



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT RISK

YORKSHIRE AND  
THE HUMBER

# HERITAGE AT RISK

The Heritage at Risk Register helps us to identify the most threatened buildings, archaeological sites and landscapes in this most distinctive of English regions. For the 60% of listed buildings on this year's Register that could have a sustainable future through commercial or residential reuse, the economic downturn has brought additional challenges to which we must now respond. 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 ensure their future.

In response to the expansion of asset types and changed economic conditions we have developed a new strategy. From now on we will focus our resources on types of site that make a particular contribution to the region's character. This means we will target fewer places more strongly in an effort to help owners and local authorities to maintain and find new uses for their properties during this demanding period.

The textile industry of the West Riding and the metal trades of South Yorkshire placed the region on the world map. The surviving mills and workshops give a distinctive character to these areas. While many sites, such as Folly Hall Mill, Huddersfield, have been transformed to provide new homes and workplaces, the recession has brought a slow-down to this established regeneration activity. We intend to focus our efforts on these sites, including our grants where they can make the difference.

We continue to work with Natural England to help target funding on rural sites. We will also partner the national park authorities to find solutions for the industrial legacy of the Yorkshire Dales and the ancient landscapes of the North York Moors. On the Wolds, we are funding a Rural Heritage Officer with the local LEADER partnership to generate solutions for the area's high density of scheduled monuments at risk. The region boasts some of the finest designed landscapes in the country, but the magnificent pleasure grounds of South Yorkshire are less well known and have perhaps suffered as a result. We will look for ways to address this, while supporting restoration projects at Wentworth Castle, Wentworth Woodhouse and Bretton Park.

Last year we included conservation areas in the Register for the first time. This year, 46 of these, including Haworth, Holbeck and Rotherham, are known to be at risk, but the survey of nearly 800 areas is proving a challenging task and it will be some time before we get a full picture. Last year's Register also revealed that the battlefields of Stamford Bridge, Boroughbridge, Towton Moor and Adwalton Moor are at risk, as a result of which a study is underway into how to deal with the problem.

The restoration of Hellifield Peel, featured on Grand Designs, showed what can be done to give new life to decaying ruins. The recent residential conversion of an ancient brewhouse at Whitby and the restoration of Bolton Percy Gatehouse are further examples of how scheduled monuments can be brought back into productive use – precisely the kinds of imaginative approach we need to encourage in these challenging times.

*Trevor Mitchell*

Trevor Mitchell, Planning and Development Regional Director, Yorkshire and the Humber

Contact: Susan Daniels, Business Manager, English Heritage, Yorkshire and the Humber Region, Tanner Row, York YO1 6WP. Telephone: 01904 601979 Fax: 01904 601999 Email: [susan.daniels@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:susan.daniels@english-heritage.org.uk)

## **BOLTON PERCY GATEHOUSE, SELBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

This rare late medieval building, last used as a meeting room, had fallen into a poor condition, in spite of repairs in the 1970s. The Vivat Trust came to the rescue in 2005 and has worked hard in the current economic climate to secure a package of funding from Yorkshire Forward, Defra, The Country Houses Foundation and English Heritage. The Gatehouse is now a very desirable holiday cottage, which should sustain it for the future, enable people to stay in a medieval building and benefit the regional tourism economy.

## LISTED BUILDINGS

- 1 in 32 (3.1%) grade I and II\* listed buildings are at risk across the country. In Yorkshire and the Humber this increases to 4.5% (98 sites).
- 7 sites were removed from the 2009 regional Register during the year, but 4 new sites had to be added.
- Since publication of the 1999 baseline Register 55.7% of the region's buildings at risk (98) 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 Yorkshire and the Humber we awarded grants totalling £492k to 7 sites.

## CONSERVATION AREAS

- 272 local authorities (81%) have taken part in our national survey of conservation areas, 21 of which were in the Yorkshire and the Humber region.
- We now have information for 7,388 of England's 9,300 designated conservation areas, of which 834 are in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- 549 (7.4%) of the conservation areas for which we have information are at risk, 46 (5.5%) of them in our region.

## SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- Approximately 1 in 6 (17.2%) of England's 19,731 scheduled monuments are at risk, compared with 28% (734 sites) in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- The total nationally has fallen by 140 (4.0%) since 2009, 10 of which (1.3%) were in this region.
- Arable ploughing and unrestricted plant, scrub or tree growth account for nearly two thirds of sites at risk. The region follows the national trend in this respect.
- Nationally, 82% of scheduled monuments at risk are in private ownership, rising to 87% in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- Of the £450k offered to owners of scheduled monuments at risk in 2009/10, £94k was to 4 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 Yorkshire and the Humber, 12 of the 117 of our sites are at risk (10.3%).
- Nationally, 5 sites have been added and 2 removed from the Register. In this region 2 sites have been added (Swinton Castle and Sheffield General Cemetery, both grade II\*) and 1 removed.

## REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 are at risk, 1 less than in 2009.
- Of the 7 registered battlefields in Yorkshire and the Humber 4 are at risk, the same number as in 2009.

## PROTECTED SHIP WRECKS

- Of the 46 protected wreck sites around England's coast, 8 are at risk, a fall of 1 since 2009, due to the implementation of an improved management regime.
- Yorkshire and the Humber's 1 protected wreck is not considered to be at risk.



### ELLAND

Parts of the centre of this once-prosperous West Yorkshire textile town have become rundown. In response, a partnership scheme led by the local authority and English Heritage is now planning to regenerate the conservation area.

THERE ARE **98** GRADE I AND II\* LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

**28%** OF THE REGION'S 734 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS ARE AT RISK

**5.5%** OF CONSERVATION AREAS SURVEYED IN THE REGION ARE AT RISK

**10.3%** OF THE REGION'S REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS ARE AT RISK

## 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. Most remain as places of prayer and spirituality but others have acquired new social uses that benefit a much wider cross-section of urban and rural society.

Like all buildings, they require regular maintenance to keep them in good condition. 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 many smaller congregations the burden can be heavy.

We have therefore undertaken a series of consultation events with congregations, user groups and local authorities to identify the biggest concerns of those who manage these very special places. Places of Worship are particularly close to the heart of local communities, but in practice it is often just a handful of dedicated individuals who maintain them. They face unique challenges, which are illustrated in an accompanying report.

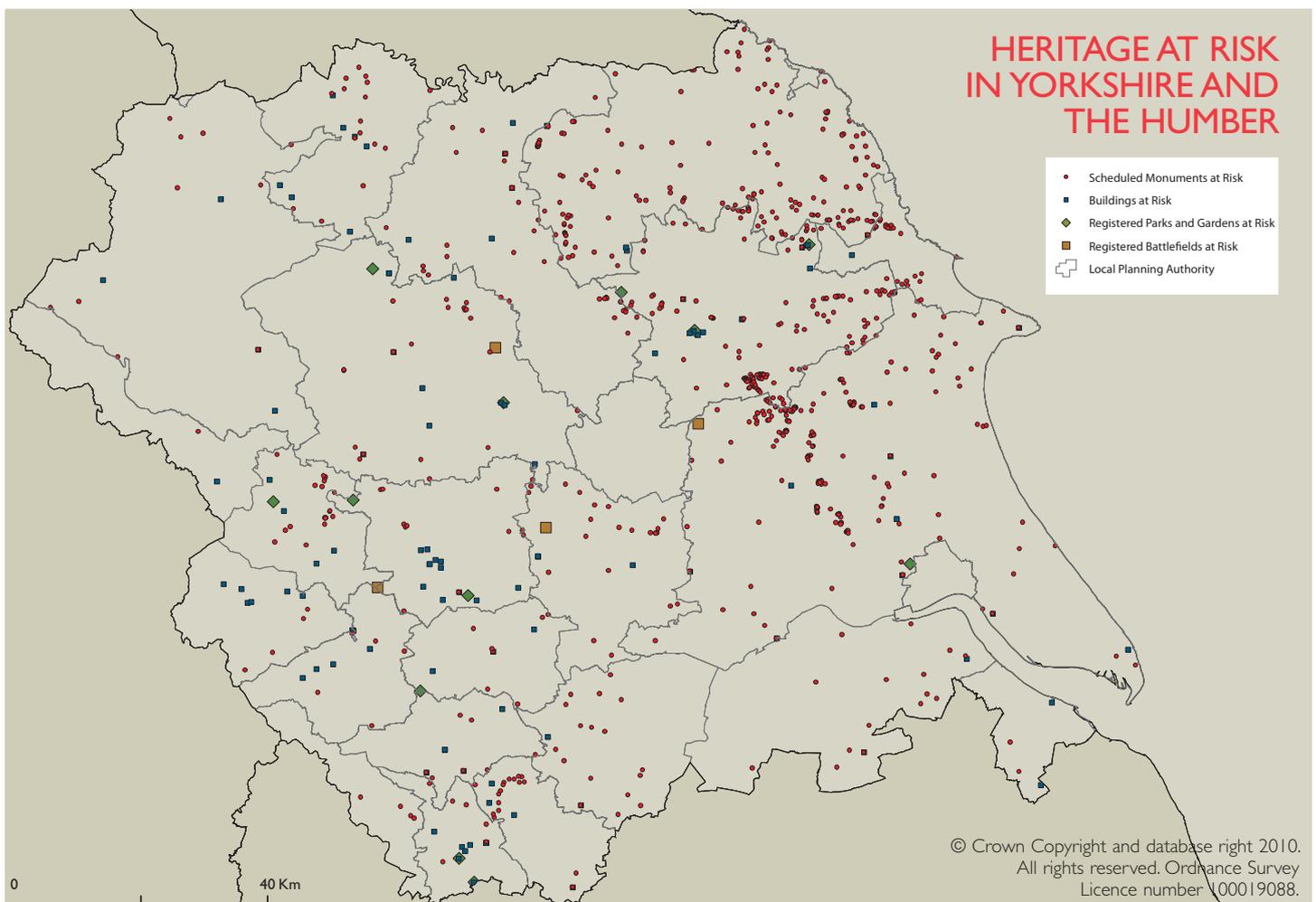
### What we know

- 45% of all grade I buildings are places of worship.
- 85% of listed places of worship belong to the Church of England.
- 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.

### 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 booklet *Caring for Places of Worship*, sent to every listed place of worship.



For more information, see [www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk) or contact your English Heritage regional office.

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