

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

East Midlands Summary 2016



The East Midlands Heritage at Risk Register now incorporates entries in the North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire local authority areas, which were formerly included in the Yorkshire Heritage at Risk Register. This move reflects the responsibilities for planning advisory and statutory functions in these areas that are now vested in Historic England's East Midlands team. We welcome the restoration of historic Lincolnshire – at least for Historic England's purposes! This administrative realignment largely accounts for the increase in East Midlands Register entries in 2016. The bald statistics mask continued success in removing sites from the Register.

Anthony Streeten, East Midlands Planning Director, who passed away this year, was a tireless champion of solutions to heritage at risk problems. Many fine places owe their new lease of life to him and the region will benefit from his foresight and work for years to come.

Louise Brennan Acting Planning Director, East Midlands



Anthony had key roles in securing the futures of **The Crescent** (see cover) and **St Mary's Freeby** (following), both of which have been very complex cases. These buildings are simply too valuable for the nation to lose, but we could have lost them

nevertheless. Now they look forward to playing important, productive roles within their respective communities. At a host of other places now off the Register, or making good progress towards it, Anthony's decisive interventions and guidance have proved invaluable.

Persistence and the ability to foresee, prompt and seize opportunities when they arise are vital skills for tackling heritage at risk. Instant success is rare and it is particularly encouraging when long-term projects finally bear fruit. You won't find **Stydd Hall** in the 2016 Register, nor **Crowland Abbey**, following Historic England grant-aided repairs. **Building 17, Cromford Mill** was opened as a visitor gateway for the **Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site** to great acclaim in 2016; another landmark in the rescue of Arkwright's internationally renowned factory complex. The Heritage Lottery Fund has made a crucial contribution here and at many other places across the region.

Each year brings new information about important heritage that may be eligible for inclusion on the Register. We aim to follow up each referral not only with an assessment, but also advice and in some cases, repair grants. We rely on our partners in local authorities, church authorities and trusts to bring heritage at risk to our attention, and to help find solutions.

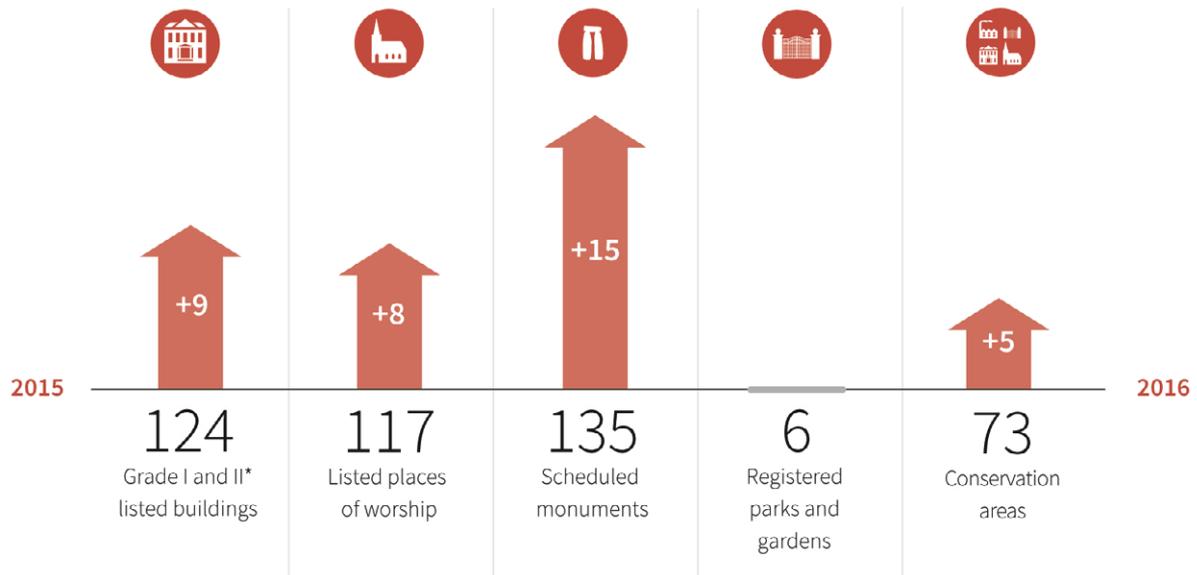
This year **Bromley House** in Nottingham (a historic subscription library) has entered the Register, along with **Moulton Mill** near Spalding (the tallest windmill in the country). So too has **Lumsdale Mills** (an early water-powered industrial complex) and **Barlborough Hall** (a fine country house which has hosted a school since 1939), both in Derbyshire. In all these cases we are already giving advice and discussing grants.

The appearance on the Register of two more key conservation areas in **Nottingham** may come as a surprise. **The Lace Market** was a much celebrated conservation success, having been rescued from the wrecker's ball to become a highly distinctive academic, business and leisure quarter. **Old Market Square**, the heart of Nottingham, also faces new challenges. Both demonstrate that continuing vigilance is required to keep conservation areas in good health, delivering vibrancy and growth. Again, we are already working closely with Nottingham City Council and look forward to significant progress in the near future.

Ben Robinson Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Cover image: Conservation work at **The Pump Room, Buxton, Derbyshire**, is a significant landmark in the long-awaited project to return the entire Crescent spa complex to its former splendour. The Pump Room catered to discerning Victorian visitors who wished to sample the famous mineral water within suitably genteel surroundings, rather than from street fountains. Substantial grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund, local authorities, the Local Enterprise Partnership and Historic England has facilitated this major regeneration project.

Designated assets on the 2016 **East Midlands Register**



There are **455** assets on the **East Midlands Register**, **37** more than in 2015

Church of St Mary **Freeby, Leicestershire**



at the heart of the small community of Freeby for seven hundred years.

Medieval church builders were equipped with incredible skill and great feel for architectural quality, ensuring that their creations were both pleasing close up and prominent in the landscape. Unfortunately they could not analyse the load-bearing qualities of their building sites scientifically, nor could they foresee how these might change in the future.

It is an extraordinary fact that ecclesiastical law requires the demolition of churches that have been closed for worship, for which no alternative use and owner can be found.

This ignominious end was faced by the beautiful medieval church of St Mary, a grade I listed building, which had been

The ground on which St Mary's sits, to good dramatic effect, has been vulnerable to cycles of deluge and drought, causing the church's foundations to shift and consequently extensive movement and fracture of masonry at a higher level.

At the beginning of the new millennium the condition of St Mary's had become so bad that it was no longer used for services. The tiny parish could not manage the severity of the problems alone, so reluctantly the church was set on a path towards closure.

Following several years of dialogue between the parishioners, the church authorities and Historic England, funding and technical advice was ultimately provided by Historic England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Churches Conservation Trust.

Comprehensive repairs that addressed structural weakness, roof and masonry defects and drainage problems were finally completed early in 2016. Though no longer used for regular worship, St Mary's is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. Its place in the community and region has been safeguarded for generations to come.

Beauvale Priory Greasley, Nottinghamshire

Beauvale Priory occupies the quintessential, picturesque location particularly associated with the Carthusian Order of monks. However, the quiet contemplative life that they tried to sustain here was shattered by the Reformation. Two Beauvale priors were martyred for refusing to accept Henry VIII as the head of the church in England. Both were eventually recognised as saints by the Catholic Church.

Founded in 1343, Beauvale Priory was one of only nine charterhouses of the Carthusian Order in medieval England, and is now one of the most complete surviving sites.

After many years as part of a tenanted farm the priory remains had declined to a very poor condition. Masonry was loose, open-jointed and damaged by plant growth; walls were propped to prevent collapse, and there was no effective guttering for the roofed buildings.

The first phase of Historic England grant-aided repairs focused on the grade II* listed remains of the priory church and prior's lodgings.



The current owners have diversified their farming business, running a characterful tea room and encouraging educational visits and functions. The priory remains take centre stage.

The completion of a second phase of grant-aided repairs at the former gatehouse and precinct walls will see Beauvale Priory removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.

50th Anniversary of Conservation Areas

In 2017, Historic England will celebrate the 50th anniversary of conservation areas. These precious historic areas, from urban and industrial to rural and remote, create a strong sense of place and are likely to be what you think of when you think of special local character.

We'll carry out research into people's attitudes towards conservation areas and the challenges they

face in protecting them. We also plan to analyse local authorities' conservation area survey data to better understand what puts conservation areas up and down the country at risk. Finally, at a time when local authority resources are under pressure, we'll ask how local civic groups and organisations can become more involved to help safeguard conservation areas.

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