

Heritage at Risk is English Heritage's campaign to save listed buildings and important historic sites, places and landmarks from neglect or decay. At the heart is the Heritage at Risk Register, an online database containing details of each site known to be at risk. It is analysed and updated annually and this leaflet summarises the results. Heritage at Risk teams are now in each of our nine local offices, delivering national expertise locally.

The good news is that there are fewer entries on the 2013 Register than last year, 5,700 compared to 5,831 in 2012 but costs of repair have gone up. The average difference between the cost of repair and the end value of buildings on the Register now stands at £450,000, making it more expensive to bring them back into use. However, our Heritage at Risk teams will continue to work closely with owners, developers and councils to find solutions and new futures for these buildings.

## HOW MANY OF ENGLAND'S GRADE II BUILDINGS ARE AT RISK?

Last year we asked volunteers and historic environment colleagues to test the best ways of carrying out and recording the condition of grade II listed buildings in 19 different areas across the country. These pilots were run by a variety of organisations, including local authorities, private consultants, and local civic groups. As well as finding out the condition of their local grade II buildings, they considered what actions were needed to repair and find a sustainable use for those in poor or very bad condition.

The pilots surveyed over 4,500 listed buildings. Initial findings show that around 4.2% of those surveyed are at risk from neglect or decay. In many cases, councils have been inspired to use the results for further action. In West Lancashire the survey results have been shared with Police and Fire services to tackle crime in problem areas. And in the Broadlands district of north Norfolk, the council is setting up a Heritage Wardens scheme and training volunteers to identify buildings for local listing.

With two-thirds of volunteers saying that they would take part in a similar project, one important legacy from the pilots is an army of active volunteers who are now informed about buildings at risk. For the volunteers, 58% were glad of the new experience, 62% for the chance to get out and about, and 55% felt they have been given an opportunity to make a difference. With help from other bodies in the heritage sector, we are determined to build on the success of the pilots to create good practice guidance and tools so that interested groups and organisations can set up their own projects to survey grade II buildings in their area. Analysing this growing picture of the state of England's grade II heritage, we shall be able to provide the right sort of help and advice to address the problems uncovered. We also hope to support councils to make more use of volunteers and to engage the increasing number of people who share our passion for the past and want to do something tangible to secure its future.

Find out what's at risk by searching or downloading the Heritage at Risk Register at www.english-heritage.org.uk/har

Find out more about the Heritage at Risk programme at www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk

#### **IMAGE**:

Grade II listed, Archway and East Lodge to Gunnersbury Park. Both structures are at risk and appear on the Heritage at Risk Register.



Alston Conservation Area, Eden



Battle of Newburn Ford, Tyne and Wear





HMS Invincible, Horse and Dean Sand

Atomic Bomb Store on Thetford Heath, St Edmundsbury

## **BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES**

- Nationally, 4.1% of grade I and II\* listed buildings (excluding places of worship) are on the Register. The proportion varies from 2.2% in the South East to 7.7% in the East Midlands.
- 75 building or structure entries have been removed from the 2012 Register because their futures have been secured, but another 72 have been added.
- 57% of building or structure entries (821) on the baseline 1999 Register have been removed from the Register because their futures have been secured.
- Only 15% of building or structure entries on the Register are thought to be economic to repair, indicating the scale of the public subsidy required.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP

- Of the 3,208 listed places of worship assessed nationally, 536 are on the Register.
- 93 places of worship have been removed from the 2012 Register following repair work.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

- 3,265 (16.5%) of England's 19,792 scheduled monuments are on the Register.
- 206 archaeology entries have been removed from the 2012 Register for positive reasons and 97 have been added.
- 21.1% of archaeology entries (708) on the baseline 2009 Register have been removed for positive reasons.
- Arable cultivation (43%) and unrestricted plant, scrub and tree growth (27%) remain the most common sources of risk.

## PARKS AND GARDENS

- 100 (6.2%) of England's 1,624 registered parks and gardens are on the Register.
- I park and garden entry has been removed from the 2012 Register and 2 have been added.
- The South East has the largest number (24) on the Register, but the highest proportion (11.8%) is in Yorkshire (14 entries).

## BATTLEFIELDS

- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 (14%) are on the Register.
- 3 of the 6 entries are in Yorkshire.
- I entry has been removed from the 2012 Register and I has been added.

#### WRECK SITES

- 4 of the 46 protected wreck sites around England's coast are on the Register.
- All 4 lie off the South East coast.

## CONSERVATION AREAS

- 299 local planning authorities (89%) have taken part in the survey of conservation areas.
- Of the 8,179 conservation areas that have been surveyed, 510 (6.2%) are on the Register.
- 127 (23%) conservation areas have been removed from the 2010 baseline Register for positive reasons.

## ENGLISH HERITAGE FUNDING

- Over £10m in grants was offered to 191 sites on the Heritage at Risk Register during 2012/13.
- English Heritage grant totalling £82.9m has been offered to grade I and II\* listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments on the Register between 1998/99 and 2012/13.

# For more information on Heritage at Risk visit **www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk**

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our customer services department on telephone: 0870 333 1181 fax: 01793 414926 textphone: 01793 414878 email: customers@english-heritage.org.uk

Heritage assets are assessed based on the nature of the site. Buildings and structures include listed buildings (excluding listed places of worship) and structural scheduled monuments; archaeology assessments cover earthworks and buried archaeology.





