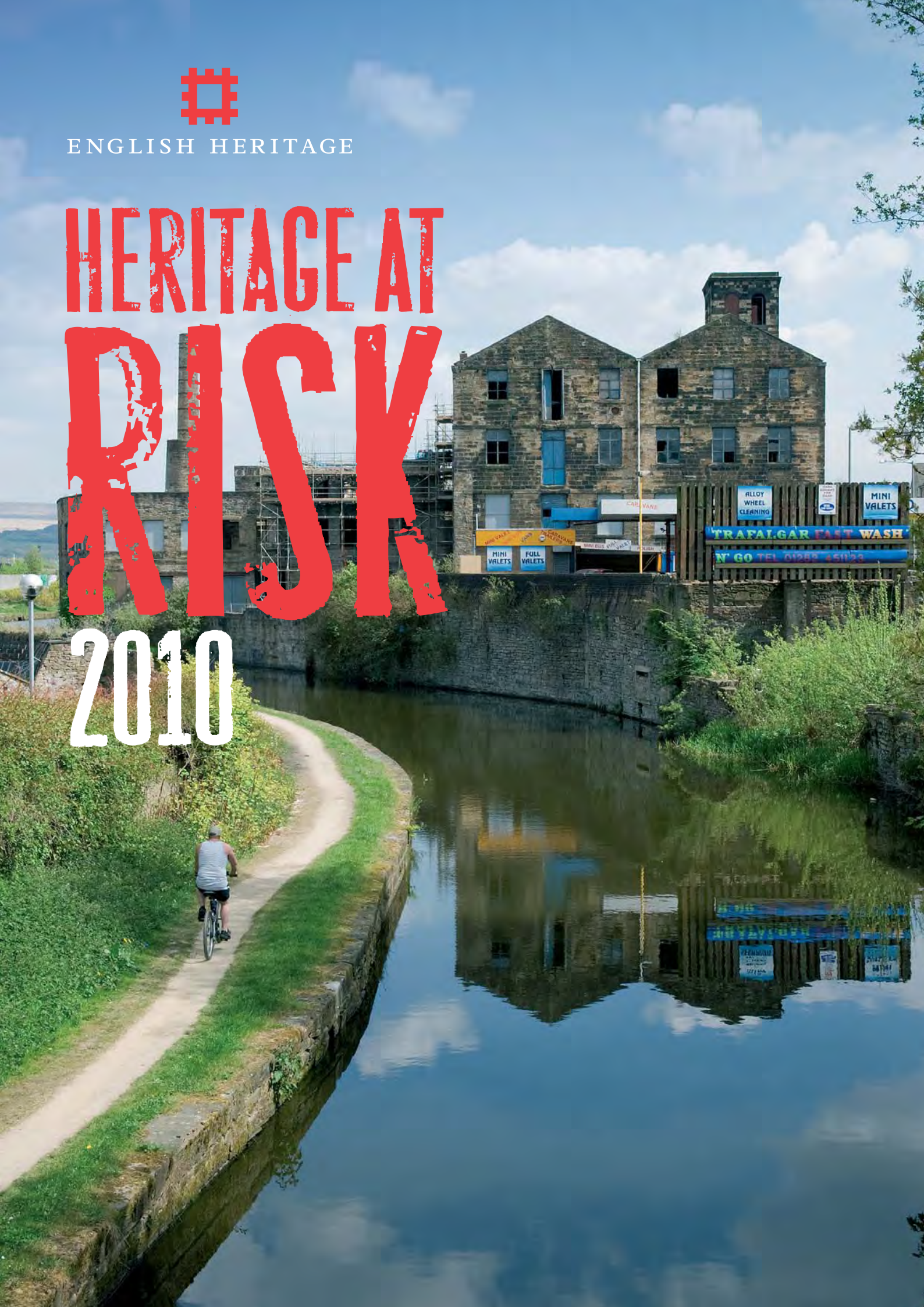




ENGLISH HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT RISK

2010





# The challenge of recession

Britain, like the rest of the world, is responding to the most severe economic circumstances of modern times. The historic environment is not immune to those forces and we must plan for the impact they are bound to have on our heritage at risk in the years to come.

Many of the rescue projects that were launched in a more buoyant financial climate are now drawing to their conclusions. Some projects to rescue heritage at risk, such as Ditherington Flax Mills and Park Hill Flats, have not stopped completely but have slowed considerably. From now on, the owners of other buildings and landscapes already on the Heritage at Risk Register are going to find it much more difficult to assemble the funding packages needed to bring their properties back to beneficial use. Restrictions on credit, reduced levels of public funding, falling investment returns and the liquidation of developers and construction businesses will all make it much harder to find viable solutions for our heritage already at risk.

## PRIVATE INVESTMENT

In 1999, one in six buildings on the 'at risk' Register was fully economic to repair. In the harsher environment of 2010 that figure has fallen to just one in eight. The 'conservation deficit' – the difference between the cost of repair and the end value – of these 1,218 buildings is now estimated to be £465 million, a 10% rise on the 2009 figure that highlights the scale of the investment challenge we now face.

The latest official figures show that national spending on property repair and maintenance has been falling sharply. Output in this sector is at its lowest point since 2004 and there is little sign of significant recovery. The pressures on owners to cut back on their maintenance budgets is bound to increase the number of irreplaceable heritage assets at serious risk from neglect and decay. We are already storing up problems for the future and unless investment picks up very soon, the present trickle of additions to the Heritage at Risk Register will soon become a flood.

For properties already at risk the greatest challenge in the wake of the recession will be in gaining access to vital capital investment, whether from the banks or the public purse. Private sector lending to UK business was £26.5bn in the first quarter of 2010, 40% lower than in the first quarter of 2009. For the foreseeable future borrowing restrictions will continue to have a major impact on heritage at risk projects, especially those involving buildings that turn out to be ineligible for public sector grants.

## PUBLIC FUNDING

Some 70% of local authorities are expecting to cut their budgets by 5% to 20% over the next five years. This will have serious implications for buildings at risk, bearing in mind that 16% of the properties on our Register are in public ownership. Reductions in local authority funding will also affect other neglected heritage assets, including buildings incapable of beneficial use, scheduled monuments and conservation areas at risk. Partnership schemes involving owners, local authorities, English Heritage and third parties have been particularly successful in tackling some of the more intractable cases, but are now themselves at risk from budgetary cut-backs.

The numbers of heritage staff employed in local authorities has been declining since 2007, a trend that could accelerate as council budgets are squeezed. Conservation and archaeological officers play a vital role in identifying solutions and putting investors in touch with owners. Without their expertise the task of removing buildings from national and local 'at risk' Registers will become infinitely more difficult.

As local authorities cut their budgets, they may also look to offload heritage assets of their own. This would lead to an increase in sensitive buildings and sites coming on to a flat property market at a time when investors with the capital and experience to take on challenging restoration projects have become increasingly scarce.

## THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Turning to the voluntary and charitable sectors we see a similar story emerging. Charities have seen their incomes fall considerably; increased unemployment, and the threat of it, has reduced opportunities for community fundraising. Acquiring partnership funding for heritage at risk projects has already become much more difficult, as witnessed by the fall in applications to organisations such as the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Against this austere background it is encouraging that the Government intends to restore the value of the Heritage Lottery Fund's grant budget. In the challenging years ahead this could be a crucial lifeline for some of England's most significant but fragile historic places.

## The Weavers' Triangle, Burnley

Once the cotton-weaving capital of the world, many of the buildings in this conservation area are derelict. The North West Development Agency provided funding to help Burnley Council acquire much of the site from a recession hit owner. A steering group comprising English Heritage, North West Development Agency, Heritage Lottery Fund, Regenerate Pennine Lancashire and the Prince's charities supports the Council. Urgent repairs are in progress and a development prospectus has been published. English Heritage is providing expert advice and financial assistance.

# HERITAGE AT RISK

Our 2010 Heritage at Risk report is published at a time when the public, private and voluntary sectors all face very difficult choices about how to fulfil their responsibilities with reduced resources. As we demonstrate in these pages, Heritage at Risk is an extremely effective way of identifying the most threatened sites and allowing effort to be focused where it is most needed. This information is collected from a range of sources, is publicly available and widely shared with all those who have an interest in finding solutions.

It helps to create partnerships – which in turn greatly increase the chance of finding sustainable long-term solutions.

One of the positive developments in the year was the publication of the Government's Planning Policy Statement 5, *Planning for the Historic Environment*. This requires local authorities to 'include consideration of how best to conserve individual, groups or types of heritage assets that are most at risk of loss through neglect, decay or other threats' in their plans. It also encourages them to monitor the impact of their policies. We hope that this will encourage those authorities that have still to recognise the value of 'at risk' work to adopt this tried-and-tested approach as a means of focusing their hard-pressed resources.

Heritage at Risk information has now become an Official Statistic, which underlines the importance of this data in guiding national and local government activity.

We have now been collecting data on buildings at risk for more than a decade. The long-term trends, moreover, have been positive. In particular, the public attention created by the Buildings at Risk project has been a major factor in allowing many of the highlighted sites to be taken off the list. However, the short-term picture is less rosy. While the number of grade I and II\* buildings at risk fell by 17% between 1999 and 2007, there has been a significant slow-down in the annual rate of decrease since then, with no percentage change in the number at risk. Indeed, we are now concerned that the progress made over the past decade could soon stall or be reversed, as it did between 2007 and 2008.

For other types of heritage assets, the long-term trends are not yet firmly established but we can report a very small reduction in the number of sites on the Register between 2009 and this year. Whether this is the start of a trend or no more than a minor fluctuation in the year-on-year data, we cannot yet tell.

The economic difficulties of the past few years have not yet had a chance to feed into the heritage at risk figures in a dramatic way. We also know from past experience that there is a time lag between a slump in the property market and an increase in sites at risk. This is because

it takes time for empty buildings or other neglected heritage assets to become vulnerable and reach the point at which they need to be included on the Heritage at Risk Register.

Around 20% of English Heritage's grants for repairs to buildings at risk go to private owners; almost half go to charitable organisations. English Heritage grants remove enough of the risk in projects to enable owners to invest with confidence that they will achieve a reasonable reform. We cannot, however, assist as many sites as we would like.

My greatest worry is that the number of sites on the Register will start to rise just as local authority heritage staffing and resources come under increased threat. It is essential that local authorities recognise the value of their 'at risk' work, which so often pre-empts catastrophic loss of heritage assets. In the year ahead, English Heritage will continue its work with owners, local authorities, the voluntary sector and developers to make sure that the excellent progress of recent years continues unabated. It is a vital investment for the future and no more than our shared heritage deserves.

Alongside the work outlined in this document we have also undertaken an initial sample survey of listed places of worship with a view to including them in the 2011 Register. We have published our initial findings in a companion publication, *Caring for Places of Worship 2010*. I believe that the information in both these publications will help guide the prioritisation and work of owners and local authorities, as it will English Heritage.



**Simon Thurley**  
Chief Executive, English Heritage

# Heritage at Risk 2010

The first national Heritage at Risk Register was published in 2008, but its approach – systematically checking the condition of problem buildings – goes back more than two decades. Initially focused on buildings at risk, the method has since been adapted to serve other types of heritage asset, from archaeological sites and conservation areas to registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, and protected shipwrecks. Its end result is a dynamic picture of the health of the country's heritage – a resource to be shared by everyone wanting to keep the past a vital part of our present and future.

The Buildings at Risk survey has taught us not to expect dramatic changes in the proportion of heritage assets at risk from one year to another. It is the longer-term picture that matters most. Over the 11 years of national survey there has been a slow but steady decline in the number of buildings at risk on the Register. For other asset types it is still too early to identify clear trends. Overall, the number of entries on the Register, excluding conservation areas, fell by 139 between 2009 and 2010 to a new total of 4,955 (a 2.8% decrease). There has been a very small decrease in buildings at risk (from 1,631 to 1,625) but the number of threatened scheduled monuments has more encouragingly fallen by 134 to 3,217. The lists of registered battlefields and protected shipwrecks have each had one site removed, which means that they now stand at 6 and 8 respectively. By contrast, there has been a slight increase in the number of registered parks and gardens now at risk, from 96 to 99.

These figures might seem surprising in the midst of a recession that has seen a considerable fall in investment in the nation's building stock. However, we know from past experience that reduced spending on heritage assets takes several years to show up as increased entries on the 'at risk' Register. Neglect is a slow, insidious process whose costly damage takes time to become visible.

## THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

People regularly say how much the historic character of where they live, work and play makes a contribution to their lives. As public and private finance becomes more scarce, it is essential that everyone continues to focus on those heritage assets that are at greatest risk and that offer the best opportunities for positively managed change. The process of gathering the information and publicising the annual results has been a useful reminder to the public that many of England's heritage assets face serious problems. Because each year brings successes it also reassures them that there are grounds for optimism about the future.

At risk evidence tells communities about the condition of their local neighbourhood; it encourages them to become actively engaged in restoring what is

precious to them; and it reassures them that any public funding goes to the most needy and urgent cases.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The benefits of collecting data on places at risk will become even more important as we enter a period of reduced public spending. Grants and subsidies to problem sites are bound to become more scarce and there may be pressures to reduce further the number of conservation staff employed in local authorities – the small pool of specialists uniquely qualified to understand the complex circumstances that have put a site at risk and then negotiate its path to a more secure future.

Our work to reduce the numbers of England's grade I and II\* buildings and structural scheduled monuments at risk has seen considerable success – over half of those on the 1999 Register have since had their future secured. For all of us the next challenge must be to understand more about how this has been achieved and to apply those lessons more widely – not only to listed buildings of every grade but to all the other kinds of fragile and irreplaceable heritage asset whose loss the nation can so ill afford.

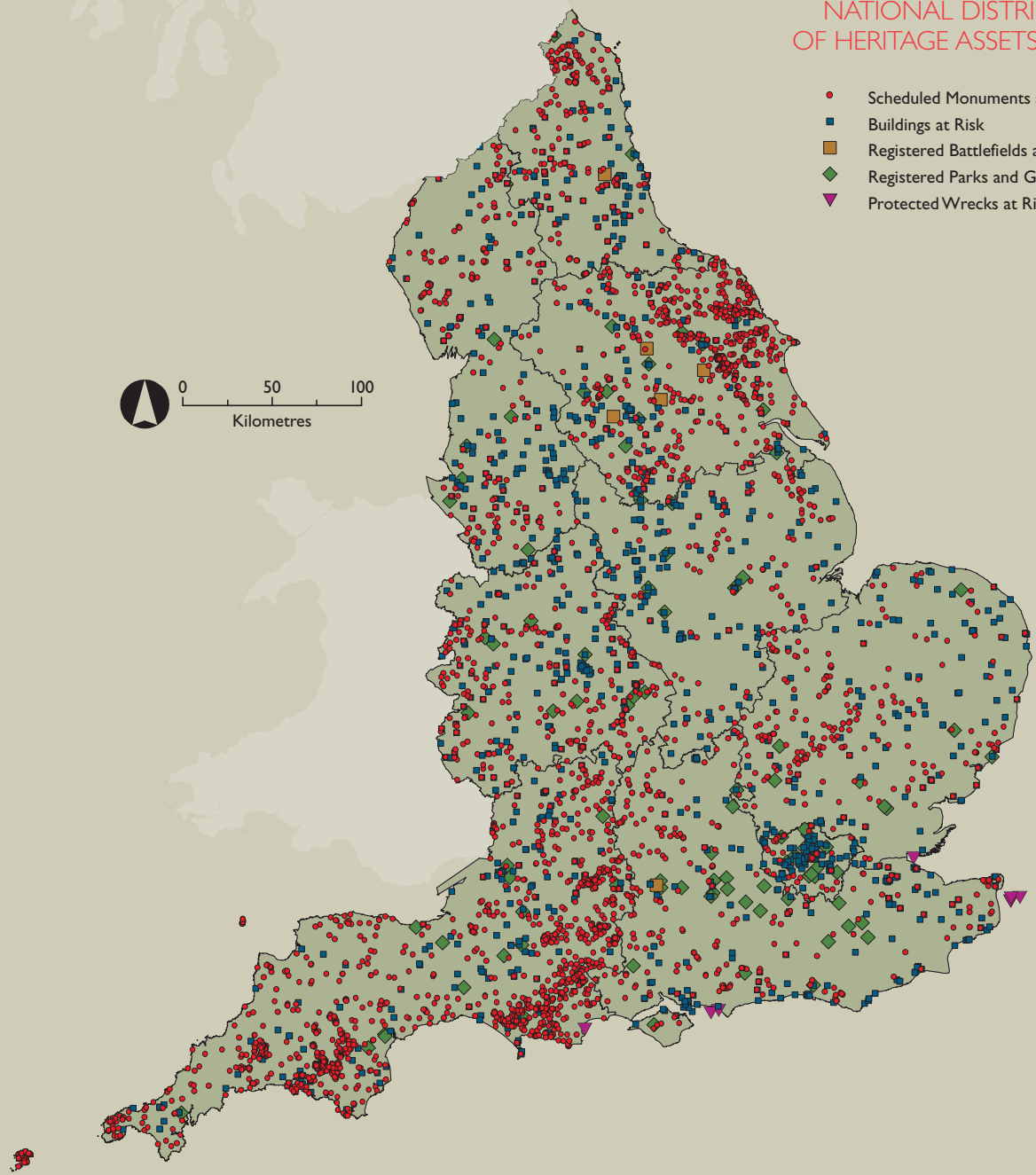
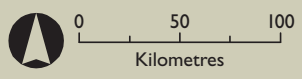
## NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HERITAGE ASSETS AT RISK 2010

ASSET TYPE	No. of assets	No. of assets at risk	% at risk
LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES GRADES I AND II*	30,830	968	3.1%
GRADE II LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES IN LONDON	16,684	407	2.4%
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	19,731	3,395	17.2%
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS	1,606	99	6.2%
REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS	43	6	14.0%
PROTECTED WRECK SITES	46	8	17.4%
CONSERVATION AREAS	7,388†	549	7.4%

† Number of conservation areas surveyed

# NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF HERITAGE ASSETS AT RISK

- Scheduled Monuments at Risk
- Buildings at Risk
- Registered Battlefields at Risk
- ◆ Registered Parks and Gardens at Risk
- ▼ Protected Wrecks at Risk



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## Stokes Croft Conservation Area, Bristol

Loss of architectural detail, boarded-up sites and unsympathetic highway developments are all eroding the special quality of this conservation area. A Townscape Heritage Initiative led by Heritage Lottery Fund and Bristol City Council has brought a number of buildings back into good repair, but others remain in a state of long-term neglect. Securing the future of the grade II\* Carriage Works could now be the key to the renewal and regeneration of the area.



## St Stephen's Church, Rosslyn Hill, London

After 25 years of decay, vandalism and theft, this important grade I listed church has been restored as a performance space, while the crypt has become home to a local preparatory school, involving minimal changes to the historic fabric or plan. The restoration of St Stephen's, one of London's most intractable churches at risk, is an example of how effective a preservation trust can be in securing major partnership funding – in this case from English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Wolfson Foundation.



## The Royal Insurance Building, North John Street, Liverpool

This very large grade II\* office building occupies a city block within both the Castle Street Conservation Area, and the World Heritage Site. Built in 1903, it is four storeys high with basement and attic rooms and is elaborately decorated – both externally and internally. The building has been unoccupied for a number of years and its condition has gradually been deteriorating. It has been on the Buildings at Risk Register since 2005. The freeholder subsequently undertook some urgent works to the building and a new tenant was found who intended to convert the offices for use as a hotel. Planning permission was granted in 2009 and restoration work began, only to be put on hold until economic circumstances improve.

# BUILDINGS AT RISK

'Listing' was introduced after the Second World War to protect buildings and structures of 'special architectural or historical interest' from destruction or development. Listed buildings constitute approximately 2% of England's building stock but make a disproportionate contribution to the quality of our built environment. They are also vulnerable to neglect and decay.

Although listing provides buildings with legal protection from unsympathetic change or demolition, it offers no similar defence against neglect. Gradual but insidious decay as a result of a lack of routine maintenance poses a significant threat to historic buildings and our national inheritance. It was not until the early 1990s, however, that any firm measures were taken to quantify the extent of this problem or to develop a better understanding of its causes and potential remedies.

When the first national sample survey of neglect was carried out by English Heritage during 1990-91 it suggested that 7.3% of listed buildings were at risk. The most important outcome of the survey was that it provided participating local authorities with a new and powerful tool, in the form of a 'Buildings at Risk Register', for monitoring neglected buildings and defining priorities. At a national level, meanwhile, it highlighted the need for much more robust evidence about the scale of the problem of neglect and a clearer strategy for its resolution.

In 1991, the first Register of all listed buildings at risk in London was published. This was followed, in 1998, by the launch of English Heritage's formal buildings at risk strategy and the publication of the first national Buildings at Risk Register. This identified that no fewer than 1,428 of England's most important grade I and II\* listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments were at risk of damage or loss if urgent steps were not taken to stabilise their condition.

Since then, the availability of an annually updated Register has allowed English Heritage to understand the main causes of risk and to prioritise remedial action and resources at national and regional levels. Equally importantly, it has helped raise the public profile of threatened buildings. As well as strengthening local authorities' negotiating position, it has played a key role in the development of partnerships between owners, building preservation trusts, funding bodies, amenity societies and volunteers for securing sustainable futures for buildings at risk.

Of the 1,428 buildings on the 1999 edition of the Register, a total of 724 (50.7%) have been removed because their future has been secured, either through the efforts of their original owners or through the negotiation of sustainable new uses. No sooner has one building been rescued, however, than another becomes

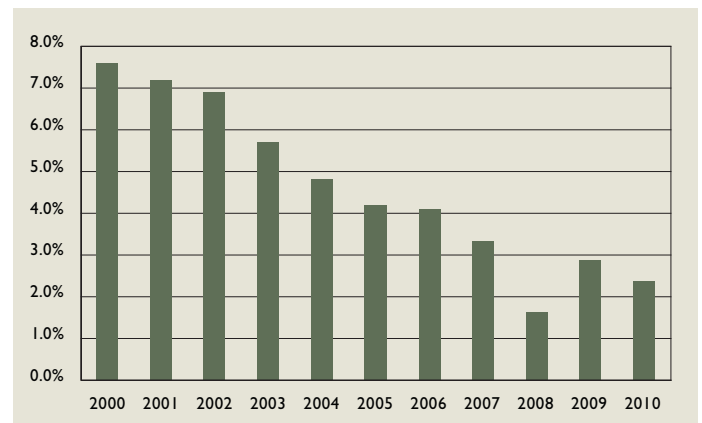
at risk. Since 1999, a further 874 buildings have had to be added to the Register, which today stands at 1,218 entries: 210 less than 11 years ago.

Now, over half of all local authorities maintain their own Buildings at Risk Register covering not only grade I and II\* buildings, but those listed grade II as well. At a national level, it was the success of the buildings at risk project that led to the development in 2008 of the current Heritage at Risk programme, through which the condition of all classes of designated heritage assets can now be monitored on a regular basis.

## NUMBER OF GRADE I AND II\* LISTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURAL SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AT RISK

REGION	No. of grade I and II* listed buildings at risk	No. of structural scheduled monuments at risk	Total Building at Risk entries 2010	Percentage of total entries by region
EAST MIDLANDS	132	12	144	11.8
EAST OF ENGLAND	96	27	123	10.1
LONDON	87	5	92	7.6
NORTH EAST	75	37	112	9.2
NORTH WEST	103	30	133	10.9
SOUTH EAST	102	61	163	13.4
SOUTH WEST	155	18	173	14.2
WEST MIDLANDS	120	41	161	13.2
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	98	19	117	9.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1,218</b>	

## PERCENTAGE OF BUILDINGS AT RISK REMOVED ANNUALLY FROM BASELINE 1999 REGISTER





# Finding solutions

Maintaining a Register of buildings at risk is undoubtedly the most effective way of identifying problems and raising awareness of the need for solutions. Negotiating those solutions nevertheless requires patience and determination. It also depends on the economic climate and the willingness of organisations from across the public, commercial and voluntary sectors to work together in creative partnerships.

More than a decade after its launch, the Buildings at Risk Register is revealing some important trends. Across England as a whole, the percentage of grade I and II\* buildings at risk has fallen steadily from 3.8% in 1999 to 3.1% in 2010. Another encouraging fact is that in the same period that more than 900 grade I and II\* buildings at risk have been saved and removed from the Register, just 9 have suffered the ultimate fate of demolition.

At a regional level, we can observe some similarly encouraging trends. In London, for example, 94% of the listed buildings that were deemed to be at risk on the original 1991 Register have since been removed. What is more, the overall number of properties on the London Register has fallen by more than a half in 19 years.

Away from the capital, there are now 48% fewer grade I listed buildings at risk in the West Midlands than there were in 1999. In Yorkshire and the Humber the number of grade I and II\* buildings on the Register has been reduced by a third, in large measure because of a concerted campaign to target resources to a group of buildings sharing a common threat and needing similar solutions. More locally still, Ipswich Borough Council, which published its first Buildings at Risk Register in 1987, has seen the percentage of listed buildings at risk in the borough fall from 8% to less than 0.3% – an achievement that speaks volumes for the twin benefits of constant monitoring and energetic lobbying for solutions.

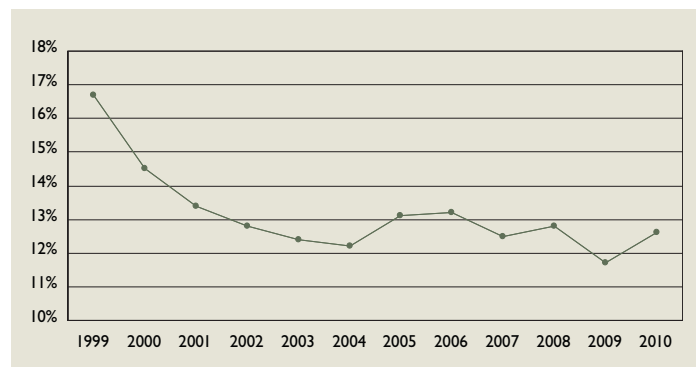
Looking at the evidence in terms of types of building also reveals some significant themes. For example, the proportion of domestic buildings on the national Register has fallen from 29% to 21% between 1999 and 2010, while in the London Region, where all grades of listed buildings are included, the number of terraced houses at risk has fallen by no less than 75% since 1991. Escalating house prices and undiminished demand for homes are responsible for the success of a series of innovative adaptations of redundant commercial and military buildings to residential use, examples ranging from the grade I warehouses and offices of the West India Dock and Woolwich Royal Arsenal to a grade II\* former large-scale office building, The Albany, in Liverpool.

Buildings that can be brought back into beneficial or full economic use are the ones that are easiest to

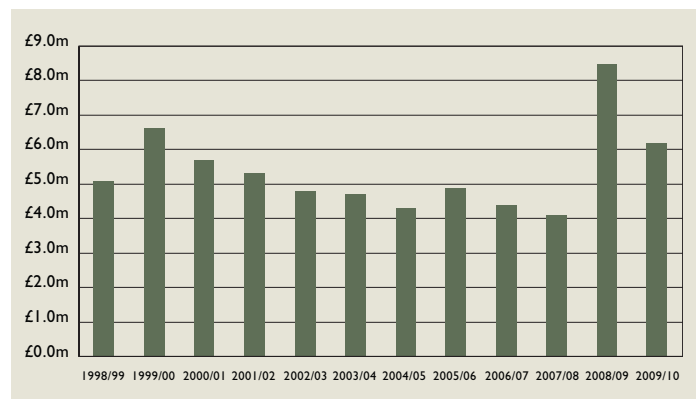
remove from the Register. In 1999, 16.7% of entries were considered to be economic to repair; a percentage that has fallen steadily to 12.5% this year. Behind these headline figures there are also some important regional differences: whereas 34% of buildings at risk in London are potentially economic to repair, the figure falls to just 6% in the North West – despite the fact that no fewer than 61% of the North Western entries are in principle capable of beneficial use.

Buildings at risk that are uneconomic to repair require additional funding, including money from public sources. Since 1999, English Heritage has offered a total of £64.6m to buildings and structures on the Register.

## PERCENTAGE OF BUILDINGS ON THE REGISTER THAT ARE ECONOMIC TO REPAIR



## ENGLISH HERITAGE GRANT OFFERED TO GRADE I AND II\* LISTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURAL SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AT RISK







## Tone Mills, Wellington, Somerset

Tone Mills closed in the late 1990s after nearly two hundred years of operation as a woollen textile mill. The complex includes the 18th-century mill owner's house, water wheel, engine houses, original machinery and warehouses, as well as the separate Tonedale Mills site, with ponds and watercourses associated with the cloth-finishing processes. It is recognised as one of the best-preserved historic textile sites in the country. Following closure, the grade II\* buildings became progressively more derelict and were placed on the Buildings at Risk Register in 2001. Work on the conversion of the Tonedale site began in 2008, but the development was abandoned a few months later with the start of the economic downturn. Several government agencies are discussing possible solutions to the site, which is now in the hands of the official receiver. Tone Mills itself, meanwhile, is in different ownership but has also been the subject of a failed development proposal. The future of both historic mill complexes is at best uncertain.





## Hadlow Tower, Kent

Hadlow Tower is a grade I listed folly associated with an otherwise demolished early 19th-century country house; it has been on the Buildings at Risk Register since its inception in 1998. Plans for the tower to be restored and brought back into use as a holiday letting property by the Vivat Trust have been developed. The Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage have both committed funding but the project has been delayed because of difficulties in securing partnership funding from other identified sources in the wake of the global economic downturn. The Trust is now looking at a reduced scope of works that can be achieved with the budget available.



# The challenge ahead

For all the successes of the past decade, the outlook for buildings at risk is worrying. Economic recession is making it difficult to secure the investment needed to breathe new life into neglected buildings. At the same time, the resolution of the easier cases has left a residue of hard-to-reach properties whose rehabilitation has proved much more difficult.

Between 2000 and 2007 there was a steady decrease in the size of the Buildings at Risk Register, with fewer buildings being added each year than were removed. Between 2007 and 2008, however, the number of entries rose for the first time. Moreover, the average cost of repairing each building on the Register has steadily increased.

Redundancy is a major factor driving listed buildings into risk. The kinds of historic buildings now at greatest risk are those associated with defence (15%), agriculture (8%) and manufacturing industry (13%), the percentages of which have all increased since 1999. Particularly worrying is the fact that fewer than 50% of entries on the Register are now deemed capable of beneficial use – a figure that falls to just 34.6% in rural areas.

Also worrying is the fact that an increasing number of redundant buildings that are capable of beneficial use are being added to the Register. The proportion of buildings on the Register capable of beneficial use has increased since 2008, reflecting the rise in the number of buildings being vacated, possibly as a result of the economic down-turn.

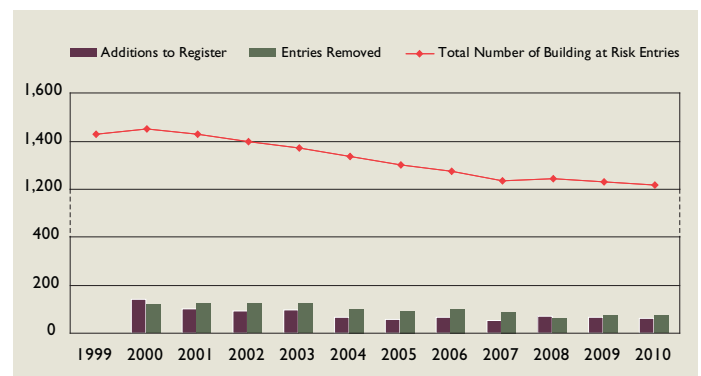
The recession has not hit all parts of England equally and the eventual impact on buildings at risk is expected to vary from region to region. It is likely to be at its worst in the most economically fragile areas, in rural districts and in part of the country where the least number of buildings on the Register are capable of beneficial use – for example the North East with just 23% and the East of England and South East with 29%.

Over the next few years, stagnant house prices and a shortage of investment capital are likely to reduce the willingness of developers to take on the more challenging buildings at risk. At the same time, we expect there to be a further increase in the number of listed buildings becoming vacant and a corresponding reduction in the amount of money owners will be able to invest in their repair and maintenance.

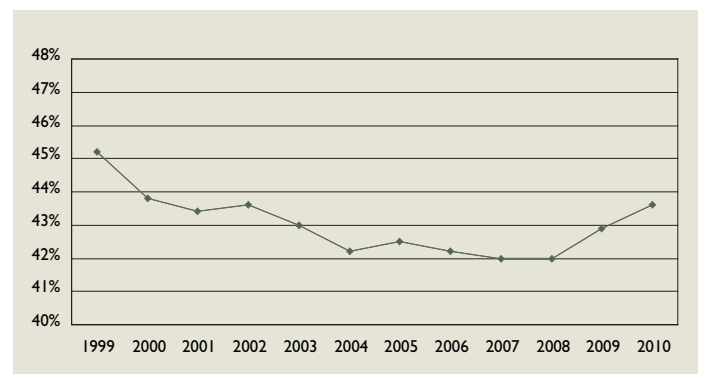
While we wait for the economic climate to improve there are still important things that owners can be doing. Keeping buildings wind and weather-tight and in use is essential to help prevent them becoming at risk, and those that are already at risk from decaying further. Buildings decay rapidly when left empty and finding temporary solutions is often necessary until a long-term use can be secured.

Equally important is that those seeking sustainable long-term solutions to historic buildings at risk should continue to have access to expert advice. Some of this can come from English Heritage's own regional teams, but more important is the practical support of local authority conservation staff. Time and again these are the people who have proved themselves the indispensable keys to success. Any reduction in their numbers in the wake of recession will be a major concern, not only to English Heritage but to our conservation and regeneration partners across the country.

## BUILDINGS ADDED TO AND REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER AND TOTAL NUMBER ON THE REGISTER SINCE 1999



## PERCENTAGE OF BUILDINGS ON THE REGISTER THAT ARE CAPABLE OF BENEFICIAL USE



# CONSERVATION AREAS AT RISK

Conservation areas are dynamic, changing places that have evolved and developed over many years. They are made up of a variety of different heritage assets – buildings, landscapes, archaeology – and the spaces in between that form the all-important public realm and streetscape in which people meet and go about their business. They are also vulnerable to change, some of it for the better but sometimes with the potential to do lasting damage to their special character – and thus to social and economic life of the communities to which they belong.

Conservation areas were introduced by the 1967 Civic Amenities Act to help protect the special character of whole neighbourhoods, whether in the heart of our cities, in the suburbs or the countryside. Since then, 9,300 have been designated by local authorities across England.

The purpose of the designation process is to help local authorities and communities understand what it is that gives a place its special character – and once designated, to encourage them to look after it in ways that protect that essential character while allowing healthy social and economic growth. Designation is not intended to prevent change or adaptation, but simply to make sure that their effects on what people value about a place are properly considered.

In order to gain a better understanding of the health of conservation areas across England, in 2009 English Heritage carried out the first national survey of the condition of conservation areas. This provided us, and the many hundreds of local authorities who very helpfully collated the data, with up-to-date information on their condition and the nature of any short-term risks or longer-term threats to their character. In coming years this information will help us all – English Heritage, local authorities and individual grass-roots communities –

to provide conservation areas across the country with the sensitive but robustly effective management that they need and deserve if they are to continue to underpin the quality of life of everyone who lives and works in them, and who comes to enjoy them as visitors.

We updated the survey in the early part of 2010 and many more local authorities were this time able to add to, and update, the information collected in 2009 – altogether 81% (272) of local authorities have taken part. The very valuable feedback that we received from last year's survey also allowed us to refine the format of our standard survey questionnaire, not only to make it easier to use but to improve the quality of the evidence that it was recording. As a result, the number of conservation areas for which we now have reliable information about their condition has risen to 7,388, some 80% of the national total.

One single factor is rarely sufficient to put a conservation area at risk. More frequently it is an accumulation of small problems that collectively begin to erode the character of the area. Because conservation areas involve many different owners, we and our local authority partners recognise that putting those problems right can take time and patience. Above all it depends on the engagement and commitment of the community itself.

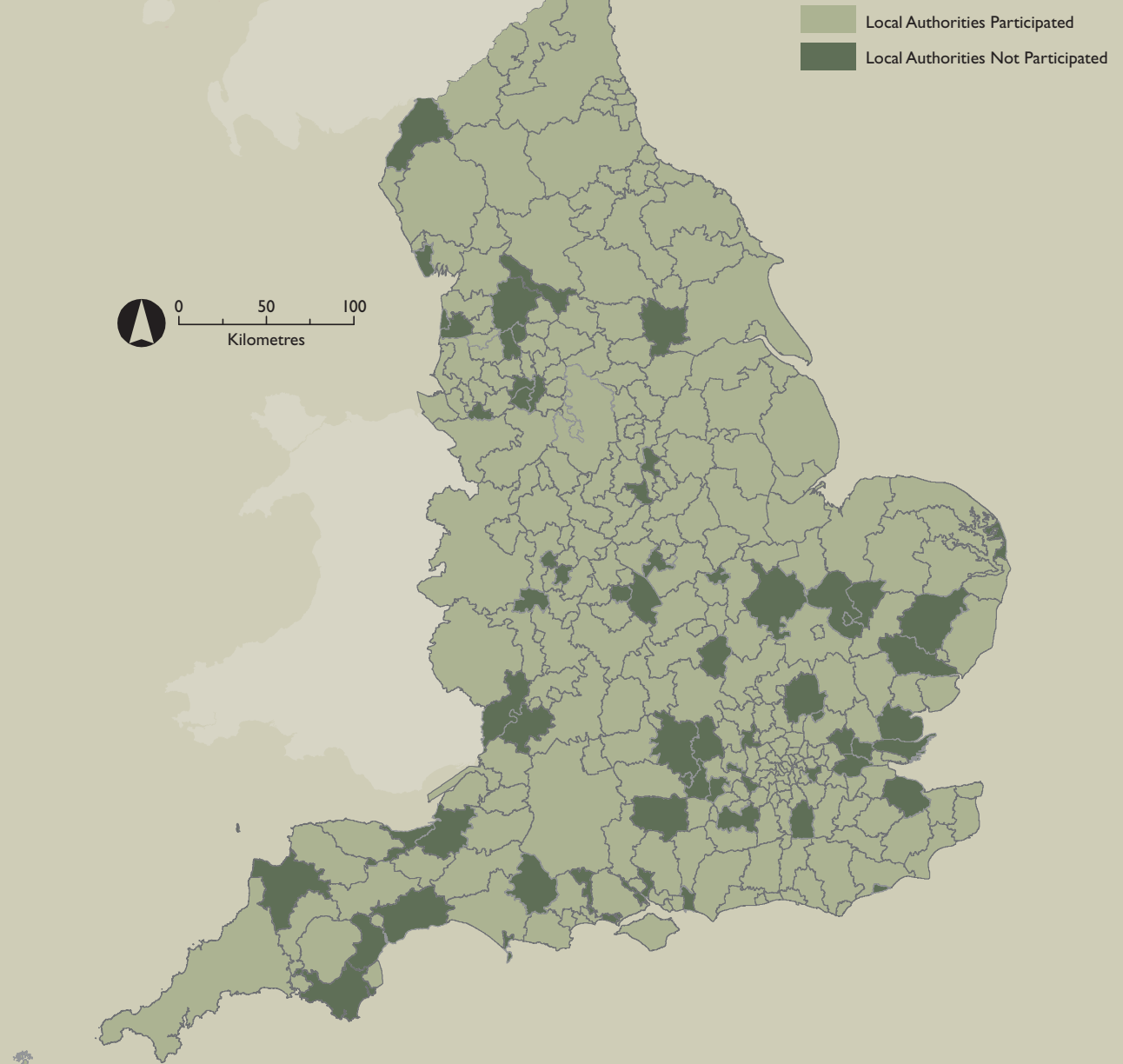
## Aspire Centre, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

The Aspire Centre lies within the Great Yarmouth Conservation Area, close to the Market Square and within the medieval town wall. The grade II building dates from c1830, but was remodelled in the late 19th century as the Liberal Club. It eventually became redundant and was placed on the local authority's Buildings at Risk Register. The borough council has been active in putting together a multi-agency funding package to restore the building and bring it back into use as a centre for homeless people, including facilities for 24-hour care and two flats designed to prepare homeless people to live independently in the community. The restoration and conversion of the listed building included new-build elements that reflect the vernacular traditions of the town and make a positive contribution to the character of the conservation area.





## LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSERVATION AREAS SURVEY



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### Elland, West Yorkshire

Set within the narrow Calder Valley, Elland was once a prosperous West Yorkshire textile town. Its linear conservation area includes the medieval core of the town around the 12th-century church of St Mary the Virgin, a canal basin and the remains of the Victorian town centre. It is all built in local stone with fine quality details, but parts of the area have become run down. In response, a partnership scheme led by the local authority and English Heritage is now planning to restore the conservation area in a way that will boost business confidence and local pride and act as a catalyst to the local economy.

## Platt's Eyot, London Borough of Richmond

The Platt's Eyot Conservation Area is an island in the Thames, located to the south of Hampton village. Its historic industrial buildings include three listed boathouses, the Edwardian brick-built Tagg's House offices and ancillary structures such as an alternator house and working cranes. The island's mixed use has been in steady decline and its historic boatyard buildings are now in extremely poor condition. In 2005, proposals were submitted for redevelopment of the island for office, residential and restaurant use. They have not progressed, however, primarily because of the difficulty of achieving the Environment Agency's requirement for permanent dry access from the car park on the northern river bank. The scale of the development was also considered inappropriate. No other development proposals are under discussion and the future of this unusual waterside conservation area remains in the balance.



## Willenhall, West Midlands

Once famous for lock-making, Willenhall is a small Black Country town within the West Midlands conurbation. Its distinctive sense of place and tight urban grain set it apart from the more mundane urban fabric around it. The town has undergone the decline typical of much of industrial Britain, but where other towns have re-emerged with new and adapted economies, Willenhall is still waiting for its chance of revival. The town centre was designated as a conservation area in 1977 and was the subject of a Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme from 2000 to 2003. This achieved some notable successes but the scope for further conservation work is considerable. Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and the local community remain actively committed to building an economically viable future which could sustain Willenhall's architectural and townscape qualities – a commitment that is all the more important in the current harsh economic climate.



# A shared responsibility

It is rarely a single threat that puts conservation areas at risk, but much more often a series of factors working in damaging combination. Looking after them is a shared responsibility that none of us can shirk, whether we live, work, shop or play in them, or have the responsibility for making decisions about their future.

A particularly welcome finding of our 2010 research is that a significant number of local authorities have already found the surveys useful in the day-to-day management of conservation areas for which they are responsible. Some have used the data to inform their Local Development Framework policies and others to help them to target grant-aid and other scarce resources more effectively. The survey has also revealed that 28% of conservation areas have an up-to-date management plan/strategy – but the corollary is that approximately 72% of conservation areas still fail to enjoy the proven practical benefits of these documents.

As we expected, the survey confirmed last year's finding that it is the cumulative effect of small-scale but inappropriate alterations to historic buildings and a lack of maintenance of streets and spaces that poses the greatest threat to the character of conservation areas. Altogether, problems of this kind are reported to affect 6,439 (87%) of the conservation areas surveyed.

In coming years, any reduction in local authority staff is likely to result in less enforcement action being taken against inappropriate changes, less money being spent on maintaining the public realm and, perhaps most significantly, an inability to manage actively and a consequent shift to purely reactive measures.

The threat of property vacancy and dereliction also remains a significant concern for many conservation areas, especially those in the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and London. On the one hand, the recession may be having a dampening effect on opportunities for repair and re-use of buildings, but on the other, a reduction in development pressure may help to save some historic buildings from the demolition ball.

On a more positive note, last year's Conservation Areas at Risk campaign successfully raised awareness of the critical role that community and business groups can and need to play in the management of their local conservation areas. Local authorities have since been forging stronger links with amenity societies and residents groups, who are in turn proving keen and willing to help in the process. Across the country, voluntary associations of this kind represent a hugely important resource for the care of conservation areas – for example, by helping to carry out the essential survey work for Article 4 Directions. We are working with others to find out more about the role of local

committees in understanding what matters and then in managing change in conservation areas.

This value of the conservation areas survey data will become increasingly important as the effects of the recession begin to impact on public sector budgets. The most significant and damaging of these effects, according to reports from across the country, would be the loss of historic environment staff in local authorities. Without expert staff to advise on the condition and needs of conservation areas there is a serious risk the valuable progress that has been made in recent years will be undone.

## CONSERVATION AREAS AT RISK BY LOCATION

REGION	Rural	Suburban	Urban	Total
<b>AT RISK</b>	<b>156 28.4%</b>	<b>123 22.4%</b>	<b>270 49.2%</b>	<b>549 100.0%</b>
EAST MIDLANDS	9 16.4%	6 10.9%	40 72.7%	55 100.0%
EAST OF ENGLAND	10 30.3%	3 9.1%	20 60.6%	33 100.0%
LONDON	5 6.9%	35 48.6%	32 44.4%	72 100.0%
NORTH EAST	7 35.0%	2 10.0%	11 55.0%	20 100.0%
NORTH WEST	13 20.3%	19 29.7%	32 50.0%	64 100.0%
SOUTH EAST	39 38.6%	23 22.8%	39 38.6%	101 100.0%
SOUTH WEST	53 49.5%	15 14.0%	39 36.4%	107 100.0%
WEST MIDLANDS	13 25.5%	7 13.7%	31 60.8%	51 100.0%
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	7 15.2%	13 28.3%	26 56.5%	46 100.0%

# MONUMENTS AT RISK

Scheduled monuments represent our most valued and nationally important archaeological sites and landscapes. They range in date from prehistoric barrow mounds and hillforts to 20th-century industrial and military sites, providing immense historical depth to the places in which we live. However, they are often fragile and easily damaged. If lost, they can never be replaced.

The 19,731 sites on the Schedule of Ancient Monuments are the most significant of the literally hundreds of thousands of archaeological remains that lie on and beneath the surface of the modern English landscape. They range in size and date from medieval crosses and Second World War pillboxes to complete Roman towns or prehistoric farming landscapes. For earlier millennia and centuries they are the only record we have of countless generations of human activity and achievement. And during later periods they bear testimony as much to the lives of the nameless medieval peasant or 18th-century miner as they do the aristocracy and monarchy.

As well as showing huge variation in scale and function, scheduled monuments differ widely in their vulnerability to change. While some are robust others are much more fragile and easily damaged, either by the forces of nature or the impact of modern life. Although the majority are located in the countryside rather than in our towns and cities, most scheduled monuments remain in private ownership and very few enjoy the privilege of being looked after by conservation bodies.

If these thousands of sites are to survive for the enjoyment of future generations, they need to be properly cared for. That, in turn, depends on their

owners, local authorities and English Heritage having a clear, shared understanding of the condition they are in and the kinds of ongoing threats they may be facing. It was in response to this need for reliable evidence that English Heritage established the Scheduled Monuments at Risk survey, at first on a pilot basis in the East Midlands and since 2008 across the country as a whole. Since then the methodology has been progressively refined and the survey regularly updated.

For a scheduled monument to be placed on the Register there has to be clear evidence that it is in danger of damage or collapse, whether from natural processes such as animal burrowing, scrub growth and storm damage or the impact of human activities ranging from arable cultivation to refuse dumping and visitor erosion. In 2008 it was found that no fewer than 21% of all scheduled monuments were at risk.

In the midst of economic recession and continuing financial uncertainty, our 2010 Register confirms that the proportion of scheduled monuments at risk is still high at 17.2%. Damage from cultivation is thus still the greatest cause of risk, with degradation and decay as a result of natural processes, such as scrub and tree growth, erosion and burrowing animals, a close second.

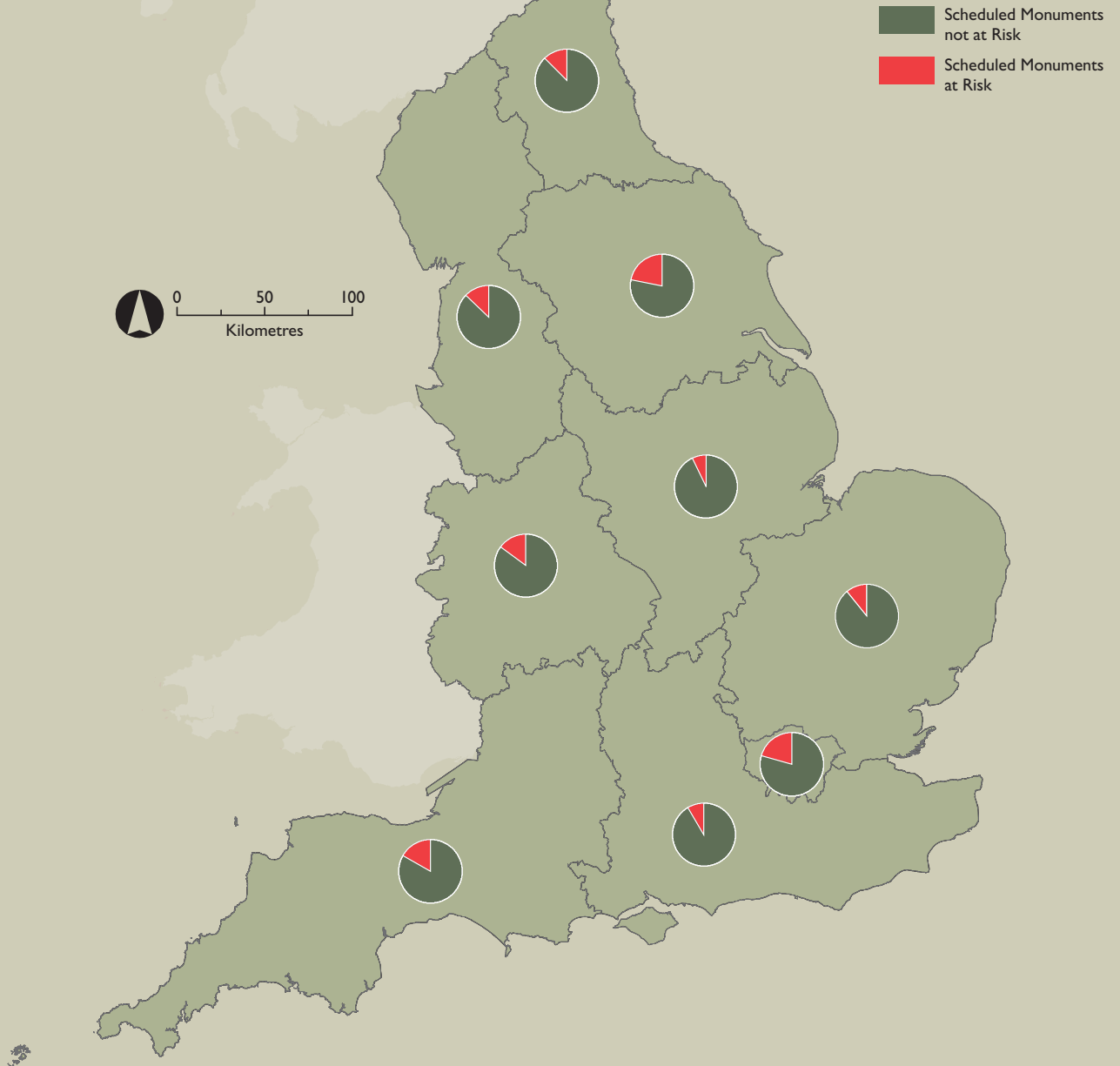
## Shittleheugh Bastle, Redesdale, Northumberland

Bastles were built to withstand border warfare during a tumultuous period in north-eastern history and most performed this task well; protecting people and their livestock under the same roof. However, like most things, the buildings have been less successful at fighting off the ravages of time. The bastle at Shittleheugh, near Otterburn, dates back to the turn of the 16th century and is constructed of masonry courses more than three feet in depth. Urgent action was required to save the bastle from further, potentially imminent, ruin. Following discussions between the owner, English Heritage and Natural England it was agreed that the building should be repaired through the Higher Level Stewardship – a funding programme open to all farmers that aims to deliver environmental benefits through agriculture. Meticulous repair works involving traditional construction methods were carried out in 2009 and the bastle is no longer at risk.



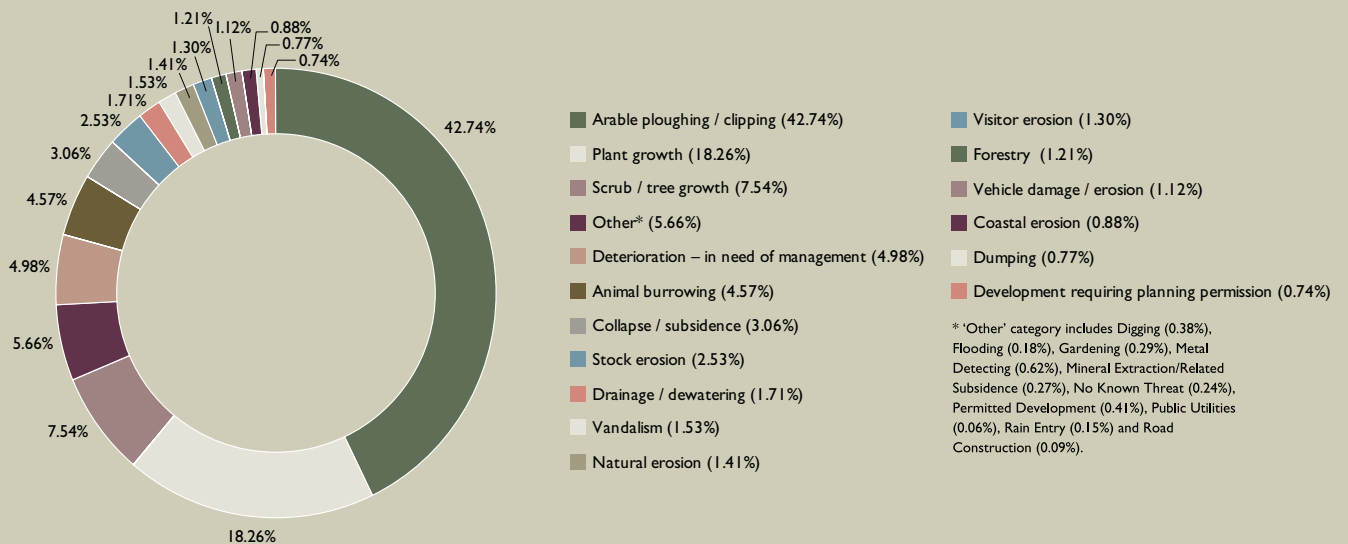


## REGIONAL PROPORTIONS OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AT RISK



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## SOURCE OF RISK TO SCHEDULED MONUMENTS





## Hopton Castle, Shropshire

Hopton Castle stands in a strategic location at the confluence of two streams, deep in the hills of south Shropshire near the Welsh border. This was an area colonised with castles in the period following the Norman Conquest, and much fought over by the English and Welsh during the following centuries. Repairs were last carried out in the 1950s and the condition of the monument had since deteriorated badly – areas of masonry were dangerous, trees were growing through its centre and localised collapse was evident. In response, English Heritage negotiated the transfer of the castle to a charitable Trust dedicated to its conservation and display to the public. In turn, the Trust and members of the local community have launched a £1 million repair programme with funding from English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund.



## Microchipping Cornish wayside crosses

Set on top of an overgrown and collapsing hedge bank, this medieval wayside cross at Lelant in west Cornwall is in imminent danger of falling. Being relatively small, it is also at risk of being stolen. To mitigate the risk of theft, more than 150 of Cornwall's most vulnerable wayside crosses have recently been fitted with microchips. Once discretely fixed and hidden, these provide each cross with a unique code and allow it to be identified with absolute confidence should it be stolen. Letting the public know that the crosses were being recorded, tagged and monitored was a major element of the project – press releases were greeted with enthusiasm by the media, fascinated by the use of modern technology to protect scheduled monuments.



# Practical paths to stability

Because they have few practical uses, scheduled monuments are more likely to be at risk from neglect and decay than listed buildings or landscapes. However, the steps needed to bring them back into a stable condition are often relatively simple and inexpensive, provided that their owners understand what needs to be done.

There are two clear messages that come from the 2010 'at risk' Register. The first is that the continued survival of these sites depends on the character of their overlying and surrounding land use. The second is that the majority of sites at risk can be restored to good condition in ways that are neither expensive nor at odds with more general principles of environmentally sustainable land management. However, some monuments do require significant investment to stabilise their condition, to carry out repairs, or to change the way in which the land on and around the monument is used. In these cases the closest possible co-operation is needed between owners, land managers and potential sources of grants if practical progress is to be made.

Given the large numbers of sites at risk, identifying clear targets for urgent management action is vital not only for English Heritage and its partner organisations but for landowners and farmers themselves. During 2009/10 further progress has been made in this direction through the establishment of Regional Action Plans. Once bedded down, these will allow recurrent problems to be identified, and then tackled more effectively and efficiently. Some of these issues – such as the control of scrub growth – can be tackled quickly and at little cost. Others, such as damage caused by cultivation, are more difficult to mitigate and will take longer to resolve.

The first crucial stage in the process is to develop a working dialogue with owners and land managers, based on the kind of practical evidence generated through initiatives such as Heritage at Risk. This may either be basic information about the location and extent of sites not readily visible to land managers, or more detailed advice on the best approaches to improving their condition.

As a result of this partnership approach more than 2,000 scheduled monuments – 10% of the national total – have now been entered voluntarily by their owners into the Environmental Stewardship scheme administered by Natural England. Of these some 800 are monuments that were previously under the plough, but which have since been either taken entirely out of arable or had their husbandry regimes modified in ways that reduce the risk of damage.

Taking land out of cultivation is nevertheless a major step for a farmer or land manager anxious to maximise the return from their land. For that reason, English Heritage is undertaking a further survey of landowners

in the East Midlands to learn more about their attitudes to managing monuments in cultivation. In particular, we want to find out what kinds of additional advice and support they need to help them to match good husbandry with sustainable conservation of the precious archaeological resource for which they are stewards.

## NUMBER OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AT RISK BY REGION 2009 AND 2010

REGION	No. Scheduled Monuments 2010	Scheduled Monuments at risk 2009	Scheduled Monuments at risk 2010	Difference in no. at risk, 2009 and 2010
EAST MIDLANDS	1,511	130	117	-13
EAST OF ENGLAND	1,726	221	209	-12
LONDON	153	41	40	-1
NORTH EAST	1,378	205	198	-7
NORTH WEST	1,313	197	194	-3
SOUTH EAST	2,631	270	246	-24
SOUTH WEST	6,974	1,441	1,409	-32
WEST MIDLANDS	1,422	286	248	-38
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	2,623	744	734	-10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,731</b>	<b>3,535</b>	<b>3,395</b>	<b>-140</b>

# PARKS AND GARDENS AT RISK

More than 1,600 English parks and gardens are registered for their historic interest, meaning that they are collectively a finite resource and that each is very special in its own way. The result of centuries of work by both private individuals and public bodies, together they make a special contribution to our towns and countryside. They are nevertheless fragile; without proper care, they can easily be damaged beyond repair or lost forever. In these challenging times we want to help their owners to find practical and affordable ways of safeguarding their future.

The purpose of the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest is to make people aware of the importance of these landscapes and to encourage their owners to protect their special character during ongoing management or when considering significant changes to their layout. Inclusion on the Register brings no additional statutory controls, but there is a presumption in favour of the conservation of all designated assets in the planning system. Local authorities are required to consult English Heritage on applications for change on sites registered at grade I or II\*, and the Garden History Society on sites of all grades.

The Register was established in the 1980s but is still evolving. There are now 1,606 registered sites across England. They range from private gardens and country estates to public parks, burial grounds and city squares. Amongst the new designations during 2009/10 were an Arts & Crafts garden, an example of post-war town centre landscaping by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, and the local authority cemetery in Tewkesbury.

Registered parks and gardens were first added to the Heritage at Risk Register in 2009. For this purpose, English Heritage developed a suite of indicators to describe the kinds of change – whether benefiting or detrimental – that were facing individual registered parks and gardens. The survey also identified cases of neglect and noted those situations in which a registered site was benefitting from a formal programme of conservation planning.

In that first year, some 6% of sites were assessed as being at risk, most of them with their condition actively deteriorating. The pattern of threat seemed to be similar across the country, and it was also apparent that grade I and II\* parks and gardens were just as vulnerable to change and neglect as their grade II counterparts. Many of these sites are large and complex and can include numerous listed buildings, terraces, walls and ornaments within their precincts as well as scheduled monuments. A significant proportion have also been split up and are now in a multiple ownership that makes the implementation of a systematic conservation plan very difficult. In our 2009 report we therefore acknowledged that it would take a significant amount of time for the owners and managers of such sites to fully analyse the

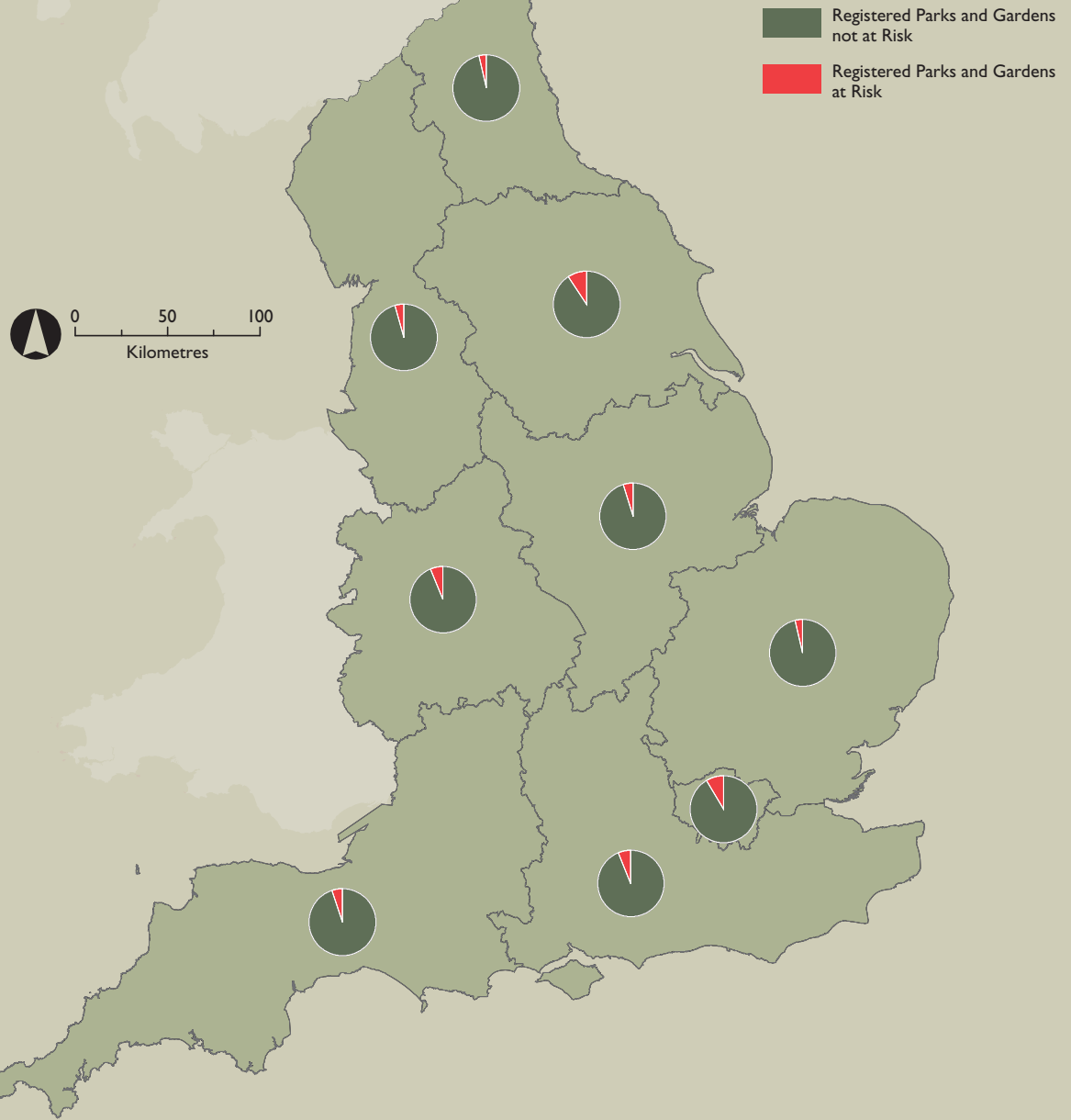
problems facing them and identify practical and affordable solutions, especially in the difficult economic climate that then prevailed.

It comes as no surprise that there has been little change in the overall percentage of sites at risk between 2009 and 2010. While positive progress to improve their condition has allowed 2 parks and gardens to be removed from the at risk Register, another 5 have had to be added because of the problems they are now experiencing. Altogether, 99 registered park and gardens are currently at risk compared to 96 in 2009.

## REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS AT RISK BY REGION

REGION	Total registered	Grade I at risk	Grade II* at risk	Grade II at risk	Total at risk	% at risk by region
EAST MIDLANDS	136	2	4	1	7	5.1
EAST OF ENGLAND	211	1	2	5	8	3.8
LONDON	148	2	6	6	14	9.5
NORTH EAST	53	0	2	0	2	3.8
NORTH WEST	130	0	2	4	6	4.6
SOUTH EAST	368	1	7	16	24	6.5
SOUTH WEST	293	0	6	10	16	5.5
WEST MIDLANDS	150	0	2	8	10	6.7
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	117	1	3	8	12	10.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>99</b>	
PERCENTAGE AT RISK		5.1%	8.0%	5.6%	6.2%	

## REGIONAL PROPORTIONS OF REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS AT RISK



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### Seaton Delaval, Northumberland

Tucked away on the doorstep of Newcastle, Seaton Delaval Hall is an outstanding baroque house built by Sir John Vanbrugh for Admiral George Delaval. The principal building was devastated by fire in 1822 and its 140-hectare landscape park has also declined over time. In 2009 the National Trust acquired the estate in the wake of a major public funding appeal. Management by the National Trust will allow a proper study of the garden bastions, mausoleum and obelisks that are a feature of the park. Conservation and repair of the landscape will be carried out with a strong emphasis on education and training and the involvement of volunteers. Individual projects will include restoring the walled kitchen garden to productive use and managing tree and scrub cover to improve the setting of key features such as the mausoleum.



## Flintham Hall Conservatory, Nottinghamshire

In 1853-59 an extravagant full-height conservatory was added when Flintham Hall was remodelled in the Italianate style. The structure is an early domestic example of the highly engineered greenhouse built by Decimus Burton at Kew and by Joseph Paxton for the 1851 Great Exhibition. As a result of poor 1990s' renovation, the cast iron is failing catastrophically. Moisture has penetrated the wall heads and condensation has led to significant disintegration of the stonework. Routine jobs such as clearing gutters is difficult and maintenance costs have increased. English Heritage has undertaken an initial inspection of the structure and advised specialist assessment. As a result, some of the defective stonework has been replaced but a comprehensive project to repair the cast-iron structure is now urgently needed.



## Castle Howard, North Yorkshire

The Castle Howard Conservation Management Plan, completed in 2009 with a £45,000 grant from English Heritage, was a joint winner of the Heritage prize at last year's RTPI Planning Awards. The judging panel praised the plan as ground-breaking for its coverage of the socio-economic realities of management and felt that it provided a model for other plans. With our support the Estate has since secured £1 million from Natural England for the repair of a major landscape feature, the Stray Walls, and is drawing up a brief to tackle the management of the iconic Avenue. The Estate is also working with the local authority on its emerging Local Development Framework as a means to secure a more strategic approach to the Estate's economic viability. Castle Howard maintains more than 200 listed and scheduled features and has 20% of the district's high-grade listed buildings.



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# Healing the damage

It is only by thoroughly understanding the nature of the challenges facing individual parks and gardens that we are able to work out effective conservation solutions – those that on the one hand ensure their long-term survival and on the other are compatible with the operational requirements and budgets of their owners.

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Approximately half of the 99 registered parks and gardens that are currently at risk are suffering from significant extensive problems – in other words their overall character and significance is under immediate threat. In the remainder of cases the problems, though still serious, are more localised and thus potentially easier to deal with.

As in 2009, the cases that are causing us greatest concern are those that are most seriously affected by the continuing economic recession – either because major development proposals essential to the long-term economic stability of the site have been frozen or repair budgets have evaporated. Looking ahead, unavoidable pressure on public-sector budgets is likely to have very damaging consequences for the many public parks and gardens that have only recently been restored with the aid of Heritage Lottery Fund and other grants. We also anticipate that many neglected cemeteries will deteriorate still further unless their local authority owners can identify creative ways of generating support for their upkeep and repair.

This year's Heritage at Risk survey has again highlighted the conservation management challenges arising from split ownership. No fewer than 68% of at risk sites are in multiple ownership – often a complex mix of corporate, private and local authority holdings. Ownership problems of this kind tend to be most frequent in the south of England. It is also notable that the majority of registered parks and gardens at risk owned by corporate organisations are in the London and South East regions.

English Heritage wants to secure a long-term

reduction in the number of registered parks and gardens at risk, but recognises that many will require considerable time to make a real difference. We are also starting to look at cemeteries, a class of sites that are experiencing very particular problems of their own. As well as working with owners to find the best ways of ensuring the survival of these very special places, we are using Heritage at Risk to establish priorities for our own grants and guidance programmes. Other grant schemes, including Defra's Environmental Stewardship programme, are also using Heritage at Risk to target support.

Our specialist advisers are available to help owners plan what needs to be done and how to divide the work into a manageable sequence of projects. We continue to recommend conservation management plans as tools for looking after historic parks and gardens, but also recognise that some more localised problems can be tackled without the need for a comprehensive plan.

Just a year on from the launch of the first list of registered parks and gardens we are already seeing some encouraging progress. Examples include Grovelands Park, originally laid out by Humphry Repton and later developed as a public park by Thomas Mawson. The London Borough of Enfield has here started repair works. Not far away, a conservation management plan is being drawn up for the elaborate early 18th-century Wanstead Park in east London. And at Swaylands in Kent the local authority is using Section 106 agreements to help protect and conserve key features of this 19th-century terraced garden during redevelopment of the site for luxury homes.



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## Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey

This vast Victorian cemetery, more than 150 hectares in extent, is one of the largest in Europe. In 2009 it was upgraded to grade I status on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest on account of its exceptional historic and artistic significance. As a result, it is now one of only 35 grade I registered landscapes in South East England. Brookwood's huge size, wealth of monuments and multiple ownership have together combined to put its future at risk. Woking Borough Council and English Heritage have therefore offered to help the cemetery's owner to commission a Conservation Management Plan to guide this unique landscape to long-term safety.

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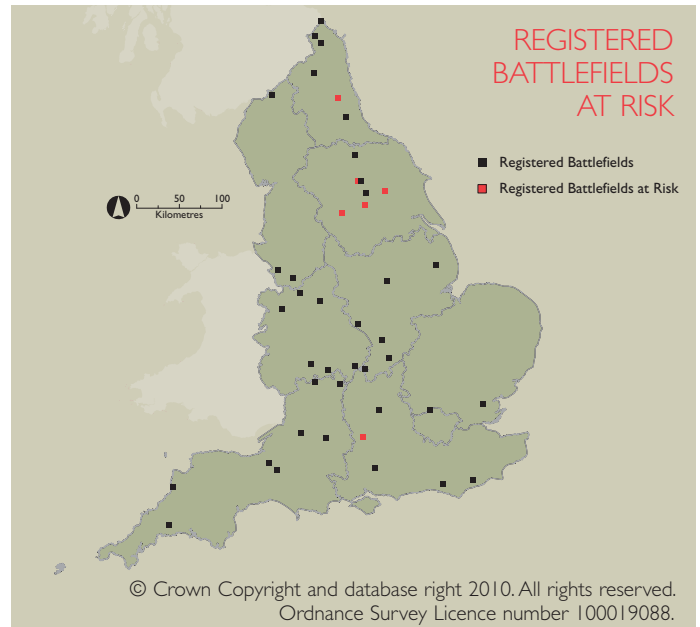
# BATTLEFIELDS AT RISK

The Register of Historic Battlefields comprises the sites of 43 of the most important military engagements on English soil. These were often the turning points of English history – places where people risked their lives fighting for a cause – but are vulnerable to many different modern-day pressures. They range in date from 991 (Maldon) to 1685 (Sedgemoor), representing many different phases in our history.

At first sight, registered battlefields have little to distinguish them from the surrounding countryside. They contain few surviving structures; their interest lying instead in their topographical position in the landscape, their archaeology and their significance as places of commemoration. They are rarely in the possession of a single owner and a registered battlefield can today be used for a wide range of purposes, from farming and forestry to housing and commercial business. The risks to a battlefield can accordingly come from many different sources.

Of England's 43 registered battlefields, 6 are considered to be at risk of losing some or all of their historical significance from the pressures of modern development – one less than a year ago. Since the publication of the 2009 Heritage at Risk Register, Langport (Somerset) has been removed from the at risk category following discussion with the local planning authority, which has now acknowledged the potential risk that new developments could have on the site.

Given the concentration of battlefields at risk in the North of England, English Heritage is funding a project to develop a detailed understanding of the condition, ownership and management circumstances of battlefields in the North East and Yorkshire and Humber regions. Once complete, this will not only help to unlock solutions for these individual sites but



battlefields elsewhere in England. On a wider national basis, English Heritage has been funding the Battlefields Trust to develop a network of 'custodian groups' for each battlefield. Many battlefields already benefit from the interest of local groups and this work seeks to provide stronger relations between these associations and encourage the formation of new groups where none yet exist.



## Flodden, Northumberland

In 1513, while Henry VIII was fighting the French in Northern France, a Scottish army, under James IV, invaded England from the north. He was met by a defensive force led by the Earl of Surrey and the two armies clashed on 9 September. It was a bitter battle in which 16,000 men died, three-quarters of them Scottish. Although the field of combat is in a generally satisfactory condition, it is affected by some significant localised problems. In advance of the quincentenary of the battle, therefore, a partnership has been forged between Lord Joicey, owner of the battlefield, and Natural England, which is looking to develop a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme to cover the entire site. In parallel, an English Heritage grant will this year help local community groups draw up a plan of action to improve and maintain a poignant site that marks a watershed in the histories of both England and Scotland.

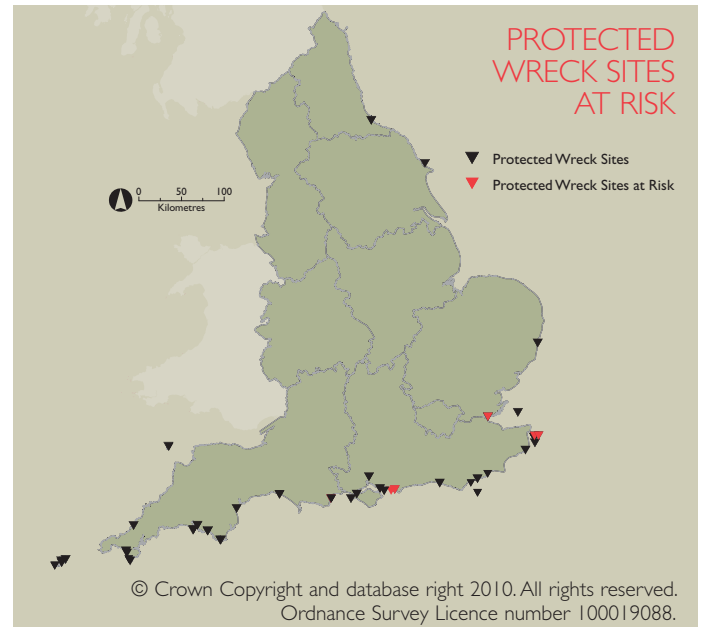
# SHIPWRECKS AT RISK

More than 32,000 sunken ships are known to lie in England's territorial sea, a legacy of more than 4,000 years of maritime trade, exploration and warfare. Of these just 46 enjoy the protection of the law – a tiny proportion that in turn face the pressures of the natural elements and commercial exploitation of the seabed. Their survival depends on sound management and the shared commitment of all the users of the seabed.

The density of shipwreck-remains in the English territorial sea is among the highest in the world but very few of them have been properly excavated and recorded. They are nevertheless of enormous importance for the stories they can tell about our island past, their association with famous people or events, their potential as repositories of scientific evidence about past environments, and their symbolic memory for local communities.

Wrecks are vulnerable to both environmental and human impacts. Because they are often in remote locations, their management can be challenging – and changes to their condition are difficult to anticipate. In 2010 English Heritage once again audited all 46 designated wreck sites to better understand their condition and vulnerability. As a result, eight sites (17%) were deemed to be most at risk and are included on the national Heritage at Risk Register – a reduction of one since 2009. As a result of monitoring work funded by English Heritage it has been possible for the site of the *Royal Anne* galley to be removed from the Register. The causes of risks to the remaining sites range from unauthorised access to erosion and fishing damage.

Underwater sites are more difficult to manage than their terrestrial counterparts. The risks to protected wreck sites can nevertheless be lessened through relatively simple and inexpensive expedients such as the provision of marker buoys or better communication with local maritime interest groups. However, some sites



require more significant investment, either to stabilise their condition or to allow detailed archaeological recording of their structures and contents.

The only way in which the majority of these irreplaceable sites can be passed safely on to the future is through close co-operation between their owners (where known), authorised divers, other seabed operators and the various public bodies responsible for the care of our marine and coastal environment.



## Submarine HMS/m AI, Eastern Solent

Built by Vickers in 1903, the AI was the first British-designed and built submarine used by the Royal Navy. She sank for the second time in 1911 while operating under automatic pilot as a submerged target. The site, which has been designated under the terms of the Protection of Wrecks Act since 1998, has recently been subject to unauthorised access by fishermen whose shellfish pots are liable to cause abrasive damage to the fragile remains over which they have dropped. In addition a crack in the conning tower has resulted in the archaeological significance of the structure being put at risk. In 2009 the threat to the site was increased still further through the reported placing of yet more pots, since then English Heritage has been working with a number of local stakeholders to find a negotiated means of reducing the risk.



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# Publications and guidance

English Heritage has produced the following publications relating to heritage at risk, including:

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*Buildings at Risk: a New Strategy* (1998)

*Caring for Places of Worship 2010* – a report on the condition of England's listed places of worship and the needs of the congregations

*Heritage at Risk: Conservation Areas* (2009)

*Heritage at Risk 2010* – national report and summaries for each of our nine regions: East Midlands, East of England, London, North East, North West, South East, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber

*Heritage at Risk Register 2010* – detailed listings for each of our nine regions: East Midlands, East of England, London, North East, North West, South East, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber can be downloaded from our website or viewed as an interactive database: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk)

*Monuments at Risk* (2008) – summary of scheduled monuments at risk in each of our nine regions: East Midlands, East of England, London, North East, North West, South East, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber

*Protected Wreck Sites at Risk: A Risk Management Handbook* (2007)

*The Monuments at Risk initiative 2003-08* (2010)

## HERITAGE AT RISK ON THE WEB

To find out more about the Heritage at Risk programme visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk) where you will find an interactive database providing detailed information on all heritage sites at risk nationally.

For further information about the different classes of designated heritage assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields and protected wreck sites visit the Heritage Protection section of our website [www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritageprotection](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritageprotection)

## CONSERVATION POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

The following publications are among the numerous helpful guidance documents now available on our website: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications) or [www.english-heritage.org.uk/helm](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/helm)

*Caring for Places of Worship* (2010) – a practical booklet for everyone involved in caring for England's listed places of worship.

*Constructive Conservation in Practice* (2008)

*Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008)

*Creativity and Care: New Works in English Cathedrals* (2009)

*Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places* (2008)

*Farming the Historic Landscape: Caring for Archaeological sites on Arable Land* (2004)

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