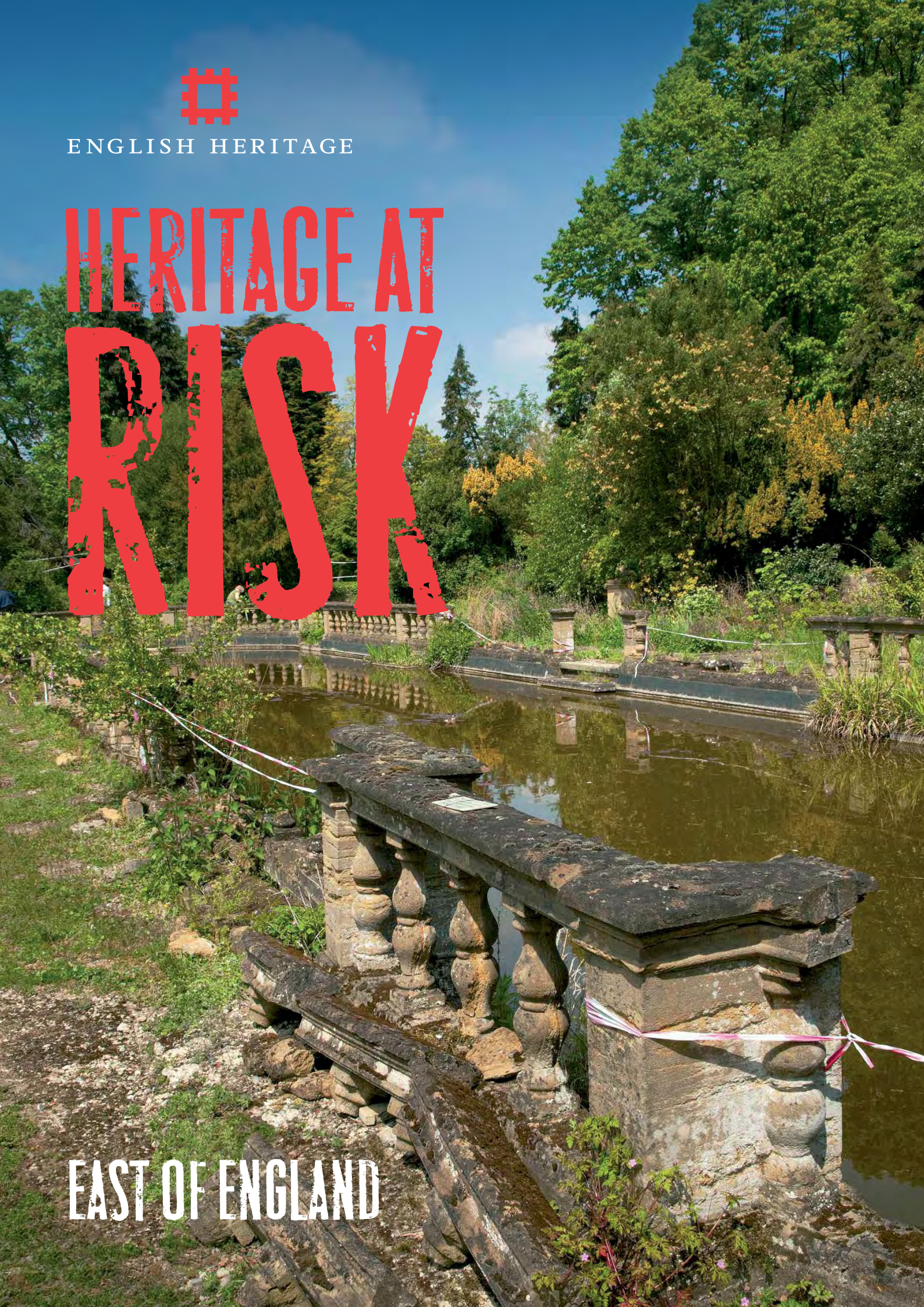




ENGLISH HERITAGE

HERITAGE AT RISK

EAST OF ENGLAND



HERITAGE AT RISK

The English Heritage scheme for identifying and reducing our Heritage at Risk has been running for more than a decade. Over that time, we have reduced the number of historic sites which have been at risk from destruction or demolition in many parts of the East of England region. The first category of assets which we focused on were Buildings at Risk. In our region, which has suffered the vicissitudes of industrial slumps and changing demographics alongside periods of rapid economic growth, this has led to a number of important buildings facing serious threats. Some of these are redundant farm buildings, mills and industrial structures, others are anything from private houses to ornamental follies.

With the expansion of the Buildings at Risk Register to a Heritage at Risk Register we have undertaken an assessment of registered battlefields, registered parks and gardens, scheduled monuments, conservation areas and protected wreck sites. These additional categories have generated a great deal of interest throughout the region. In particular, they have created an appetite in many quarters to help protect and enhance some of the region's most special places.

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 and 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 ensure their future.

The East of England is fortunate to be home to some of the most important churches in the country. Like their counterparts in other regions, however, their congregations face huge challenges in the struggle to keep their historic buildings in good condition.

Across the country, English Heritage has been greatly encouraged by the level of interest shown in this first national survey on the condition of places of worship. From now on, it is our intention to work as closely as we can afford with all of the East of England's faith communities and congregations to make the best possible use of this precious inheritance – and at the same time safeguard it for future generations.

As we enter the third year of economic downturn, the issue of Heritage at Risk has never been more important. We know how difficult it has been for owners

and developers to proceed with some building projects, with the reduced availability of funding. We understand, too, why it may sometimes be necessary to delay a project, although we also know that to put off routine repairs can in the long term be a false economy. A listed building or scheduled monument left unmaintained is invariably a greater problem for the future.

In recent years we have been astounded at the way individuals and organisations have rallied to rescue our Heritage at Risk. An owner or voluntary group willing to contribute efforts and funds of their own will often find their endeavours are met with assistance from elsewhere. At English Heritage we are willing to provide that support, so long as our resources allow, and places on the Heritage at Risk Register are invariably at the top of our list of priorities.

Our aim is to see a steady reduction in the number of important heritage assets that are considered at risk. With the continued help of individuals and communities we intend this to happen as quickly as possible – and in the process to make our region a better place, now and for future generations.



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EASTON LODGE, ESSEX

Easton Lodge is a registered park and garden that is included in the Heritage at Risk Register. Designed by Harold Peto in about 1902, it has been in the process of restoration since the early 1970s. Work slowed while expansion of Stansted airport was under discussion and again when the preservation trust who had taken over the management of the site had difficulty in generating sufficient income for the project. Today, the work of restoration has happily resumed.

LISTED BUILDINGS

- 1 in 32 (3.1%) grade I and II* listed buildings remain at risk across the country. In the East of England this falls to 1.8%, representing 96 sites.
- 9 sites were removed from the 2009 regional Register during the year, but 10 new sites have been added.
- Since publication of the 1999 baseline Register, 50% (54 sites) have been removed from the regional Register as their futures have been secured, compared to the national figure of 50.7% (724).
- Nationally, £6.2m was offered to 76 sites on the Register during 2009/10. In the East of England we awarded grants totalling £929k to 12 sites.

CONSERVATION AREAS

- 272 local authorities (81%) have taken part in our national survey of conservation areas, 33 of which were in the East of England region.
- We now have information for 7,388 of England's 9,300 designated conservation areas, of which 846 are in the East of England.
- 549 (7.4%) of the conservation areas for which we have information are at risk, 33 (3.9%) of them in our region.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- Approximately 1 in 6 (17.2%) of England's 19,731 scheduled monuments are at risk. In the East of England, this falls to 12.1% (209 sites).
- The total at risk has fallen by 140 (4.0%) since 2009, of which 12 (5.4%) were in the East of England.
- Across the country arable ploughing and unrestricted plant, scrub or tree growth account for nearly two thirds of sites at risk. In the East of England, ploughing is the greatest source of risk (66% of sites).
- Of the £450k offered to owners of scheduled monuments at risk in 2009/10, £17k was awarded to 3 sites in our region.

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

- 1 in 16 of England's 1,606 registered parks and gardens are at risk, with an increase from 6.0% (96) in 2009 to 6.2% (99) this year. In the East of England, 8 of our 211 sites are at risk (3.8%).
- Nationally, 5 sites have been added and 2 removed from the Register. 1 of the added sites, Wolterton Hall (grade I) is in our region.

REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 are considered to be at risk, 1 fewer than in 2009.
- The only registered battlefield in our region (Maldon) is not at risk.

PROTECTED SHIP WRECKS

- Of the 46 protected wreck sites around England's coast, 8 are at risk, a fall of 1 since 2009.
- The East of England's 1 protected wreck site is not at risk.



METTINGHAM CASTLE, SUFFOLK

The walls and towers of this 14th century castle now lie within the moated gardens of a domestic house. The ruins had been in rapid decline, but an English Heritage grant has helped the owners achieve an immense repair project in the midst of recession.

THERE ARE

5,265

GRADE I AND II*
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THE EAST OF ENGLAND

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