



We are all justly proud of England's heritage, but parts of it are suffering from neglect, decay and pressure from development. Heritage at Risk is a national project to identify these endangered places and then help secure them for the future.

In 2008 English Heritage published its first register of Heritage at Risk – a region by region list of all the Grade I & II* listed buildings (including Grade II buildings in London), registered battlefields and protected wreck sites in England known to be “at risk”.

The second edition in 2009 has been enlarged to include details of all scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens at risk, as well as information on conservation areas at risk, for the first time.

CONSERVATION AREAS

For 40 years, conservation areas have been helping to preserve the special character of the nation's best loved places – not only at the heart of our historic cities and market towns but in the suburban neighbourhoods, former industrial areas and rural villages that together give this country its irreplaceable distinctiveness. They can encompass many elements of the historic environment: buildings, spaces, designed landscapes and archaeological remains.

- 9,300 conservation areas have been designated by local authorities since they were introduced in 1967.
- Every local authority in England was invited to assess their conservation areas: 268 had completed surveys for some or all of their areas by the end of April 2009 with only 77 yet to start.
- A total of 5,479 areas (approx 60%) were surveyed in time for a detailed assessment for our register this year: 727 areas are at risk – 1 in 7 or 14%. Since then, nearly 1,000 more have been surveyed. We are aiming for 100% coverage by 2010.
- Only 15% of surveys completed indicated that areas had seen positive improvement since 2006.
- Unsympathetic replacement doors and windows were identified as a key issue in 83% of conservation areas, yet 82% of estate agents said in a separate survey, that original features tend to add financial value to properties.
- English Heritage has invested more than £65m over the last 10 years to improve conservation areas across the country, in partnership with local authorities.

1 in 7 conservation areas is at risk
1 in 30 listed buildings is at risk
1 in 5 scheduled monuments is at risk

1 in 15 registered parks & gardens is at risk
1 in 6 registered battlefields is at risk
1 in 5 protected wrecks is at risk



Castle House, Bridgwater, Somerset



Abney Park Cemetery, Hackney



Gleaston Castle, Cumbria



Towton Battlefield, North Yorkshire



Swash Channel Wreck, Dorset

BUILDINGS

- 1 in 30 (3.1%, down from 3.2% in 2008) Grade I or II* buildings is at risk across the country, a proportion varying from 7.2% in the North East region to 1.8% in the East of England region.
- 69 buildings (62 in 2007/08) were taken off the register in 2008/09, but 64 were added (69 in 2007/08), a net reduction of five, reversing the small increase in 2007/08.
- During 2008/09, we offered grant aid of £9.5m to 113 buildings at risk, compared with £4.1m to 66 buildings in 2007/08. This brings the total grant aid to secular buildings on the register, since 1998/99, to £54.5m.
- 685 of the entries in the 1999 baseline register have now been removed (48%).
- Places of worship buildings will be our focus for the coming year.

MONUMENTS

- 1 in 5 (18%) scheduled monuments is at risk, representing 3,535 sites.
- Since the initial surveys in each region were completed, nearly 1,000 sites have been taken off the list of those at risk as a result of owners working closely with English Heritage.
- 1,443 (41%) of sites are at risk from inappropriate ploughing or other agricultural practice and a further 927 (26%) from tree, scrub or other plant growth, making these the two most important threats.
- 41% of scheduled sites at risk are in the South West, a region which contains 35% of the scheduled monuments in England.

PARKS & GARDENS

- 1 in 15 (6%) registered parks and gardens is at risk (96).
- Only six Grade I sites are at risk. Three of these are cemeteries which between them have over 300 listed structures, demonstrating their wider historic importance.
- 59 Grade II sites are at risk. The key issue for these sites has been the splitting of the registered area into multiple ownership and the consequent loss of integrity.

BATTLEFIELDS

- 1 in 6 (16%) registered battlefields is at risk across the country.
- Seven sites are now deemed at risk, compared with eight in 2007/08. One site has been added and two removed following works to the site or greater recognition and management of the site locally.

SHIPWRECKS

- 1 in 5 (20%) protected wrecks (9) is at risk in England's coastal waters, compared to 10 in 2008.
- Two new sites have been added to the register with three taken off. Those taken off were through the work of licensees controlling and overseeing access. The two new sites arose from a lack of this control and increased exposure through erosion of the sea bed.

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

