



ENGLISH HERITAGE

HERITAGE AT RISK

2014

SOUTH EAST



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, the removal of 14 scheduled monuments.

Andy Brown, Planning and Conservation Director, South East

2014 has been a successful year for Heritage at Risk (HAR) in the South East. Our local Register reflects this, with notable successes in removing scheduled monuments and a wreck from our list reflecting our ongoing work with internal and external partners. We are also pleased to report, for fans of Downton Abbey, that London Lodge on the Highclere Estate, has been fully repaired, re-used, and removed from our Register.

Although it may not appear so, the large number of places of worship that have been added to the Register this year, also indicates success. We have been working with church groups, to carry out an audit of the condition of their listed places of worship. As a result, many church groups have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) 'Grants for Places of Worship' scheme, for which our architects provide the HLF with technical and professional advice.

Other additions to the Register this year typify some of the unique buildings and problems which characterise the South East. We were all saddened to have to include another south coast pier to our tally, following the recent devastating fire at Eastbourne. Our cover picture, showing Yaverland Battery on the Isle of Wight, illustrates another issue with which we often grapple - the care, repair and re-use of Victorian military structures.

There has been, however, some progress in addressing the problems of military sites. The former RAF Bicester site is one of our top ten priority sites. Following some recent changes in ownership, and the hard work of the local authority, we are delighted to be able to remove the RAF Bicester conservation area from the Register,

as it is no longer at risk from inappropriate development. We are now working with the owners of the former Technical Site to begin conserving the scheduled structures which remain at risk.

We have been using a thematic approach in the Portsmouth Harbour area, where the local authorities, with our assistance, are addressing heritage at risk and economic regeneration through the thoughtful re-purposing of some of the area's most endangered heritage assets. Elsewhere, we have seen significant strides forward with new and existing owners, by the focused application of our expertise in solving the issues common to at risk sites – funding, consents, legal matters, repair strategies and appropriate re-use.

There are, of course, many more sites and success stories to mention than this brief overview of our year's work will allow. However, you will get a further flavour of these through the case studies on the following pages, and in the 2014 Register. It will also show, I hope, how much we value and rely on the continued opportunities we have to work in close partnership with a wide variety of other bodies to reduce risk to the rich and varied historic environment of the South East.

Clare E. Charlesworth

Clare Charlesworth,
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

YAVERLAND BATTERY, SANDOWN, ISLE OF WIGHT

Yaverland Battery on the Isle of Wight is a Royal Commission coastal battery completed in 1864 with some later alterations. It is currently located within a holiday park. In early 2014, English Heritage was contacted with a report that the loop-holed outer wall of the battery, that lies in the protective ditch surrounding it, had collapsed. This happened following some earth removal and the severe storms experienced during the Christmas period. The battery has subsequently been added to our Heritage at Risk Register. We are working with the site owners and managers to develop a repair strategy.

2014 SOUTH EAST REGISTER: SOUTH EAST

30 SITES REMOVED FROM THE **2013** REGISTER

£317k
16 SITES



WHAT'S ON THE HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER?

63
CONSERVATION
AREAS (4%)

4
WRECKS

1
BATTLEFIELD

NATIONAL AVERAGE

SOUTH EAST

IN THE SOUTH EAST THERE ARE...


4.0%



2.2%

91
BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES



6.0%



5.1%

116
PLACES OF WORSHIP


15.2% **9.9%**

263
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS


5.7%


6.5%

24
PARKS & GARDENS
...ON THE REGISTER



BESBURY LANE BOWL BARROW AND SHIPTON BARROW, WEST OXFORDSHIRE

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Two barrows separated by only 6 miles but over 2,500 years of history have both been preserved thanks to partnership working between the owners, Natural England and English Heritage. Volunteers, with the ongoing co-operation of the landowners, will help to ensure their future. Both barrows are burial mounds. Most examples of bowl barrows belong to the period 2400-1500 BC. They were constructed as earthen or rubble mounds, sometimes ditched, which covered single or multiple burials. Besbury bowl barrow may have also been used for burials in the early medieval period. It was planted with what are now impressive trees in the 19th century to create an enhanced landscape feature.

At Shipton, the monument comprises two barrows separated by over 2,500 years; a bowl barrow and a hlaew. Of Anglo-Saxon or Viking date, a hlaew is also a burial monument, comprising a hemispherical mound of earth and redeposited bedrock constructed over a primary burial or burials.

It was the badger activity on the hlaew that was the major concern at Shipton, as at Besbury. Only approximately 60 hlaews have been positively identified

in England. The Shipton hlaew is a particularly well preserved example.

IS IT AT RISK?

Both sites were removed from the Heritage at Risk Register this year. Besbury Bowl Barrow was on the Register since 2009 and Shipton Barrow since 2011.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Without the partnership working between English Heritage, Natural England and the owners, much of the archaeological information contained would have been lost. Funding and licensing of works to protect the barrows was provided by Natural England, under the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. Licensing ensured that badgers were not harmed by the works to prevent them from burrowing into the monuments.

Vegetation was cleared and then a mesh was pinned over the barrows. One way gates were fitted over the badger entrances. This allowed the badgers to leave the barrows but not to re-enter. Whilst the initial works were largely successful, in each case a determined badger has gained access! Further works are soon to take place once a new license has been issued.

To ensure the long term preservation of the barrows, arrangements are being made between the owners and the Volunteer Rangers at the Cotswold AONB. Volunteers will monitor the sites and clear vegetation. At Besbury the beech trees were left as they are now mature and have probably caused all the damage they are likely to whilst growing. The trees also make an impressive contribution to the landscape. They will be monitored for any signs of instability, and monitoring for badgers will be undertaken. These monitoring and management arrangements are being facilitated by English Heritage.

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 to find out more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clare Charlesworth
English Heritage
South East
Eastgate Court
195-205 High Street
Guildford
GU1 3EH
Telephone: 01483 252 000

Email: southeast@english-heritage.org.uk



PELHAM ARCADE, HASTINGS, EAST SUSSEX

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

This interesting grade II* listed building was built between 1823-5 on the instructions of Thomas Pelham, 2nd Earl of Chichester. Pelham saw the potential for commercial development on his land in the growing popular seaside resort of Regency Hastings, which competed with the fashionable resorts of both Brighton and Margate.

Originally named the Bazaar, the arcade was the first phase of Joseph Kay's design to be built and it rapidly became known as Pelham Arcade. The shopping arcade was an important part of Regency town design and followed a fashion introduced by John Nash from Paris. Pelham Arcade is a crescent-shaped semi subterranean arcade of shops that sits at the foot of Castle Hill cliff. The arcade was part of an overall design that included St Mary in the Castle and Pelham Crescent. The arcade was originally internally facing with a series of 11 small stalls lining

either side of the building. The central walkway was lit by a wooden and glass panelled roof lantern light. In the 1860s, the arcade began to be modified to open up the southern range of stalls to the street. By 1881, Gothick shop fronts had been added to two bays of the façade. In the early 20th century the original façade and internal plan of the southern arcade was lost and the arcade is now a series of individual outwardly facing shops with varying modern shop front designs.

IS IT AT RISK?

Yes. Pelham Arcade was first added to the Heritage at Risk Register in 2011. Since the days of the fashionable Regency resort, the arcade has now become an eyesore for Hastings. The building was upgraded to grade II* status in 2011 in recognition of its importance as an example of early town planning and the rarity of its survival as a semi-subterranean arcade.

Much of the lantern light has been covered in different materials and is badly damaged, causing water ingress to the shops below. Further water ingress problems have been caused by the access road to St Mary in the Castle and the Pelham Crescent properties. The roof/road has been patchily repaired over the years and has suffered damage through the use of heavy motor vehicles, for

which the original carriageway was not designed.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

English Heritage has been working closely with Hastings Borough Council since early 2010. A joint grant scheme has been made available to the owners of the individual shops in order to address urgent repair works to the lantern light and to restore the 19th century rusticated façade. The scheme also includes fitting new shop fronts in a Gothick style, to make a more unified appearance.

Much progress has been made with grant-aided repair works to the lantern light and other urgent repairs at several units, including 6, 7 and 8. Work here was completed in late summer 2014 and this part of the arcade is now open as the café to St Mary in the Castle. The café also acts as the entrance to St Mary in the Castle, with access through an underground passage. Grant offers have also been made to two other owners, but works have not yet begun on site. Hastings Borough Council has been working hard to encourage the remaining owners to join the scheme so that the repaired arcade can once again be a proud focal point for the seaside resort of Hastings.

Find out what's at risk by searching or downloading the online Heritage at Risk Register at 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