



As the nation prepares to recover from the effects of recession, its precious inheritance of historic buildings and places face increased risks of neglect and decay. Heritage at Risk is a national project that aims to identify these endangered sites and then help secure them for the future.

This is the third year that English Heritage has published its annual Register of Heritage at Risk – a comprehensive list of all the grade I and II* listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields and protected wreck sites known to be at risk.

This year, we undertook a pioneering 15% sample survey of England's 14,500 listed places of worship to help us understand the condition of the thousands of designated churches, chapels, synagogues, mosques, temples and other faith buildings that are the spiritual focus for our communities. They face many different kinds of challenges and we need to help congregations secure them for the future.

CARING FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship make a huge contribution to our towns and villages. They sit at the heart of communities, dominating skylines and landscapes. They are the product of centuries of invested skill and philanthropy.

Like all buildings, they require regular maintenance. They also need to adapt to the evolving needs of their congregations and the wider community. Responsibility for their care falls almost entirely on the shoulders of volunteers, and for smaller congregations the burden can be heavy.

We will assess the results of our initial survey and add those listed places of worship in poor and very bad condition to the 2011 Heritage at Risk Register.

THE BOATHOUSE, SCARISBRICK HALL, LANCASHIRE

Alongside their ambitious plans for the main house, Scarisbrick Hall's new owners are working with English Heritage to decide how best to rejuvenate its important but sadly neglected landscape park.

What we know

- 45% of all grade I listed buildings are places of worship.
- 85% of listed places of worship belong to the Church of England.
- The initial survey showed that up to 1 in 10 could be at risk from leaking roofs, faulty gutters or eroding stonework.
- 1,850 repair projects at 1,567 buildings have shared £171m of English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund grant aid since 2002/3.

To understand the biggest concerns of those who manage these buildings, we undertook a series of consultation events with congregations, user groups and local authorities.

What congregations want to understand better

- Why their building has been listed and what that means.
- How to get permission to make changes and find expert help.
- How to raise money for one-off projects and day-to-day maintenance.
- Who will look after their buildings in the future.

All of these are considered in our *Caring for Places of Worship* booklet, sent to every listed place of worship, and available to download from the English Heritage website.



Old Bank, 2 St Martins, Leicester

Hopton Castle, near Clungunford, Shropshire

Easton Lodge, Essex

Flodden, Northumberland

Submarine HMS/m A1, Eastern Solent

Stokes Croft, Bristol

BUILDINGS AT RISK

- 1 in 32 (3.1%) grade I and II* listed buildings remain at risk. The proportion varies from 1.8% in the South East and East of England to 6.6% in the North East.
- Overall, 70 entries were removed from the Register in 2010 because their futures have been secured, but another 62 have been added.
- 50.7% (724) of the sites on the baseline 1999 Register have been removed from the Register.
- £6.2m in grant aid was offered to 76 sites (excluding grade II listed buildings in London) on the Heritage at Risk Register during 2009/10, bringing the total since 1998/99 to £64.6m.
- Only 12.6% (compared to 11.7% in 2009) of the entries on the Register are thought to be economic to repair, indicating the scale of the public subsidy still required.

CONSERVATION AREAS

- 272 local authorities (81%) have taken part in our survey of conservation areas.
- 549 (7.4%) of the 7,388 conservation areas for which we now have information are reported to be at risk.
- Unsympathetic changes to doors and windows and to front elevations are the commonest source of localised risk, with 65% of areas at risk reporting one or both of these as a problem.
- 66% of conservation areas at risk are damaged by street clutter and the degraded state of their highways and public realm.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- Approximately 1 in 6 (17.2%) of England's 19,731 scheduled monuments are at risk.
- 7% of sites were taken off the Register during the last year, leaving a further 18% to be removed to reach our target of reducing the 2009 list by 25% by 2014.

- Arable cultivation (43%) and scrub growth (26%) remain the most common sources of risk.
- During 2009/10 English Heritage offered grants totalling £450k to 59 scheduled monuments at risk.

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

- 99 of England's 1,606 registered parks and gardens are at risk – 3 more than in 2009.
- 5 sites were added to the Register during the year, all at the higher grades of I or II*, but 2 others (grade II) were removed.
- The South East has the largest number of sites at risk (24), but the highest proportion is in Yorkshire and the Humber (10.3%).

REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

- 6 (14%) of England's 43 registered battlefields are considered to be at risk, a reduction of 1 since 2009.
- 4 of the 6 are in Yorkshire and the Humber region.

PROTECTED WRECK SITES

- 8 (17%) of the 46 protected wreck sites around England's coast are at risk, a reduction of 1 since 2009. 7 lie off the coast of the South East region, 4 of them on the Goodwin Sands.

For more information, see www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk or contact your English Heritage regional office.

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

