



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT RISK

2014



EAST OF ENGLAND

# HERITAGE AT RISK

Heritage at Risk is our campaign to save listed buildings and important historic sites, places and landmarks from neglect or decay. At its heart is the Heritage at Risk Register, an online database containing details of each site known to be at risk. It is analysed and updated annually and this leaflet summarises the results.

Over the past year we have focused much of our effort on assessing listed Places of Worship, and visiting those considered to be in poor or very bad condition as a result of local reports.

We now know that of the 14,775 listed places of worship in England, 6% (887) are at risk and as such are included on this year's Register. These additions mean the overall number of sites on the Register has increased to 5,753. However, 575 sites have been removed from the 2013 Register, which includes one of our biggest achievements this year, Clophill Old St Mary's Church.

**Greg Luton**, Planning and Conservation Director, East of England

Over the last year 16 buildings or structures, 27 places of worship, 12 conservation areas, 9 archaeological entries and 1 park and garden have been saved and removed from the Register.

We have also visited and assessed over 350 places of worship to help target advice and support towards those most at risk; as well as providing expert technical advice to the Heritage Lottery Fund under the Grants for Places of Worship Scheme which has helped remove 27 listed places of worship from the East of England Register this year.

Positive progress has been made on 9 of our top ten priority sites over the last year; with 3 of them, Langham Trainer Dome, Clophill Old Church and Pentney Priory Gatehouse removed from the Register this year. Many buildings and structures have been rescued following successful partnerships with private owners, trusts and other funding bodies including Natural England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and WREN (landfill tax distributor), with £1.7m of English Heritage grant spent assisting 21 heritage sites in the East. Grants have also been offered to 4 new urgent cases needing repair this year including Sibton Abbey, Drinkstone Mill, Barnham nuclear bomb store, Suffolk and Hopton on Sea old church, Norfolk. We have also funded repairs being undertaken to ruined parts of St Osyth's Priory, Essex.

Wisbech, known as the Capital of the Fens and a particularly fine and historic Georgian Market town and port, has been subject to close partnership working with the District Council and local community to address a number of key architectural buildings at risk. We also helped support an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund

for a Townscape Heritage bid to help address some of these problem buildings as well as with regenerating the wider townscape newly identified as a conservation area at risk.

There are other challenges for the years ahead including Stow Maries airfield, Essex a uniquely well preserved WWI aerodrome, which was purchased for the nation with grants from English Heritage, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and local authority loans last year. Following assessment 10 of the 24 grade II\* listed buildings have been added to the Register and we are working closely with a new trust and their volunteers, local authorities and other stakeholders to conserve and repair the site.

Close co-operation with Natural England has been vital to help with our shared objectives for historic features and sites under agri-environment schemes with 10 sites on the Register removed this year including Euston Park, Suffolk, following works to de-silt and restore the lakes and water bodies. A challenge this year will be to help with targeting the New Environment Land Management Scheme which replaces the Stewardship Scheme in 2015.



**John Ette**,  
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

## FRISTON POST MILL, FRISTON, SUFFOLK

Friston Post Mill, the tallest surviving post mill in Britain, has been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 2006. It is one of just four post mills of the tall east Suffolk type to survive, and generally acknowledged as the most intact and tallest. The owner is working with English Heritage to formulate a repair strategy and is developing a community-led bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This would see the completed conservation and restoration of the whole site, and develop a community learning centre focused on mills and milling, and conservation workshops open to the public.

# 2014 REGISTER: EAST OF ENGLAND

**65** SITES REMOVED FROM THE 2013 REGISTER

**£1.7M**  
**21 SITES**



## WHAT'S ON THE HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER?



**39**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**AREAS** (4.4%)

NATIONAL AVERAGE

EAST OF ENGLAND

IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND THERE ARE...



4.0%



2.8%

**95**  
BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES



6.0%



4.9%

**115**  
PLACES OF WORSHIP



15.2%

11.9%

**207**  
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS



5.7%



2.8%

**6**  
PARKS & GARDENS  
...ON THE REGISTER



## REMAINS OF AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY GATEHOUSE, PENTNEY, NORFOLK

### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Augustinian Priory at Pentney, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, St Mary and St Mary Magdalen, was founded around 1130 by Robert de Vaux and endowed with various properties including the manor of Pentney. It was one of at least seven monastic foundations situated in or adjacent to the Nar valley. Two others, including the associated Wormegay Priory, were of the Augustinian order. Being among the larger religious foundations in Norfolk, these were moderately wealthy. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries the site of the priory, with a water mill and the manor of Pentney, was granted to Sir Thomas Mildmay sometime after 1537.

In late November 2011 the building was roofless, and

the first floor structure and vault over the carriageway and the upper parts of the two internal supporting walls had collapsed. As a result, the outer walls had lost structural integrity. Parapets and upper masonry were all in precarious condition, with strong likelihood of further collapse. Some internal scaffolding had previously been erected in an attempt to brace the external walls, but the central gate passage was buried in places by up to 2 metres of collapsed material.

### IS IT AT RISK?

Pentney Priory Gatehouse was on the Buildings at Risk Register from 1998. It was removed this year following a significant scheme and two phases of repair. In January 2012, a Project Development grant was offered from English Heritage. Work began immediately, project managed by the owner, on the erection of internal and external scaffolding, and a temporary roof. At the same time, an archaeological brief was agreed and the excavation of collapsed stonework began under close archaeological supervision.

### WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Phase 2 repair works were confined to imperative external and internal structural repairs, high and low level masonry, and the provision of a roof. This has restored structural integrity to the upper sections of the medieval stonework, ensured adequate rainwater disposal and prevented further loss of internal surfaces and finishes. The owners undertook further works in order to bring the building back into use as an events or wedding venue. All works were completed by December 2013.

## HELP HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic buildings are irreplaceable; they give us our sense of place and contribute to our quality of life. These precious buildings need to be looked after for future generations, but how do we know what needs our help the most? English Heritage is encouraging community groups, volunteers, building owners and local authorities across the country to come together to record the condition of grade II listed buildings in their area. Volunteers will visit a selection of grade II buildings local to them and answer questions, in the form of a survey, about the condition of the building. This information will be collected together and shared with local planning authorities to help identify those grade II buildings most at risk. Visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk/help/historicbuildings](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/help/historicbuildings) to find out more.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

John Ette  
English Heritage  
East of England  
Brooklands  
24 Brooklands Avenue  
Cambridge  
CB2 8BU

Telephone: 01223 582 700

Email: [eastofengland@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:eastofengland@english-heritage.org.uk)



### LANGHAM AIRFIELD DOME TRAINER, LANGHAM, NORFOLK

#### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The intriguing structure of Langham Dome has a diameter of 40 feet and a height of 25 feet. The concrete is 4.5 inches thick, over a steel framework and supported by a steel lattice set within the concrete. Externally, it was only protected by a light render, and the interior was plastered.

Inside, a white lined interior formed a screen onto which moving pictures of aircraft were projected. A mock gun, with a yellow beam and realistic sound effects was used by the trainee to aim at and shoot the targets. The trainee, who wore yellow tinted goggles, could not see the beam,

but the trainer could, in order to judge how well the trainee was performing.

The dome was only in use for the second half of the second world war and has deteriorated steadily since the closure of the airfield. The concrete had carbonated and no longer gave protection to the main reinforcing steelwork, which had begun to rust and expand, thereby breaking the concrete and allowing further water penetration. This led to extensive rusting internally and the failing of the plasterwork. All services and equipment were missing.

The dome was gifted to the North Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust in 2008. The Friends of Langham Dome was established in 2010. The two groups proceeded to work in partnership towards the restoration of the dome.

#### IS IT AT RISK?

No. Langham Dome was on the Heritage at Risk Register from 1998 to 2013. The conservation and restoration works have been completed and the dome has been removed from the Register this year. The repair and preservation of rusting ferro-concrete structures is a highly technical and specialist business, but it has been successfully achieved at Langham Dome to an exemplary standard.

#### WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

The Trust applied to English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund for grants. A development phase grant was awarded by HLF in 2011 and a delivery phase grant was awarded in 2013 for £446,000. £200,000 was awarded from English Heritage and £46,000 in partnership funding from The Coastal Sustainability Fund, North Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council, Architectural Heritage Fund and the Paul Bassham Trust. Thanks to the partnership funding, this complex and unusual project was completed. Langham Dome is now open as an educational and memorial centre, focusing on the history of the airfield and the Dome and in memory of the men and women who were stationed there.

Find out what's at risk by searching or downloading the online Heritage at Risk Register at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/har](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/har)

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our customer services department on telephone: 0870 333 1181 fax: 01793 414926 textphone: 01793 414878 email: [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)