



ENGLISH HERITAGE

HERITAGE AT RISK

2014

SOUTH WEST



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 Walronds, Cullompton, Devon.

Andrew Vines, Planning and Conservation Director, South West

In the past year we have made considerable progress in reducing risks to heritage assets in the South West, removing 146 entries from the 2013 Heritage at Risk Register for positive reasons.

Grant funding remains the overwhelming means of removing assets from the Register. During the past year £1.2m in English Heritage grants was spent on 73 entries in the South West. However, the cost of reducing the risks to heritage assets still on the Register is substantially more than this. Therefore, working with partners will continue to be central to our strategy for reducing heritage at risk. Using this approach notable successes this year include the Walronds and the Trinity Arts Centre in Bristol, where relatively small amounts of English Heritage funding to produce feasibility studies enabled more substantial funds to be released for these projects by others, particularly the Heritage Lottery Fund.

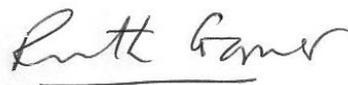
The majority of the entries removed from the Register are scheduled monuments. Funding from Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme achieved 69 of our 125 archaeological successes, particularly in rural environments. In addition, Environmental Stewardship funding for management plans and repair works has been responsible for both of the parks and gardens removals from the 2013 Register, at Kingston Maurward and St Giles' House, both in Dorset. We will continue to work closely with Natural England to try to sustain this level of success, through targeting the New Environmental Land Management Scheme which replaces Environmental Stewardship in 2015. English Heritage is commenting on the design of the successor scheme and we look forward

to seeing this also deliver similarly impressive solutions for rural monuments, designed landscapes and buildings at risk.

On-going assessment means that other sites continue to be added to the Register when they are identified as being at risk. Of the 181 additions to the Register this year, 125 are places of worship.

In contrast, 12 places of worship have been taken off the Register. This was achieved through the combined efforts of local congregations allied in most cases with grant funding. The former Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme, administered by English Heritage and jointly funded with the Heritage Lottery Fund has greatly helped. This has been replaced by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW). The importance of the GPOW programme in addressing repair cannot be overstated. The Heritage at Risk team provides technical advice to assist the Heritage Lottery Fund in its management of GPOW grants.

The enthusiasm, dedication and commitment of owners, local communities, local authorities and funding providers all make a real difference. In the forthcoming year the Heritage at Risk team will continue to work with others to find sustainable futures for our most vulnerable heritage assets in the South West.



Ruth Garner,
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, EXETER

The grade I listed Church of St Thomas exemplifies all the problems of an urban church. Poor quality construction techniques and a lack of maintenance have led to the condition of the fabric becoming very bad. The roofs all need recovering and the plaster has had to be netted to prevent falling. English Heritage has been able to help out with an emergency repair grant. The parish is pursuing Heritage Lottery Fund funding to keep this important community building alive.

2014 SOUTH WEST REGISTER: SOUTH WEST

146 SITES REMOVED FROM THE 2013 REGISTER

£1.2m
73 SITES



WHAT'S ON THE HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER?

47
CONSERVATION AREAS [4%]



NATIONAL AVERAGE

SOUTH WEST

IN THE SOUTH WEST THERE ARE...



40%



3%

158

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES



60%



5.6%

163

PLACES OF WORSHIP



15.2% 18.8%

1,317
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS



5.7%



5.4%

16
PARKS & GARDENS

...ON THE REGISTER



THE WALRONDS, 6 FORE STREET, CULLOMPTON, DEVON

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

The Walronds is a grade I listed early 17th century town house whose interior contains features of exceptional importance such as ornamental plasterwork, panelling and fireplaces. It fell into decline in the later 20th century and was added to English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register in 2005. The Cullompton Walronds Preservation Trust (CWPT) was set up in 1997 and began efforts to find a new use for the building. At this time the building was in residential use, having been subdivided into two units, both in private ownership. The Trust acquired the ownership of the whole of the building in December 2005. The Trust approached a number of different organisations in trying to secure the building's future before the Vivat Trust became actively involved in 2007, and a viable solution emerged. The successful scheme incorporates a Vivat Trust holiday flat

on the upper floors and community use of the building on the ground floor.

IS IT AT RISK?

The Walronds is no longer at risk. It was on the Heritage at Risk Register between 2005 and 2013.

The CWPT has shown exceptional persistence despite numerous funding setbacks and complications during the life of the project. It involved a highly complex funding package from a wide range of sources including an English Heritage grant of £579,000 and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £2million. An exceptional group of conservation specialists, most of whom are based in the South West, have been involved in the execution of the works. Throughout the exemplary repair project, the CWPT have championed educational access to the building allowing a wide appreciation of the range of craft skills required for its successful completion.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

The project was completed in spring 2014, and the opening ceremony took place in June 2014.

The completion of the project has helped raise the profile of Cullompton town centre and is a key milestone in its regeneration. The repair of the Walronds will help to improve the condition of the Cullompton Conservation Area, which is itself at risk.

The project has coincided with the advent of a Town Team created to boost the economic fortunes of the town centre and the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. These community initiatives are now looking to embrace the town's heritage in future schemes.

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.

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WARBSTOW BURY CAMP, CORNWALL

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

This large, well preserved hillfort is located on a high commanding spur at the head of two tributaries to the River Ottery. The hillfort is defined by two massive concentric and widely spaced ramparts, enclosing an area of approximately 7.5 hectares. Near the centre is a long low mound, possibly a medieval pillow mound (an earth mound used for keeping rabbits), known as the Giant's Grave.

25 years ago the monument was purchased by the former North Cornwall District Council. Scrub clearance and some realignment of



fencing to prevent sheep erosion.

IS IT AT RISK?

The monument was first included on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2011. Inappropriate grazing patterns had led to the development of heavy scrub growth on the rampart and bracken growth had increased massively, causing the condition of the interior of the hillfort to deteriorate. Animals trampling around a water trough set too close to the ramparts were also causing erosion.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

In 2012, Warbstow Bury entered into a Higher Level Stewardship

(HLS) agreement with Natural England to fund improved management of the hillfort. As a result, the environmental group The Conservation Volunteers have recently started work to restore the monument. Gorse has been cleared from the ramparts and livestock levels adjusted to reduce the threat of animal erosion. A section of fence has been moved out from the edge of the monument. This provides space for visitors to move around the site without walking on the earthworks. Bracken spraying took place in July 2013 to reduce damage caused by roots. Hard work still remains to be done, but the risk is already much reduced. With continued good progress, it is hoped that the site will soon be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register. After ten years in HLS, scrub and bracken levels should be reduced to a mere 10%. Carefully monitored and adjusted grazing will keep these invasive plants in check while at the same time ensuring there is no erosion to the earthworks.

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