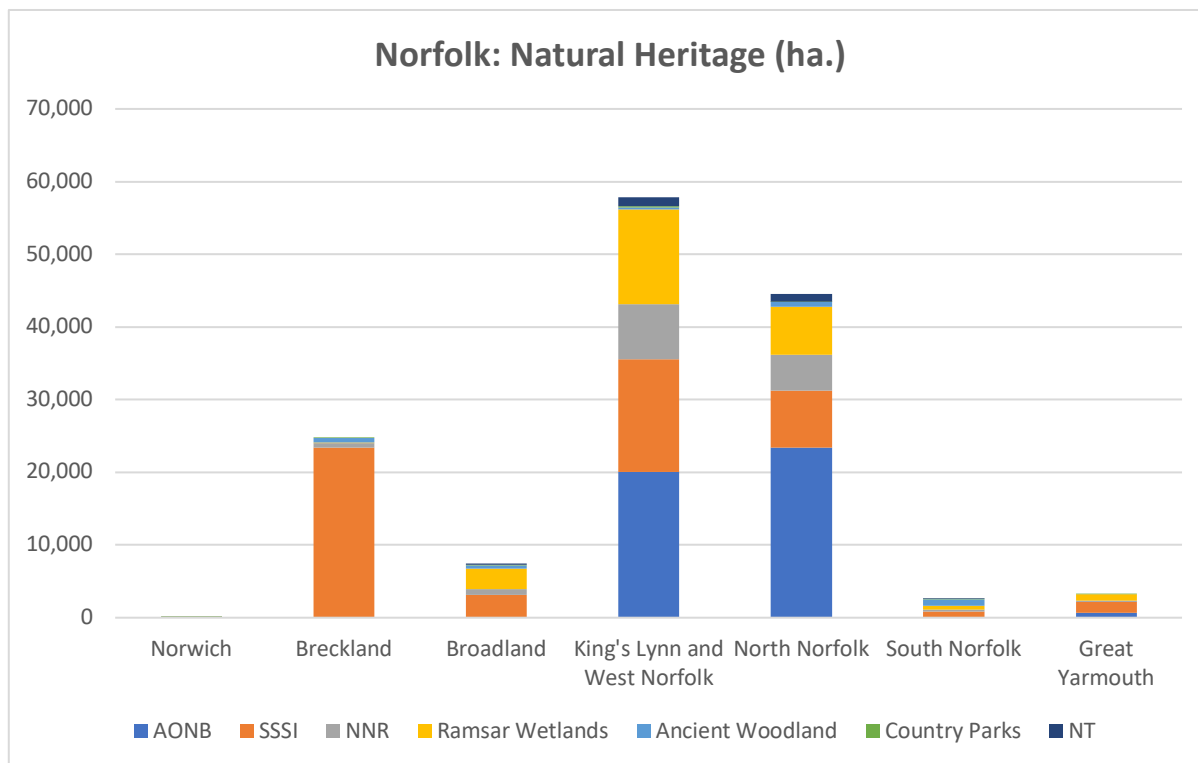
More than 400 Country Parks exist. They are public green spaces often at the edge of urban areas which provide places to enjoy the outdoors and experience nature in an informal semi-rural park setting. Country Parks normally have some facilities such as a car park, toilets, perhaps a cafe or kiosk, paths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

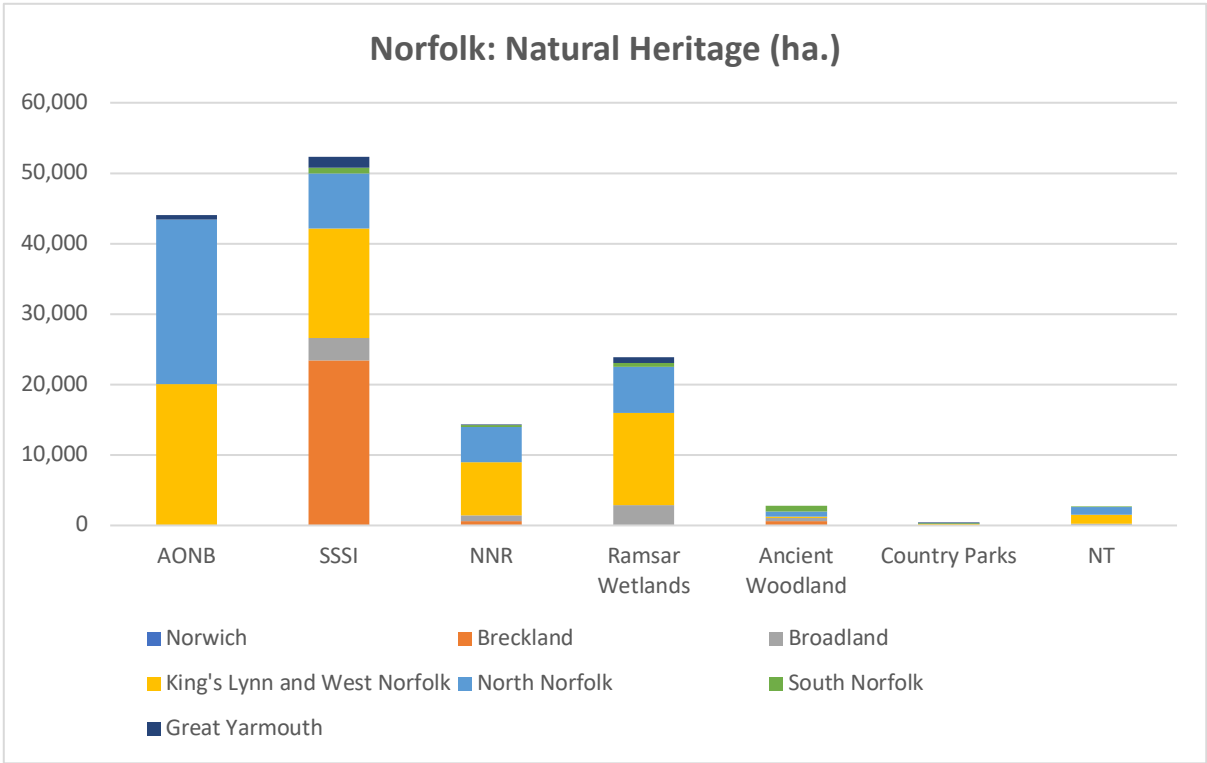


*Cley, Norfolk. © David Gill*

## Norfolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
North Norfolk	22	27
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	42	42
Breckland	54	45
Great Yarmouth	70	80
Broadland	123	151
Norwich	148	138
South Norfolk	233	298



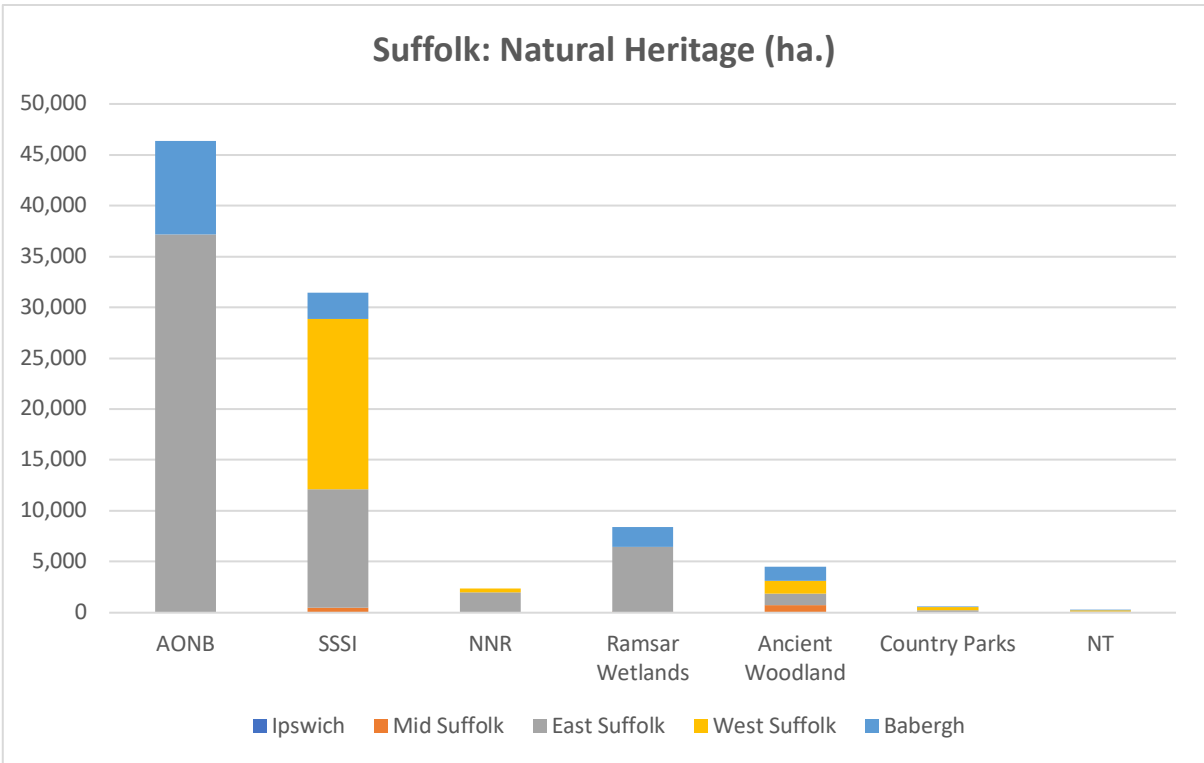
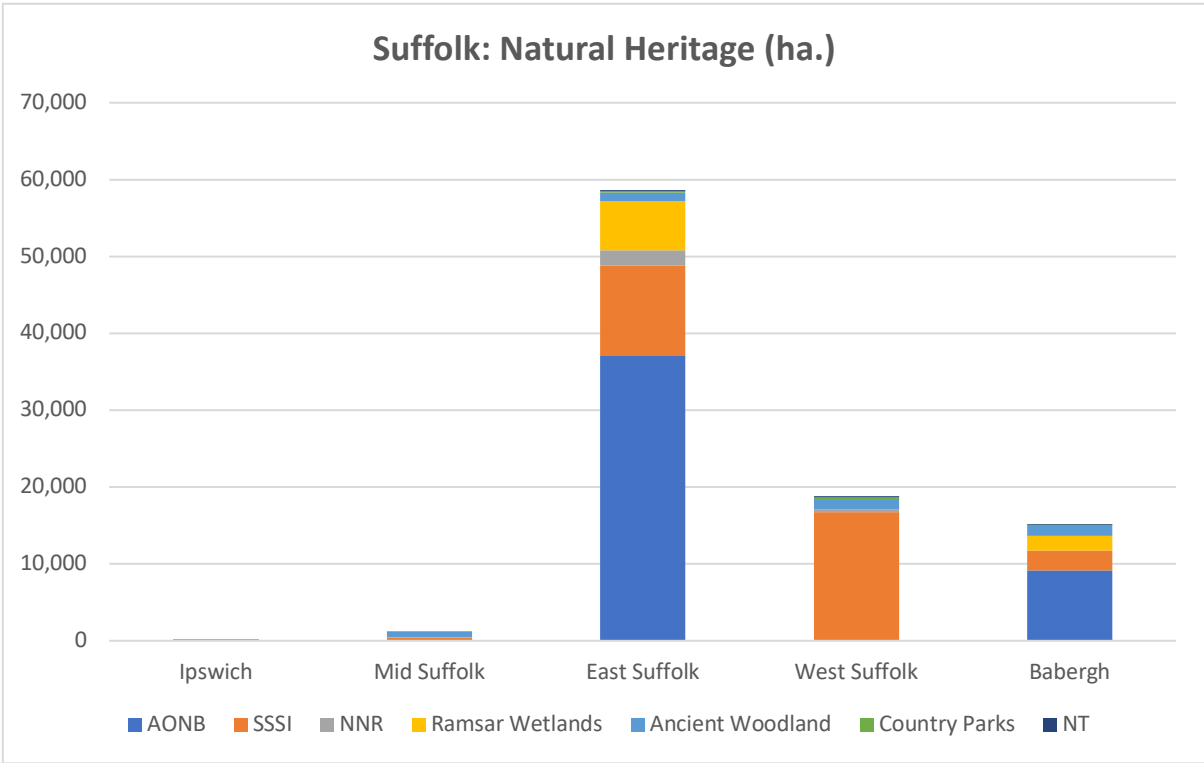


Norfolk has particular strengths in terms of AONBs, SSSIs and Ramsar Wetlands, mostly in King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, and North Norfolk.

### Suffolk

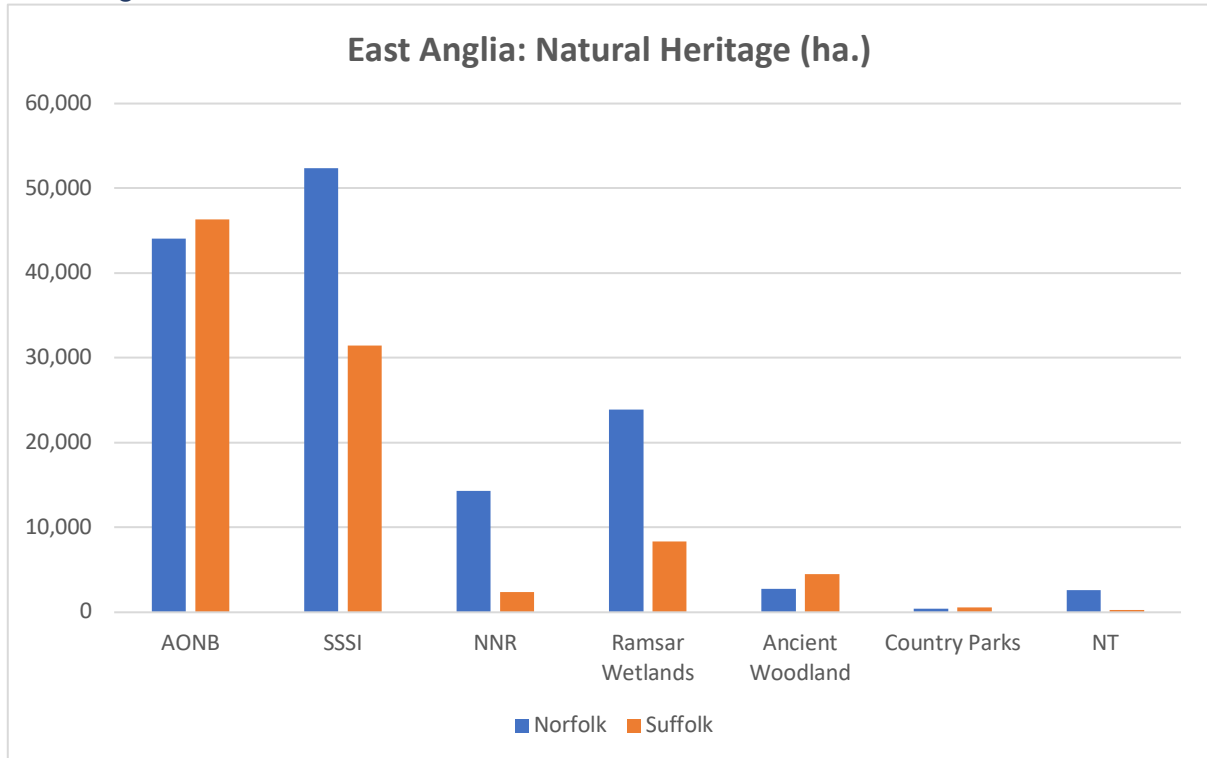
	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>38</b>	
<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>		55
<i>Waveney</i>		176
<b>West Suffolk</b>	<b>72</b>	
<i>Forest Heath</i>		51
<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>		108
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>	<b>142</b>	212
<b>Babergh</b>	<b>161</b>	139
<b>Ipswich</b>	<b>246</b>	285





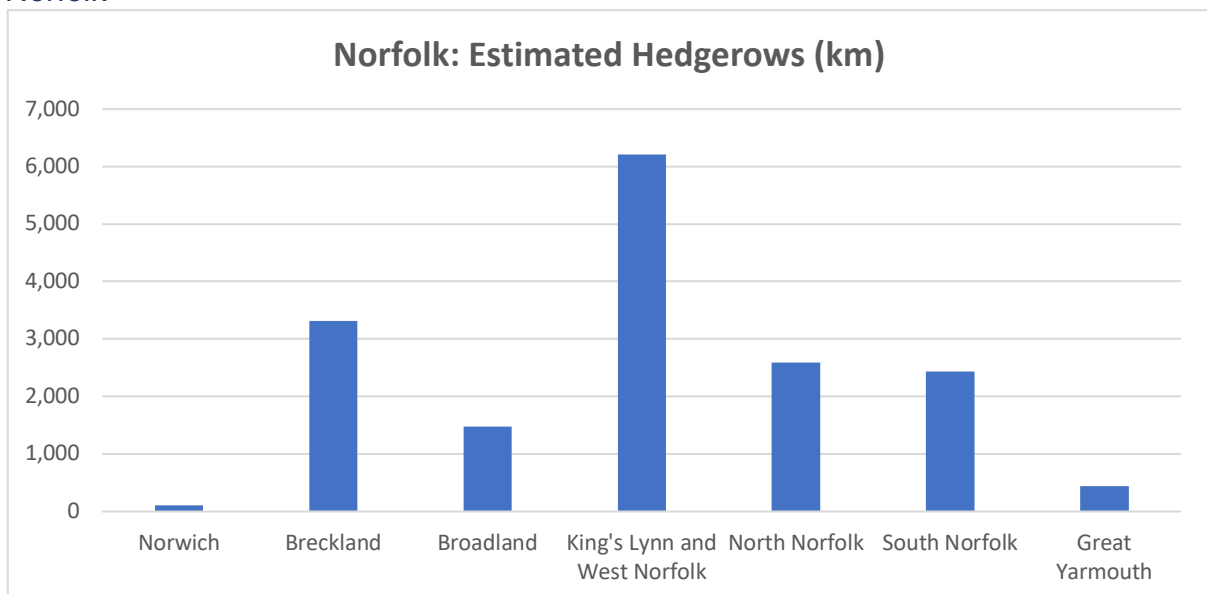
Suffolk has particular strengths with its AONBs and SSSIs, mostly, though not exclusively in East Suffolk.

## East Anglia

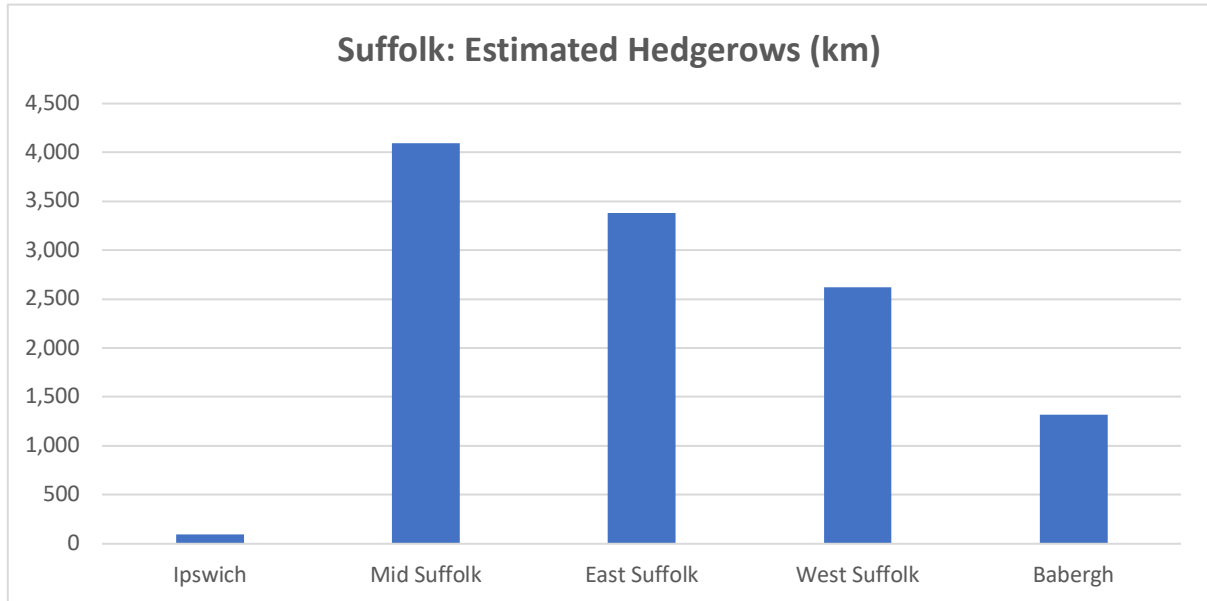


## Hedgerows

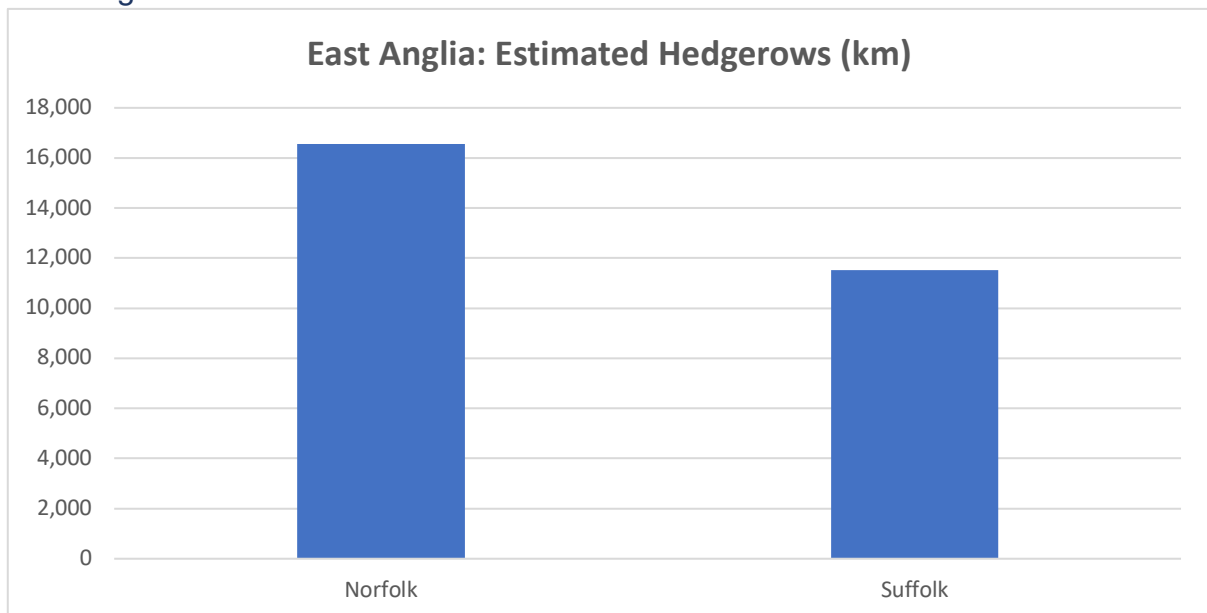
### Norfolk



## Suffolk



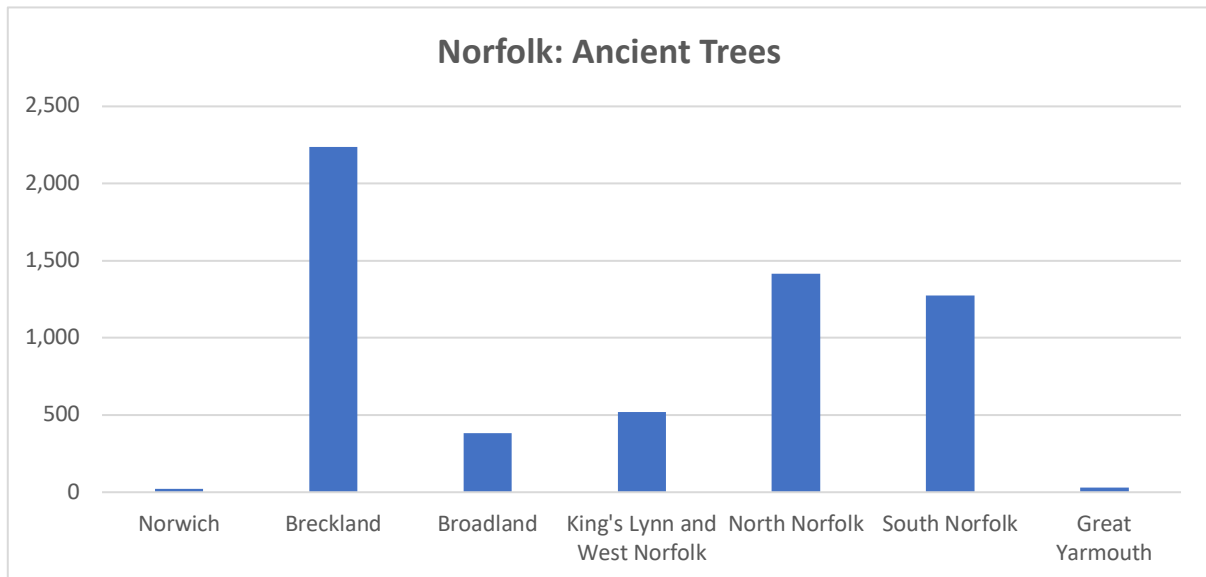
## East Anglia



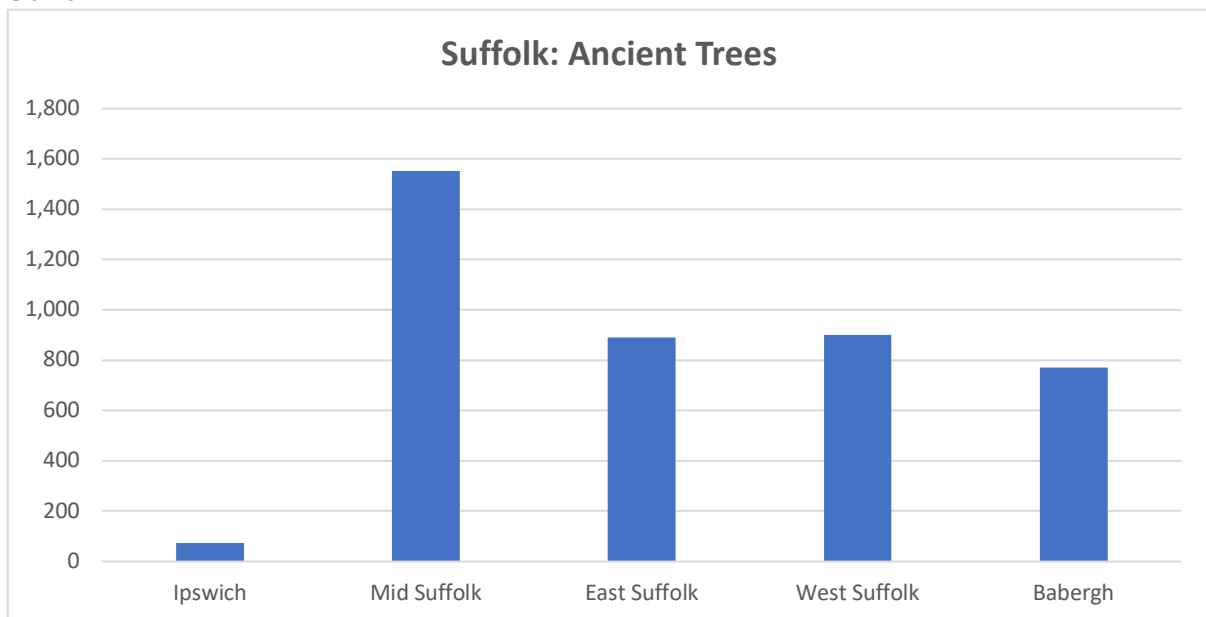
## Ancient Trees

The information is from the Woodland Trust.

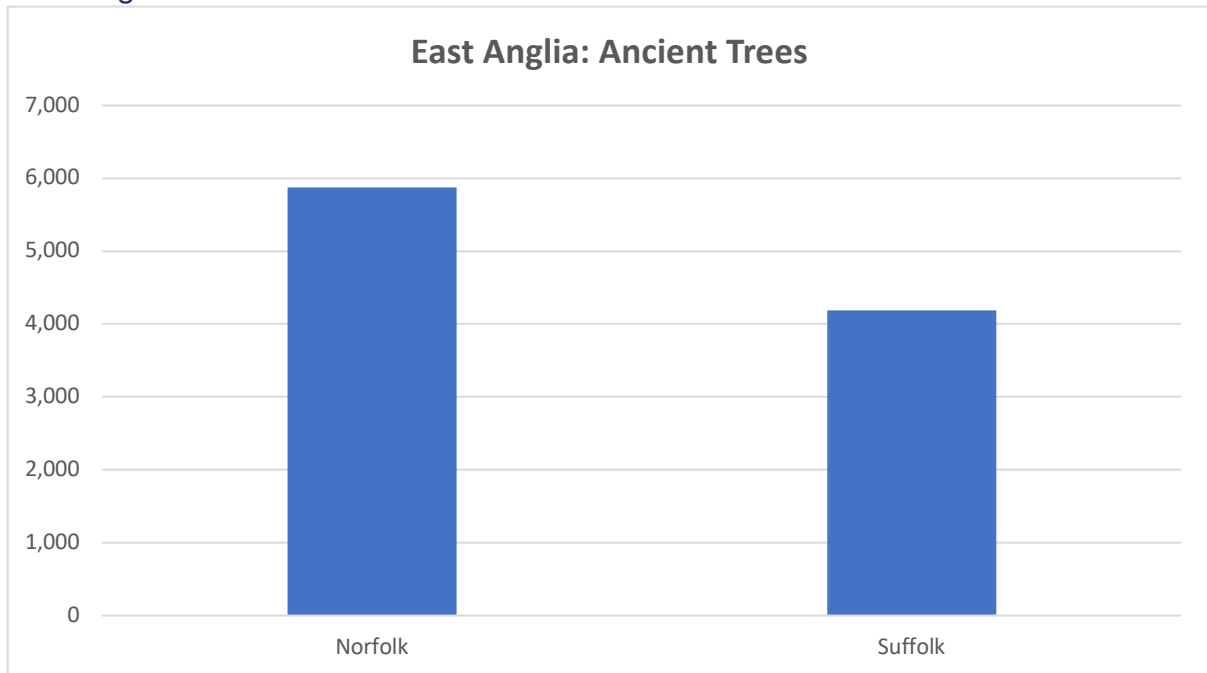
### Norfolk



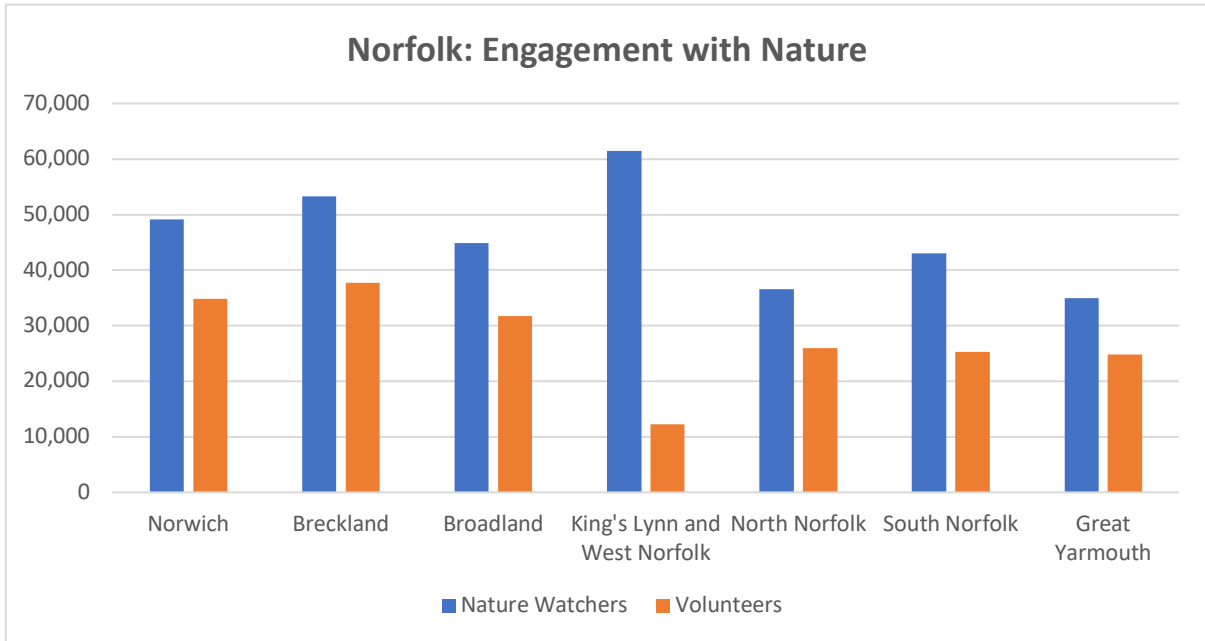
### Suffolk



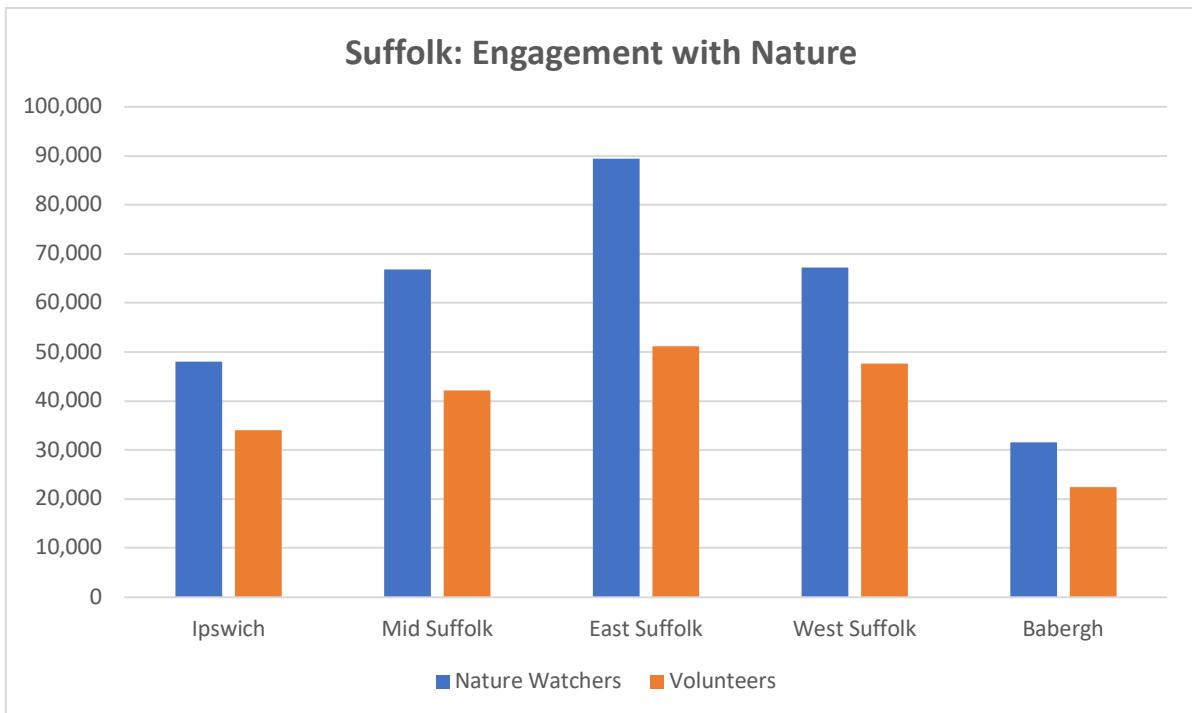
## East Anglia



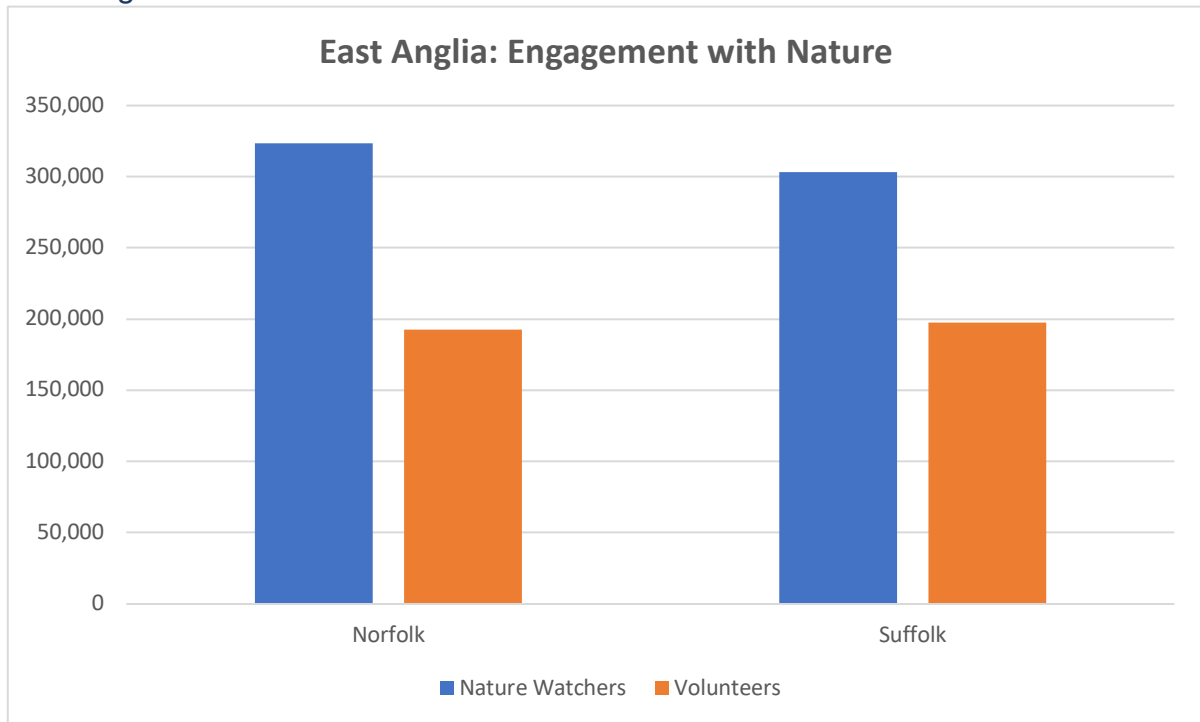
## Norfolk



## Suffolk



## East Anglia

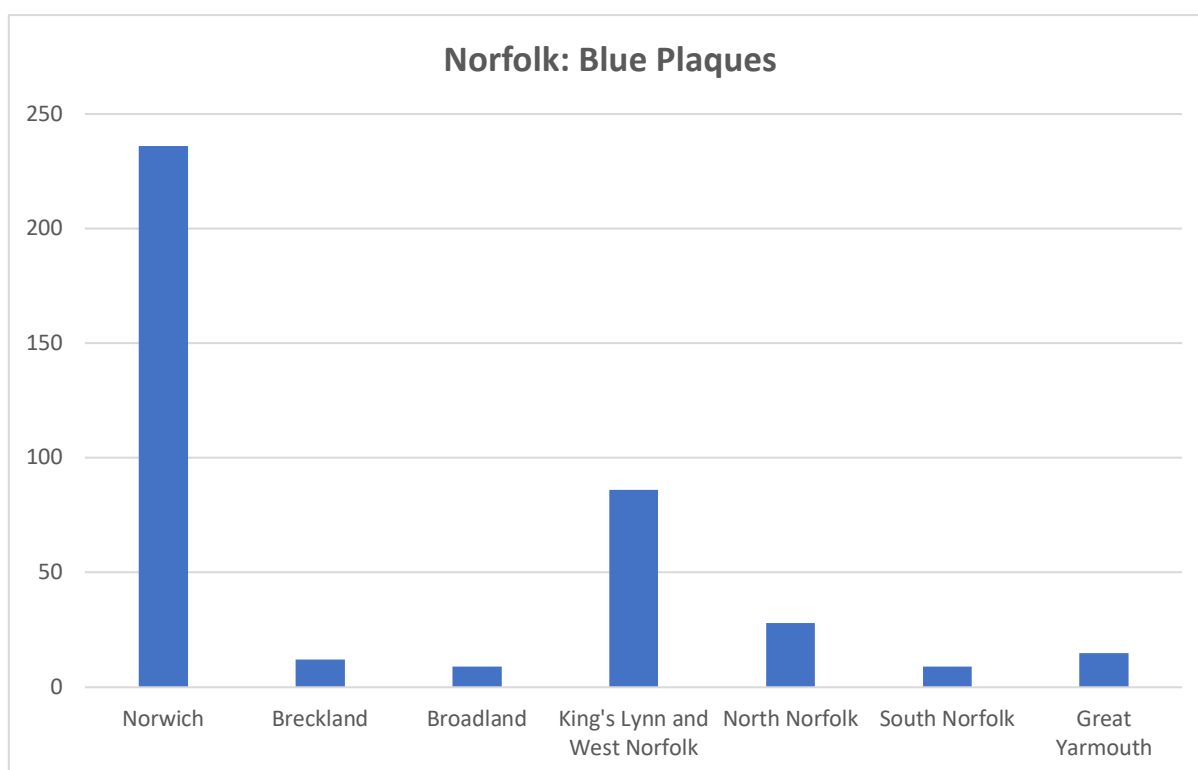


## Culture and Memories

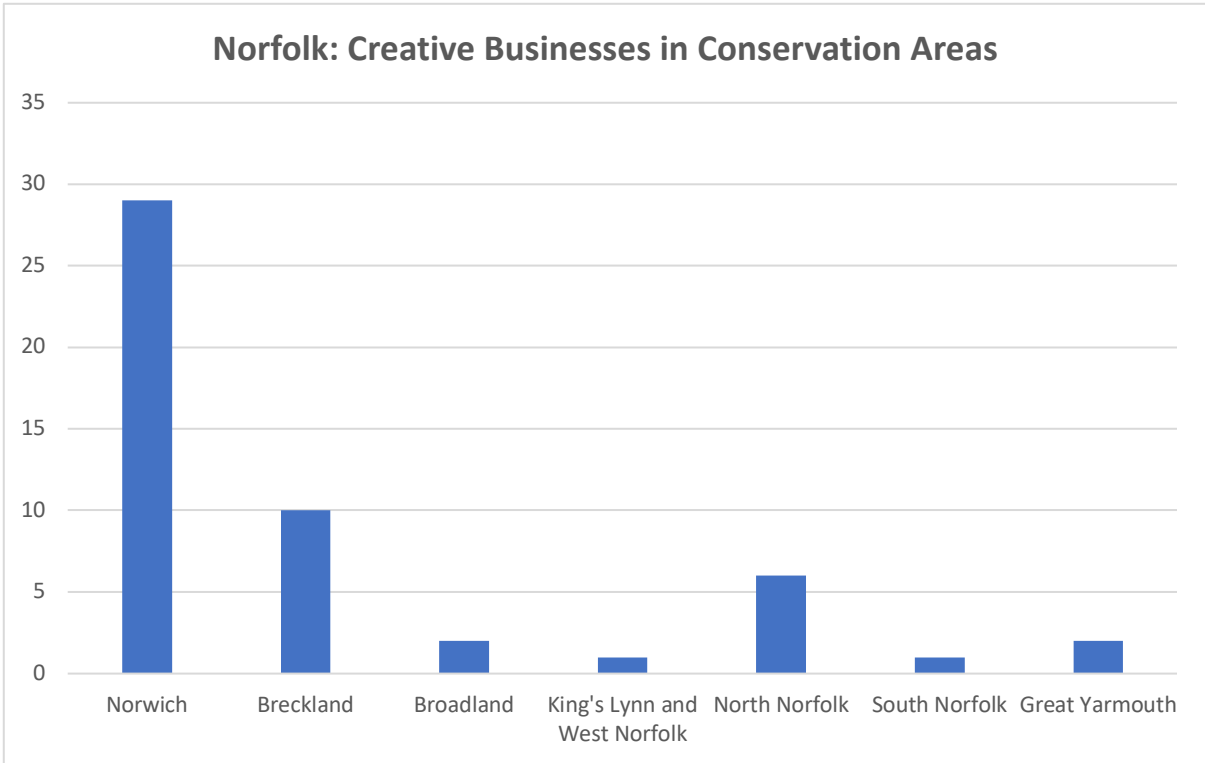
This section includes the number of blue plaques displayed, European Designated Protection for Food and Drink, Intangible Cultural Events, and Creative Businesses in Conservation Areas.

### Norfolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
<b>Norwich</b>	<b>2</b>	1
<b>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</b>	<b>32</b>	32
<b>North Norfolk</b>	<b>75</b>	86
<b>Great Yarmouth</b>	<b>161</b>	98
<b>Breckland</b>	<b>170</b>	149
<b>Broadland</b>	<b>204</b>	264
<b>South Norfolk</b>	<b>217</b>	109

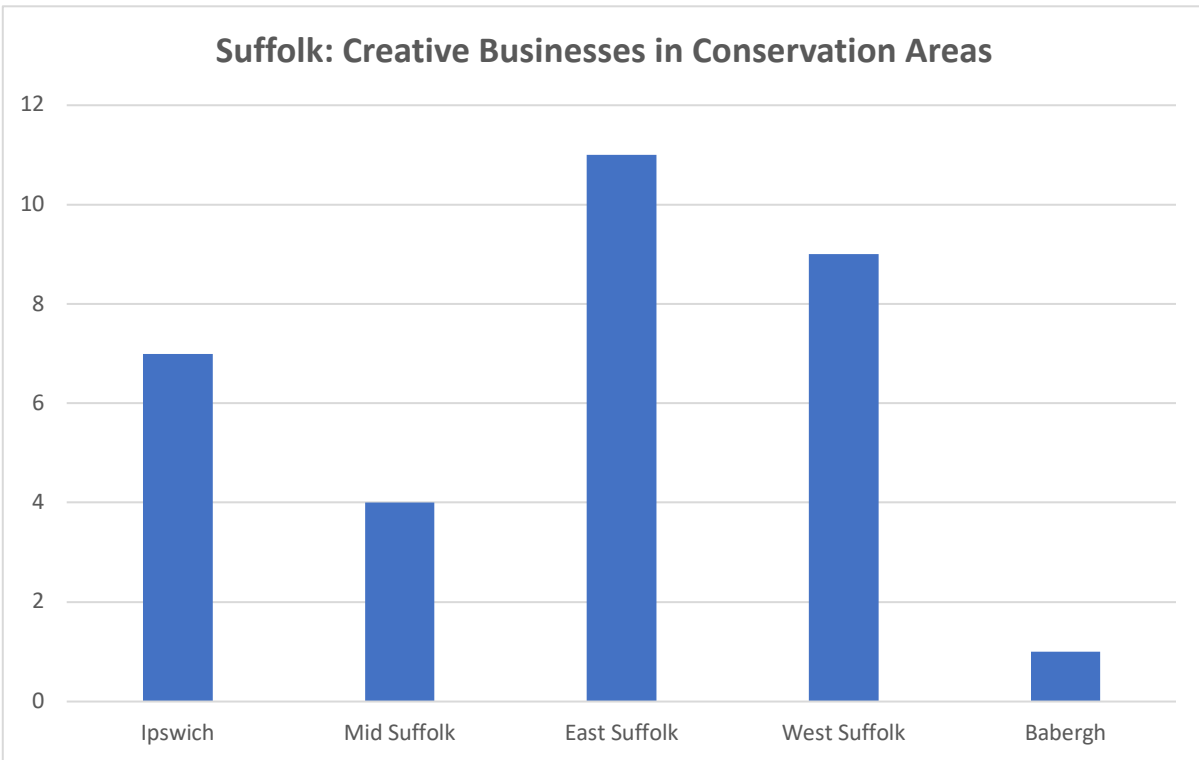
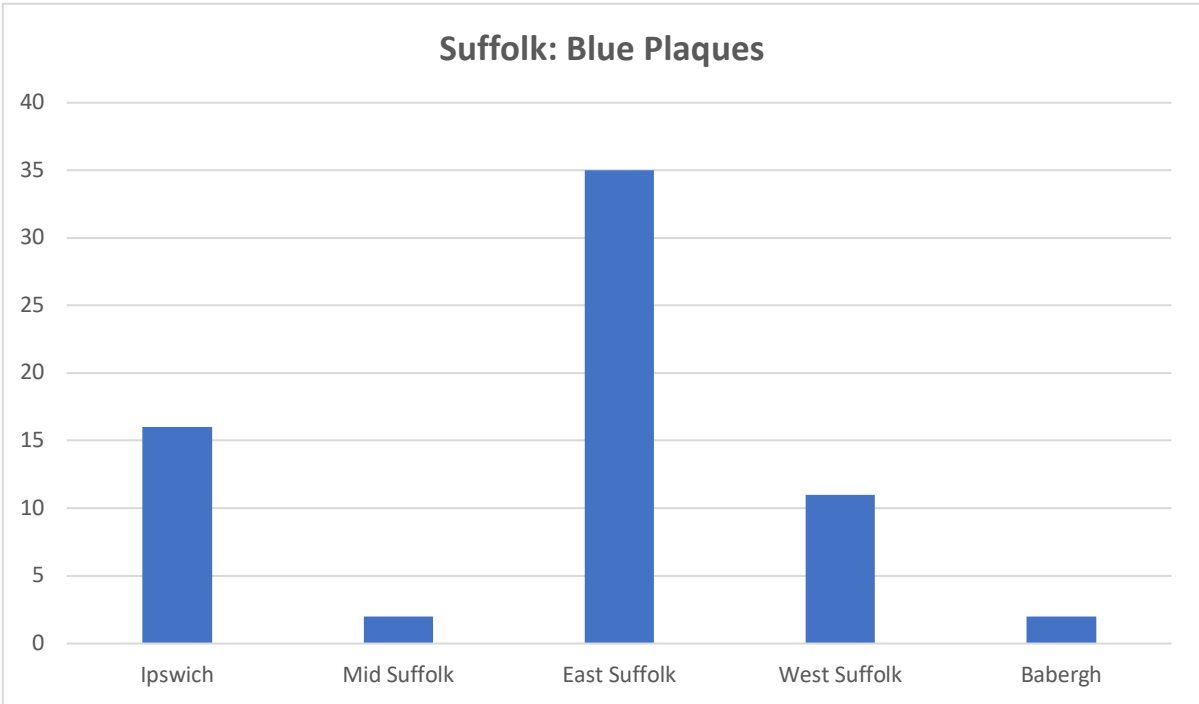






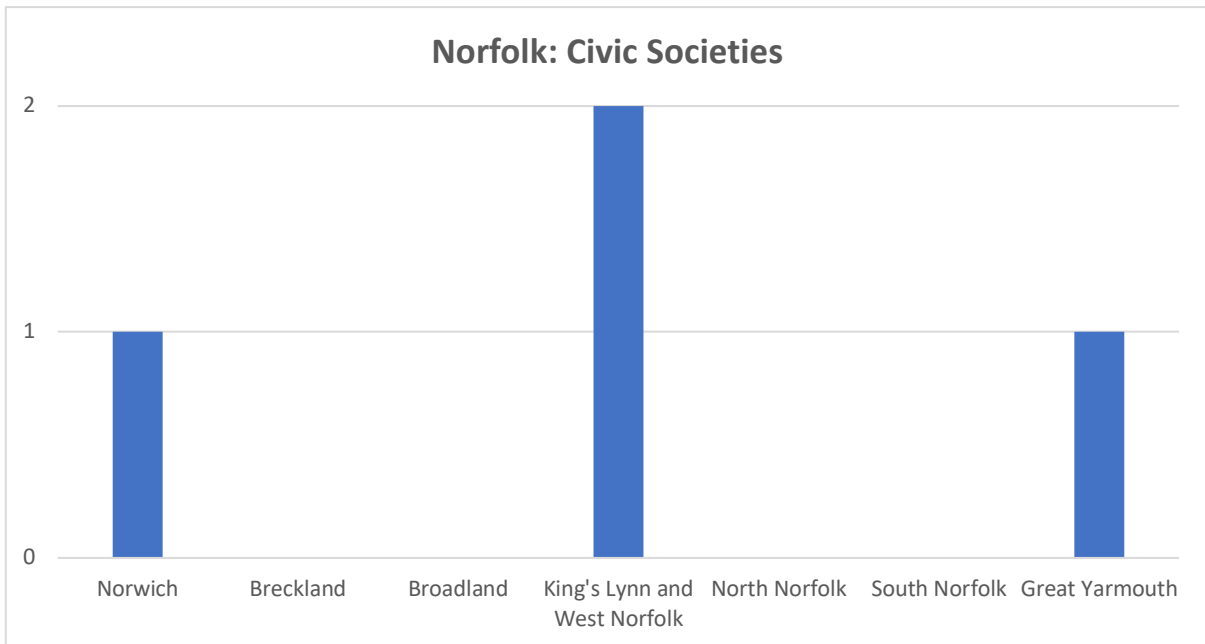
### Suffolk

	Ranking 2020	Ranking 2016
<b>West Suffolk</b>	<b>69</b>	
<i>Forest Heath</i>		57
<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>		60
<b>Ipswich</b>	<b>90</b>	152
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>103</b>	
<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>		22
<i>Waveney</i>		148
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>	<b>194</b>	169
<b>Babergh</b>	<b>213</b>	212

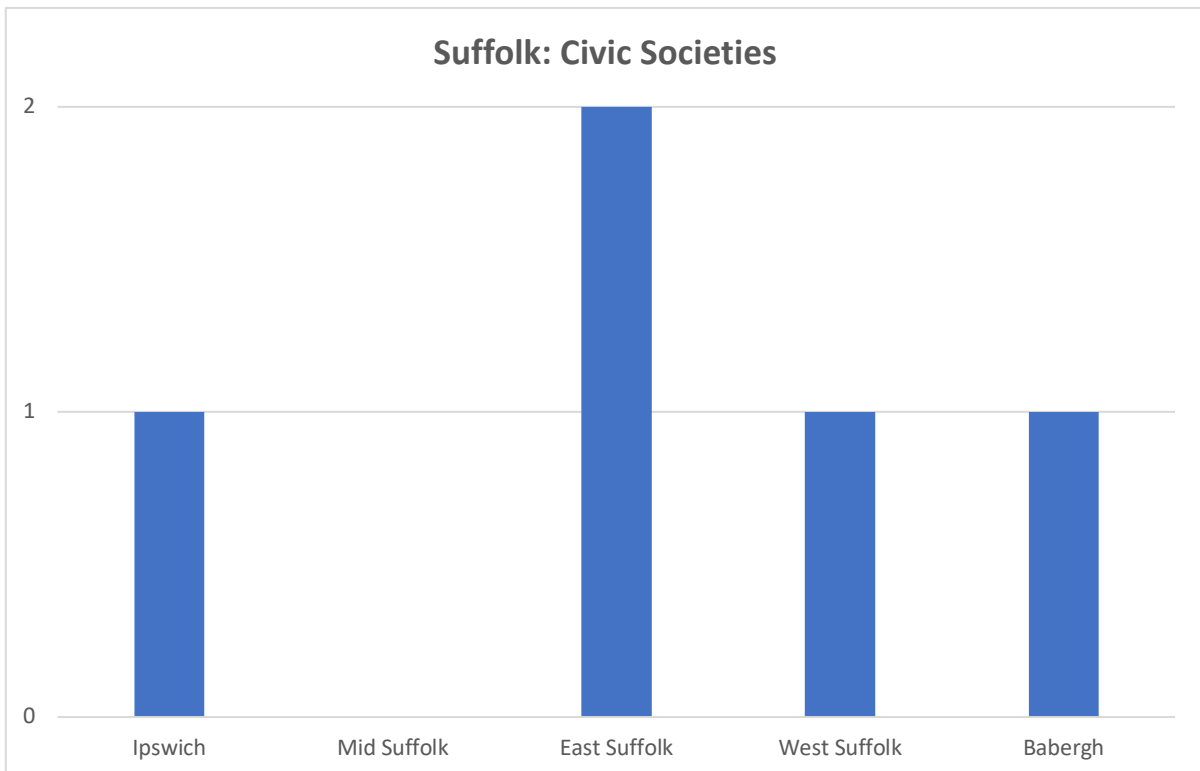


## Civic Societies

### Norfolk



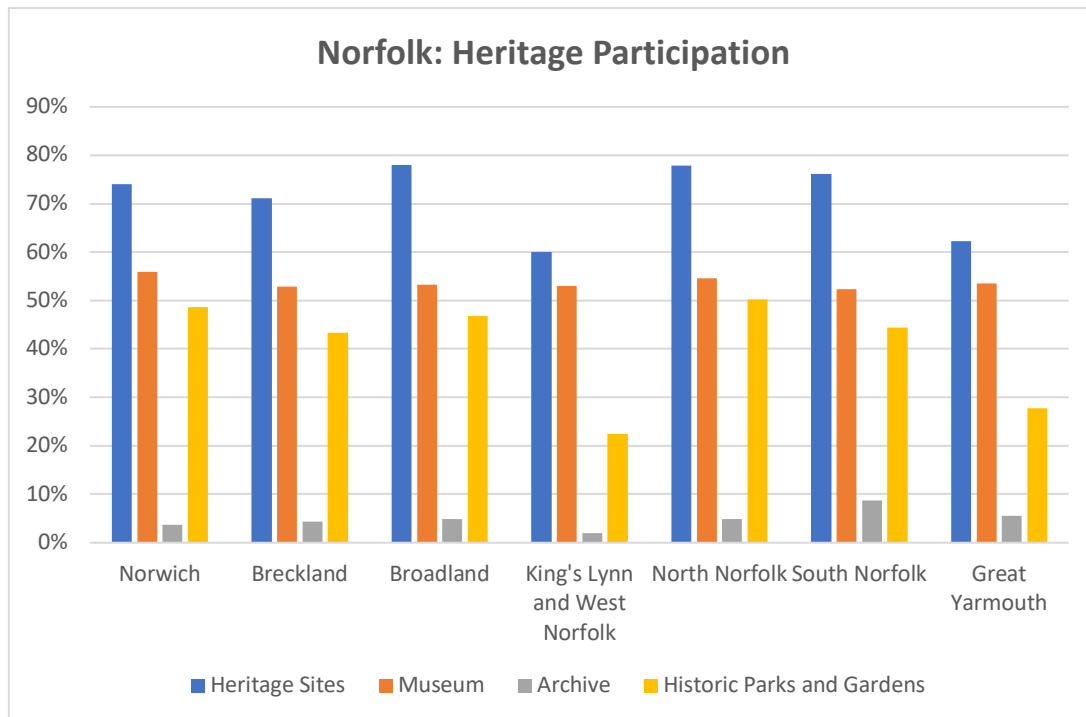
### Suffolk



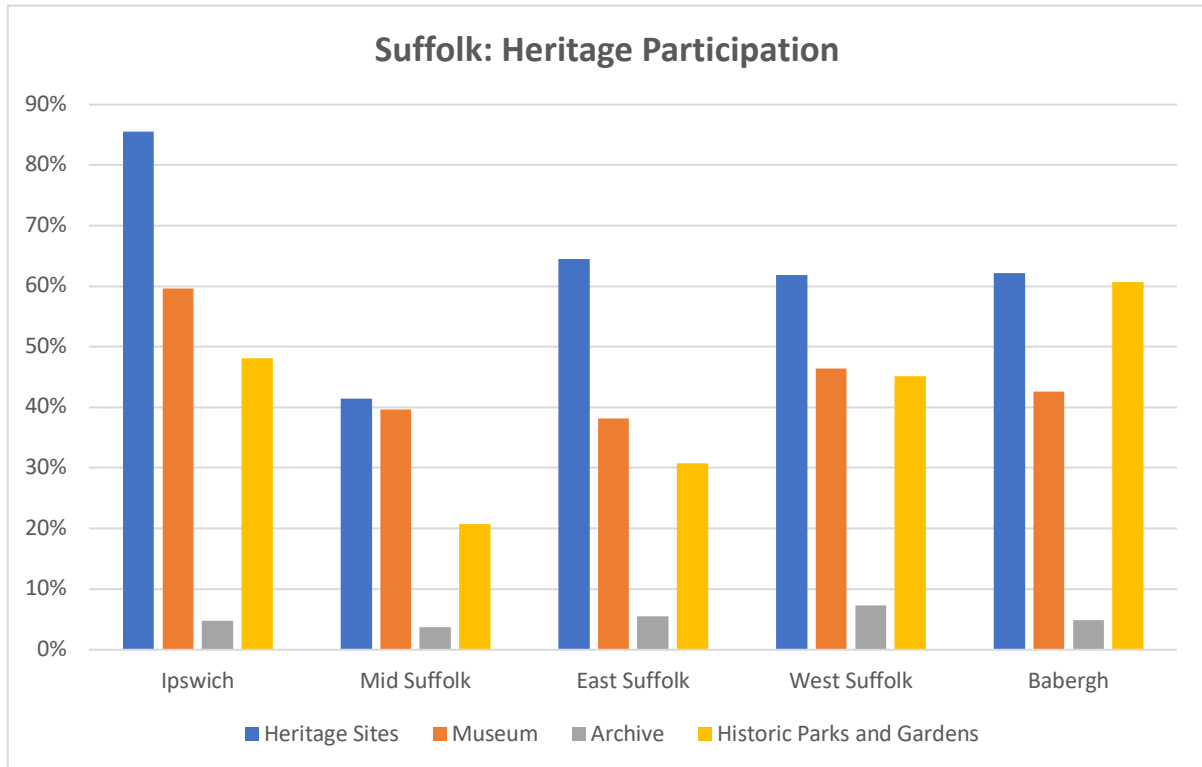
# Participation in Heritage

Participation in heritage is derived from the Taking Part Survey for DCMS.

## Norfolk

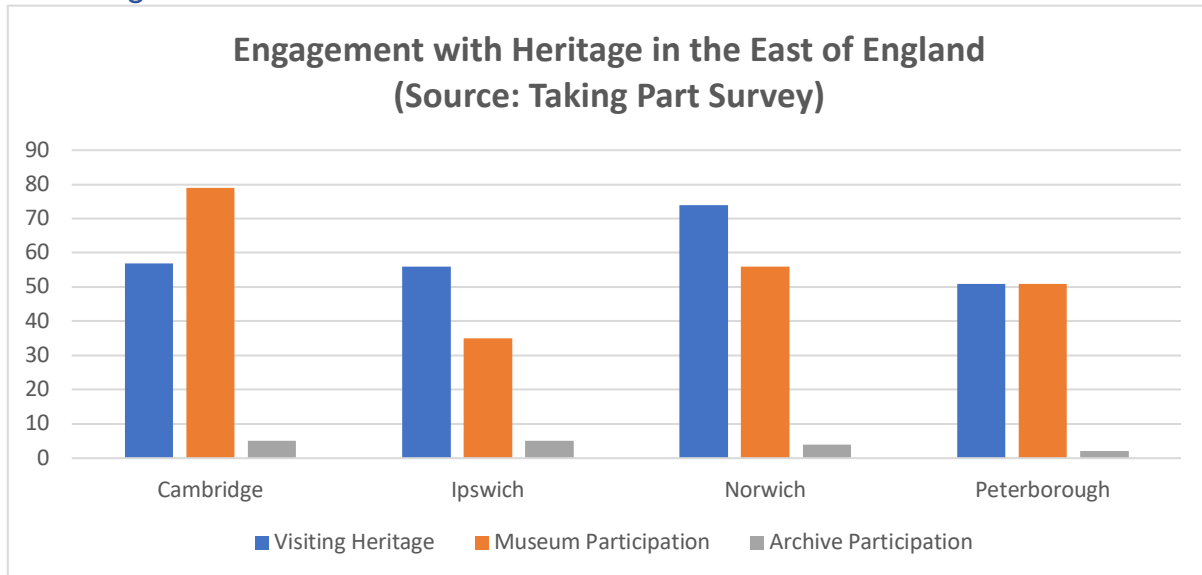


## Suffolk

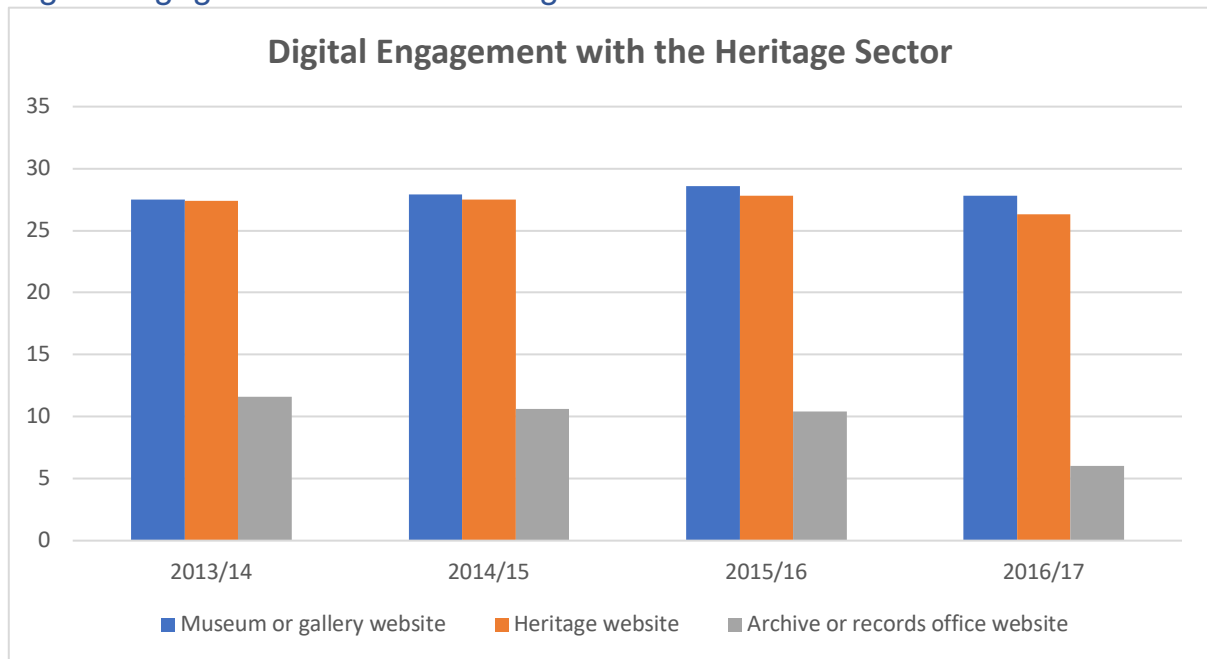


The heritage participation for Ipswich is one of the highest in the region.

## East Anglia

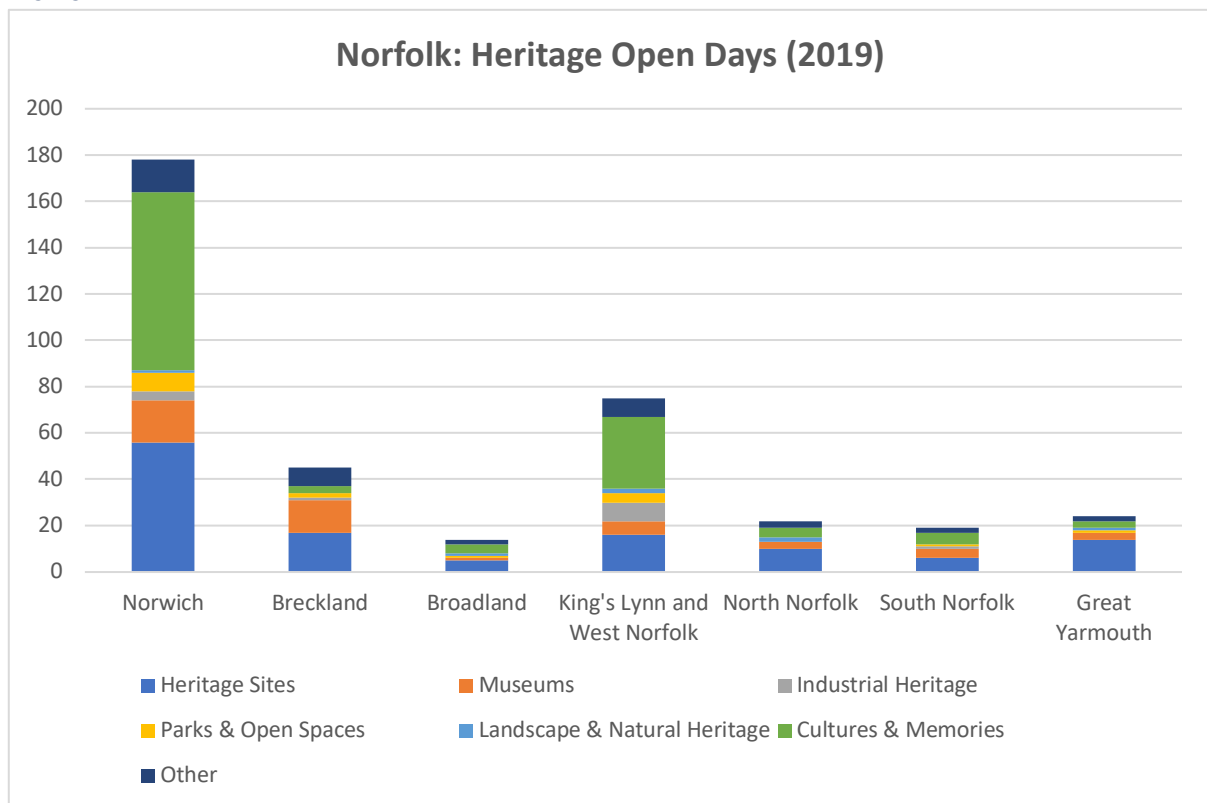


## Digital Engagement with the Heritage Sector



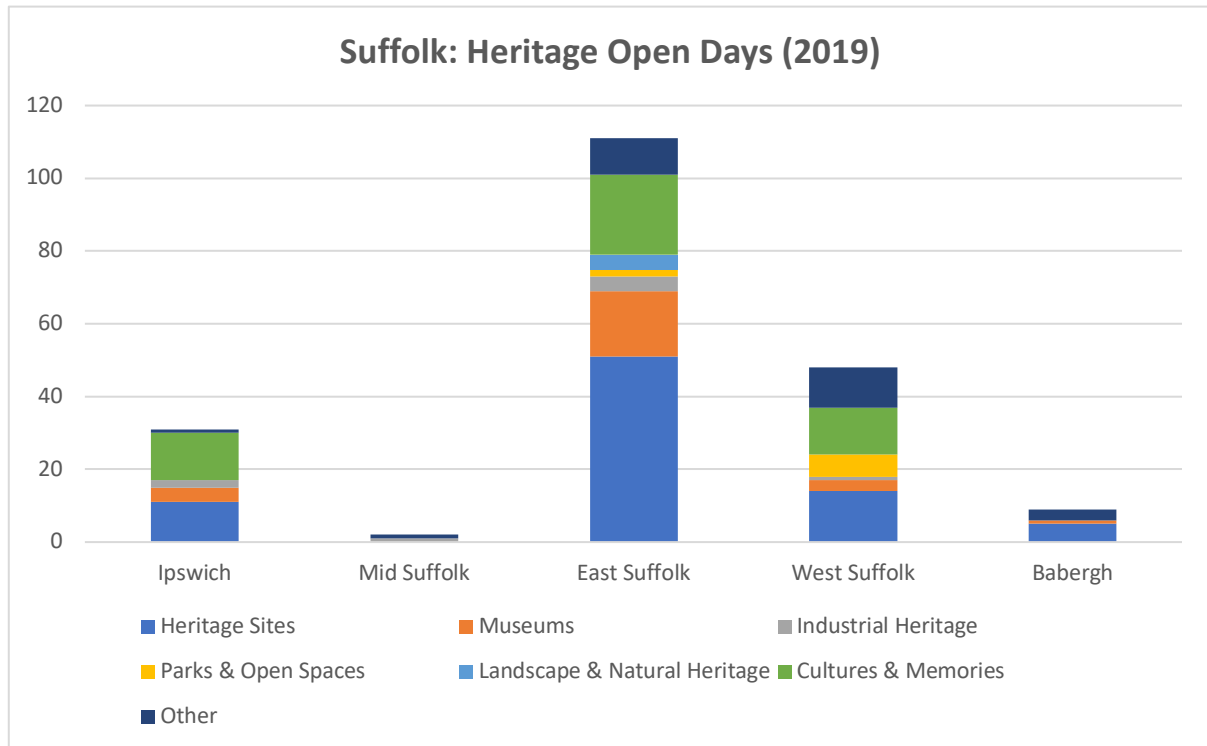
There is growing engagement with heritage nationally through digital means. There is potential for heritage sites in East Anglia to provide attractive digital resources to encourage further engagement.

## Heritage Open Days Norfolk



The number of Heritage Open Days across Norfolk and across all types of heritage reflects the support for heritage in the county. Norwich, and King's Lynn and West Norfolk have particularly strong offerings.

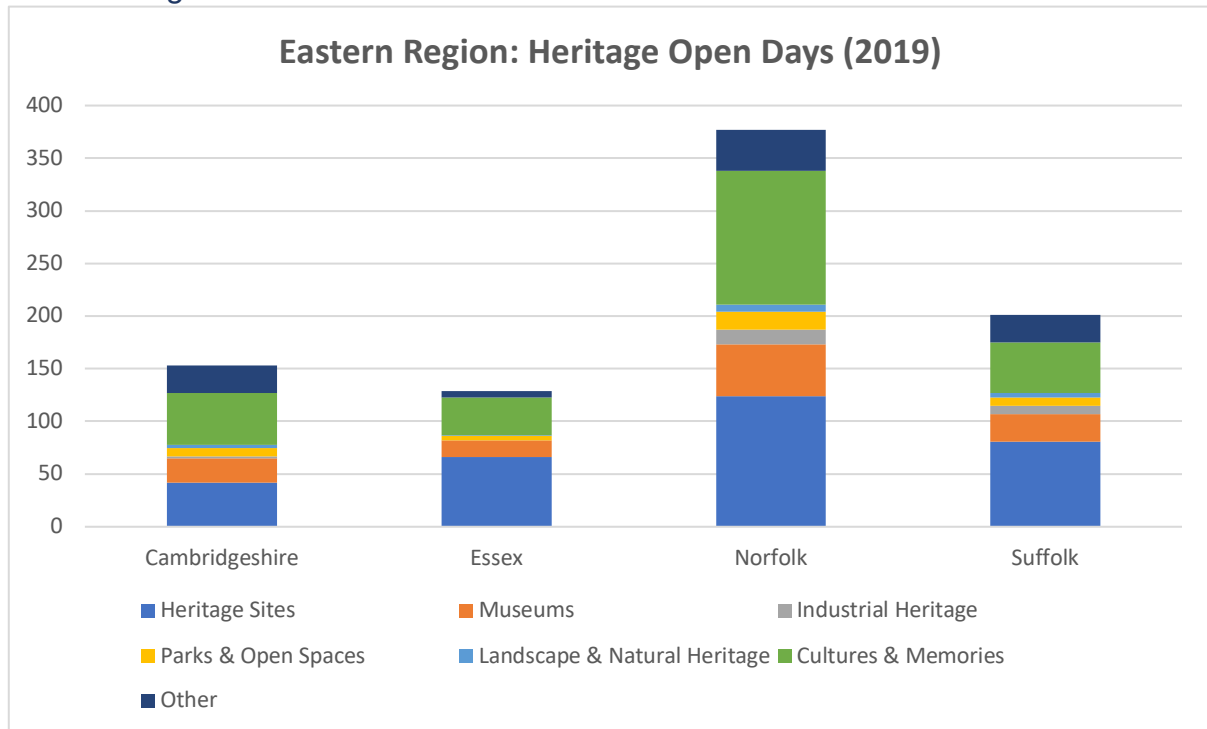
## Suffolk



Heritage organisations in East Suffolk showed the greatest commitment to the Heritage Open Days.

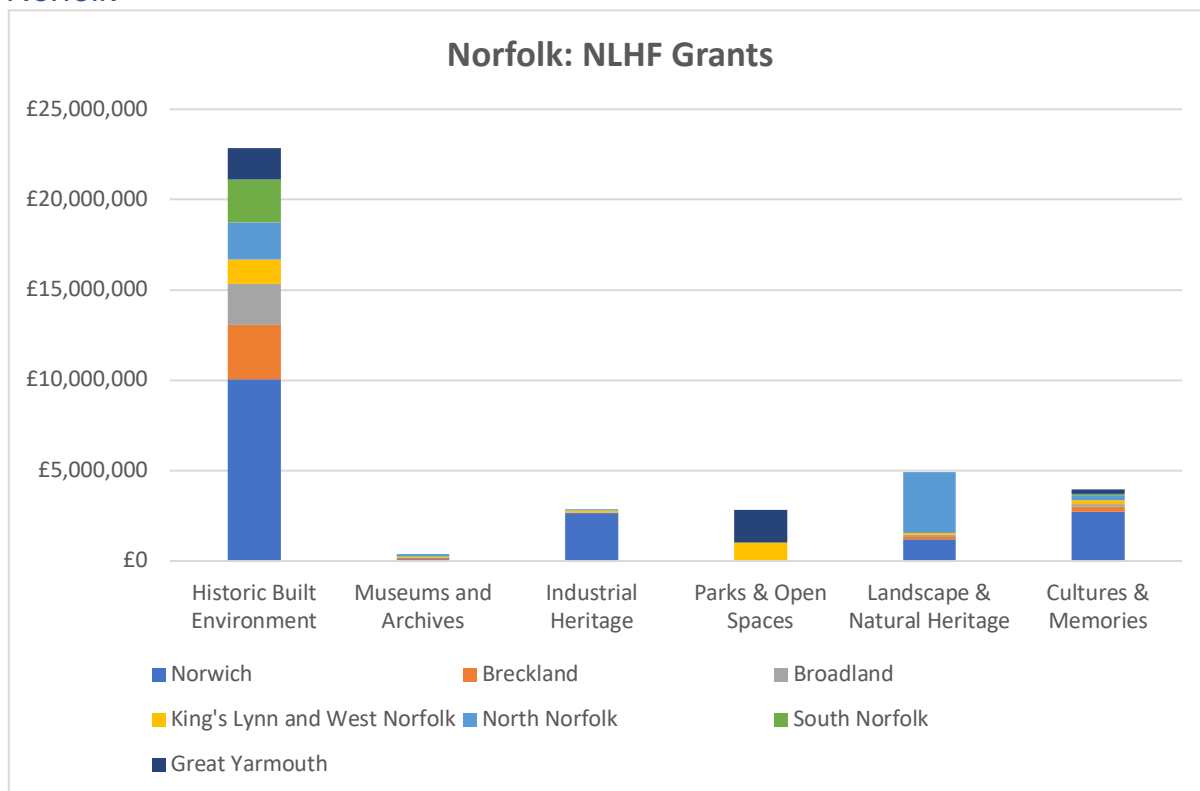


## Eastern Region

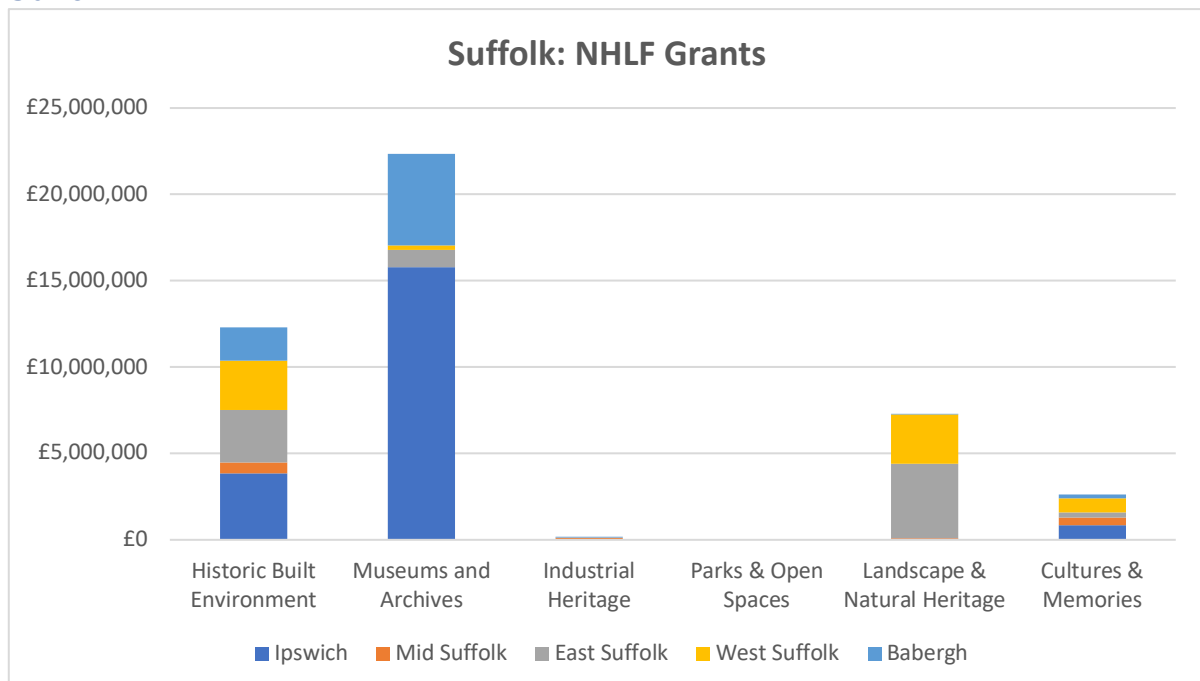


The number of Heritage Open Days in East Anglia compares well with Cambridge and Essex. The highest number of heritage open days for Essex are Colchester (37) and Chelmsford (31).

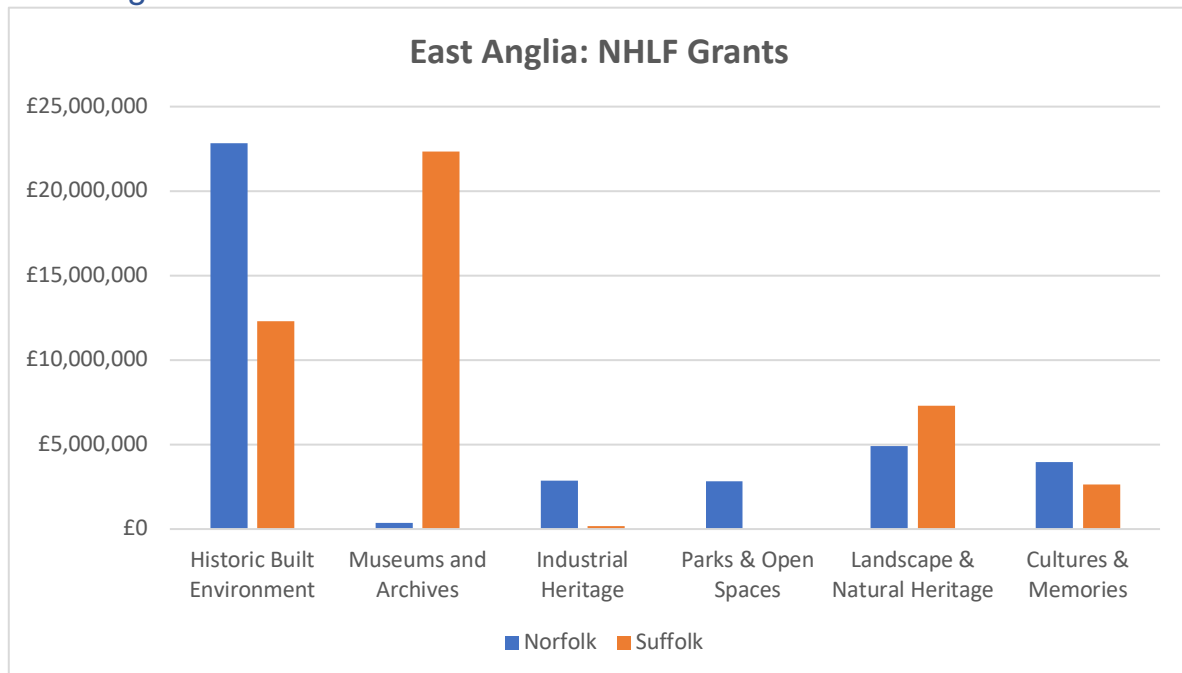
## National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Grants Norfolk



## Suffolk



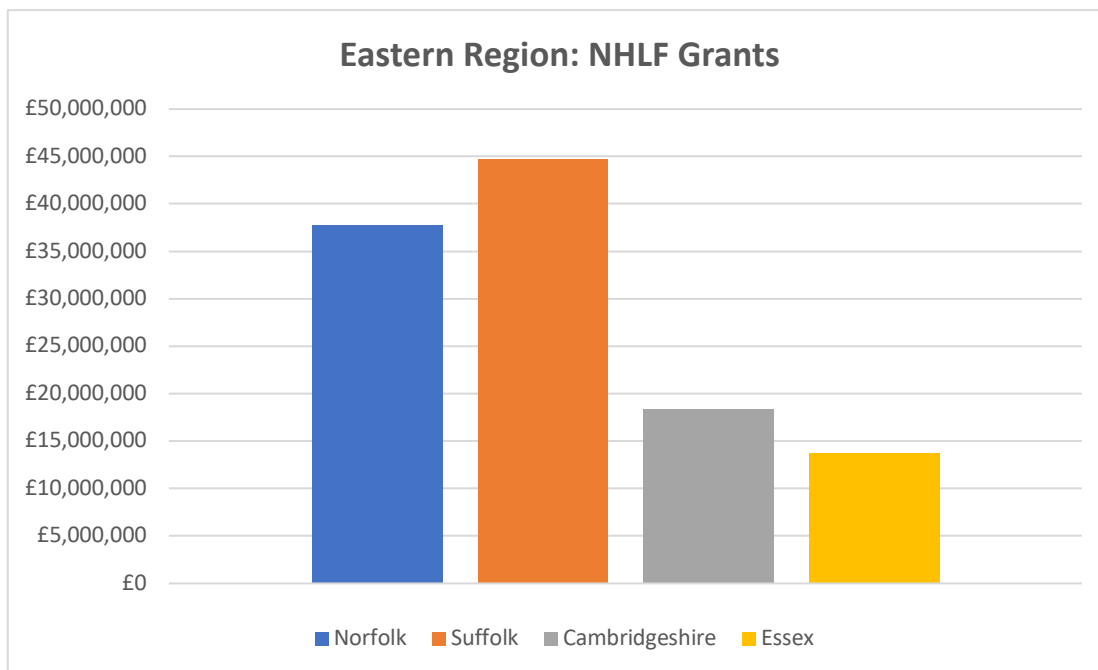
## East Anglia



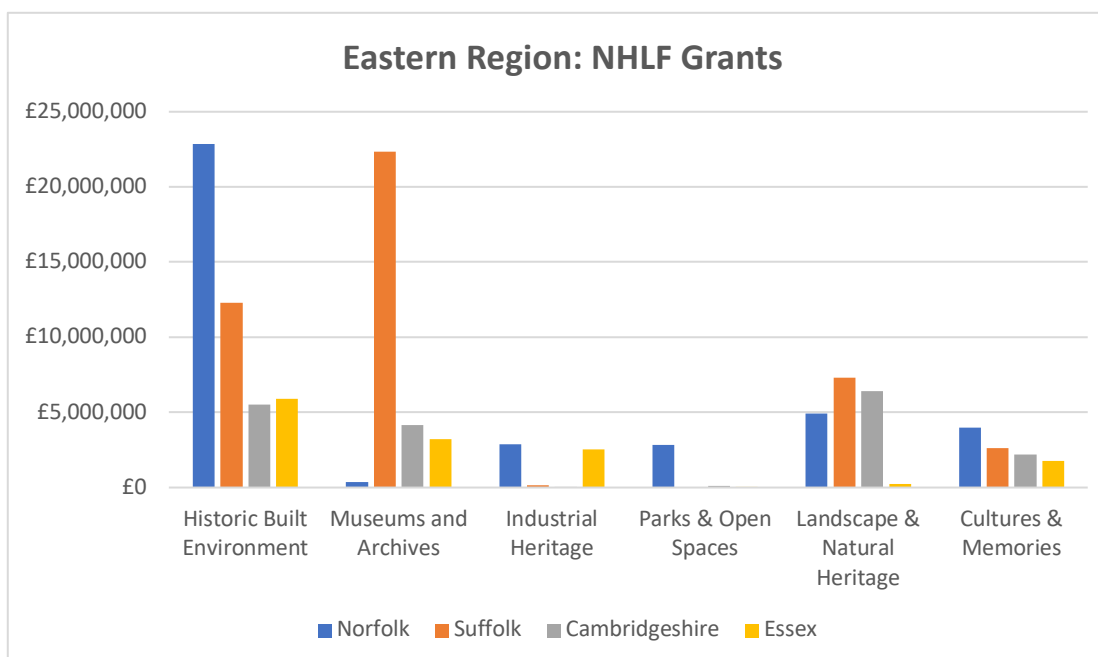
The results show the difference in grants awarded to Norfolk and Suffolk: Historic Built Environment in Norfolk, and Museums and Archives in Suffolk (in part due to the creation of The Hold, the new heritage centre for Suffolk).

## Eastern Region

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



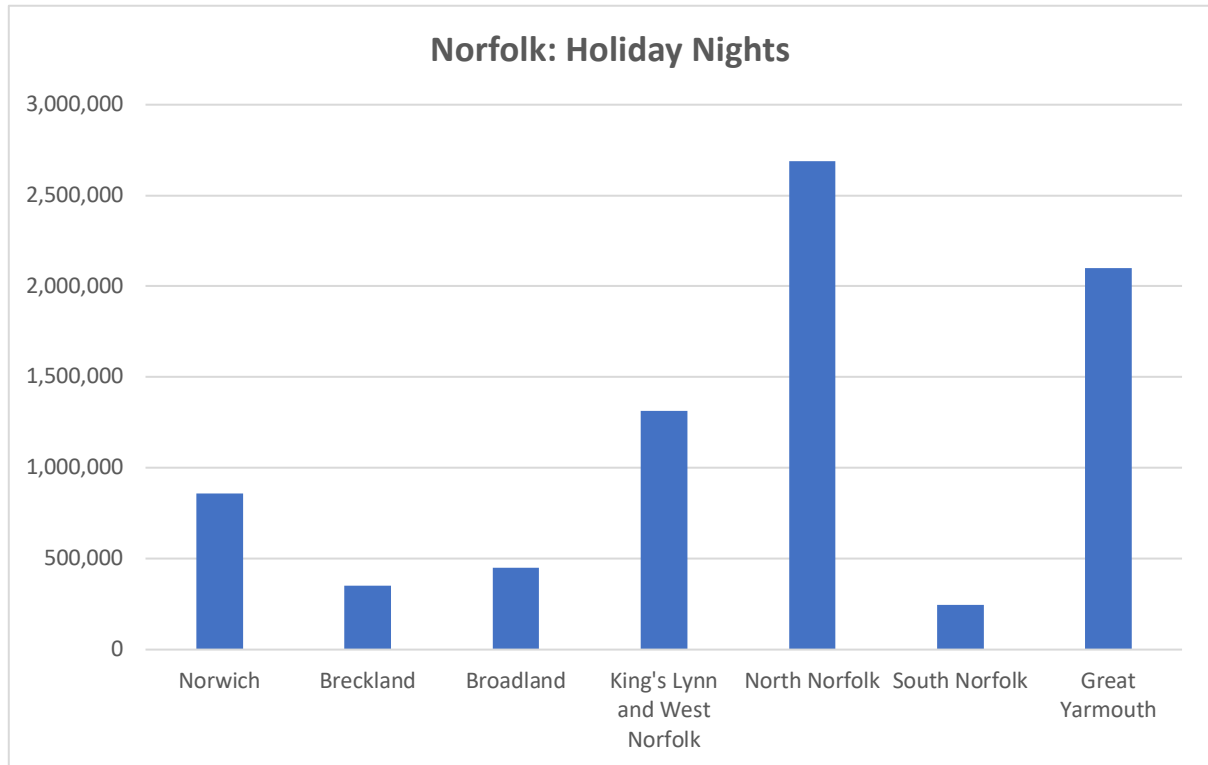
There are clearly differences in the types of project supported in each county: Historic Built Environment in Norfolk; Museums and Archives in Suffolk; and Landscape and Natural Heritage for Cambridgeshire.



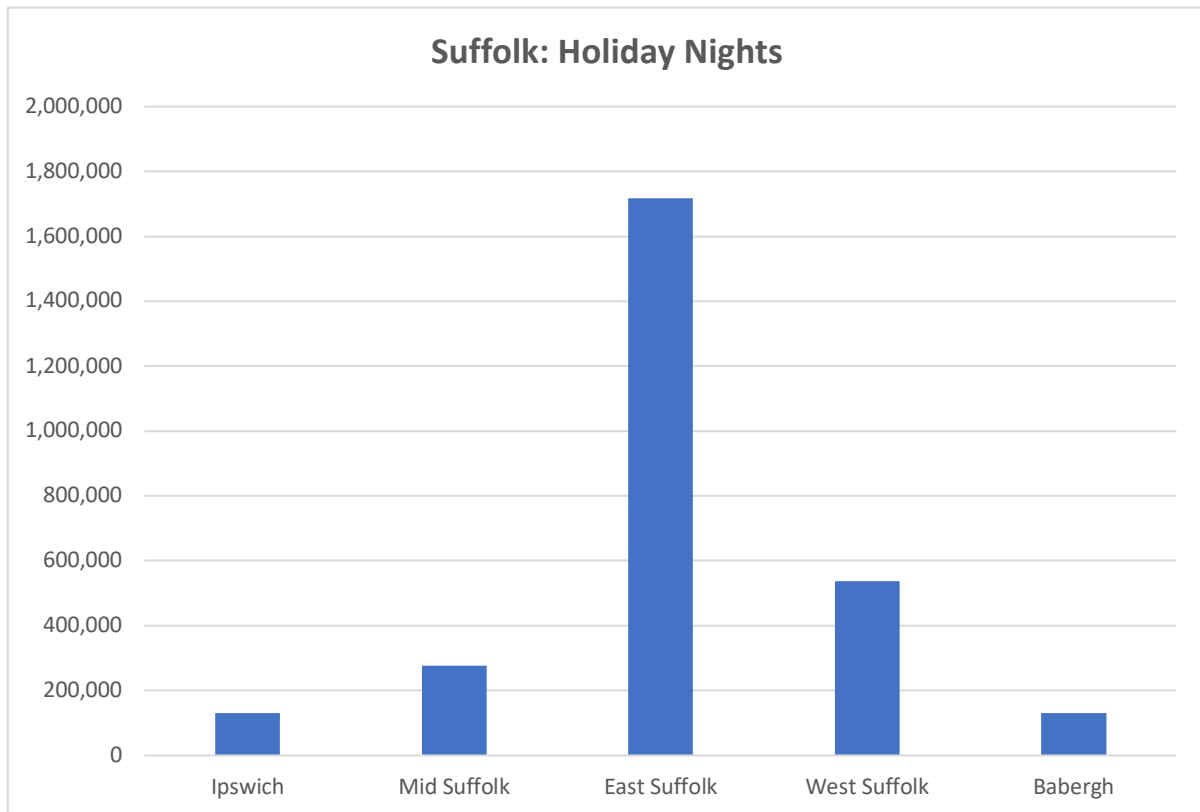
## Heritage and the Tourism Economy

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

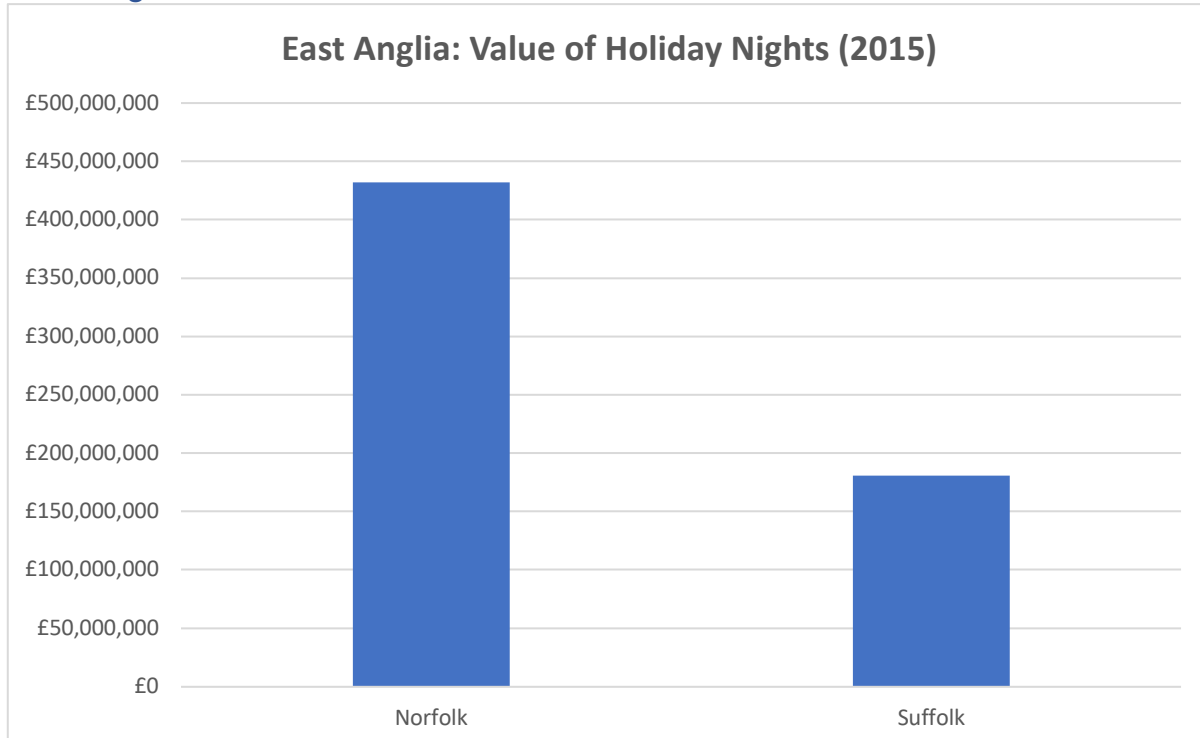
### Norfolk



## Suffolk



## East Anglia



## 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>

Gill, David W.J. 2018. *Heritage in Suffolk. RSA: Heritage Network*. Ipswich: Heritage Futures. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.15046.80967>>

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>

**Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey**

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/2248731>

**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 Archaeology and Heritage  
University of East Anglia

University of  
**Kent** | Centre for  
Heritage

[research.kent.ac.uk/heritage/](https://research.kent.ac.uk/heritage/)  
[d.gill@kent.ac.uk](mailto:d.gill@kent.ac.uk) | [david.w.gill@uea.ac.uk](mailto:david.w.gill@uea.ac.uk)

2021