

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

London Summary 2015



For the first time, we've compared all sites on the Heritage at Risk Register – from houses to hillforts – to help us better understand which types of site are most commonly at risk. There are things that make each region special and, once lost, will mean a sense of our region's character is lost too. Comparing London to the national Register shows that 80.2% of all commemorative monuments and 57.6% of all public buildings are in our region. There are 670 entries on the London 2015 Heritage at Risk Register, making up 12.2% of the national total of 5,478 entries. The Register provides an annual snapshot of historic sites known to be at risk from neglect, decay or inappropriate development. Our local HAR team, led by Rebecca Barrett, continues to work with owners, funders and other stakeholders to find the right solutions for sites on the Register.

Nigel Barker
Planning Director, London



Tackling heritage at risk is a real challenge – it requires imaginative solutions, strong partnerships and a great deal of determination. Given these challenges, we're delighted that 35 historic buildings and sites in London have been

removed from the 2014 Heritage at Risk Register. This is thanks to so many individuals, from volunteers to local authority staff, private owners to commercial developers.

One of our biggest achievements is the sensitive repair of Harmondsworth Barn in Hillingdon. Once described by Sir John Betjeman as the "Cathedral of Middlesex", the barn is an exceptional medieval building. After years of legal negotiations it is now cared for by English Heritage, and is well worth a visit.

The continuing support of the Heritage Lottery Fund has also been critical this year. The early 17th century stables at Eastcote House, which now host a range of community activities; and Raleigh Hall, now a heritage centre for the Black Cultural Archives in the heart of Brixton, are just two beneficiaries. Both sites have been removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.

Once again we're grateful to volunteers across London who helped us champion the historic environment.

Volunteers in Hounslow, for example, worked tirelessly through the winter months to assess the condition of all Grade II listed buildings in the borough. Their work will help focus resources on those buildings most in need of attention.

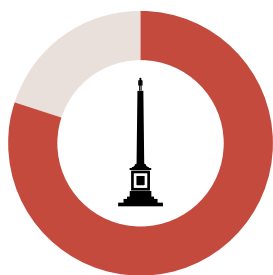
Despite our successes there are still significant challenges. 33 historic buildings and sites have been added to the Heritage at Risk Register this year. They range from an 18th century tithe barn to a 1920s factory building designed by Wallis, Gilbert and Partners. Another two cemetery monuments have also been added taking our tally to 93. **Cemeteries** therefore remain a priority for us.

Over the coming year we will continue to provide support and advice where we can, recognising that resources across the heritage sector are increasingly stretched. We will encourage local authorities to use the **legal tools** available to them to protect heritage assets, and will help find sustainable solutions to the numerous **public buildings** on our Register, many of which are no longer in use. We will also strive to protect **town centre conservation areas**, where the challenge is to accommodate significant growth in a positive way. We look forward to working with our partners to meet these challenges.

Rebecca Barrett
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Cover image: The six sphinxes that flank the terrace steps in **Crystal Palace Park** date from the mid-19th century. They were part of Sir Joseph Paxton's vision to create an ambitious landscape setting for the 'crystal palace'. In 1936 the 'palace' burnt down and years of under investment followed. The London Borough of Bromley and the Mayor of London have now committed £2.4 million to improve the Grade II* registered park. As part of this, the sphinxes will be conserved.

Entries on the 2015 national Register in **London**

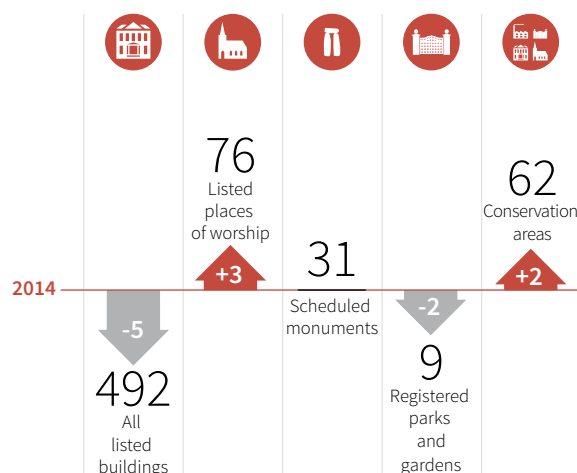


93 (80.2%)
Commemorative
monuments



34 (57.6%)
Public
buildings

Designated assets on the 2015 **London** Register



There are **620** assets on the **London** Register, four fewer than 2014

Garrison Church of St George **Greenwich**



Background and history

St George's Church was built in 1863 to serve the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich. It was an ambitious building, designed by Thomas Henry Wyatt in an Italianate style. Most impressive was the richly decorated interior, with mosaics, inlaid marble

and tiled inscriptions around the apse. The centrepiece was the mosaic of George and the Dragon, flanked by marble tablets commemorating artillery men awarded the Victoria Cross.

Sadly, much of the building was destroyed by a V2 flying bomb in 1944. Fortunately the apse with its rich decoration survived.

Is it at risk?

Now a roofless ruin, these decorative finishes have been exposed to the elements for 70 years. A temporary tin roof provided limited protection. As a result St George's was added to the Heritage at Risk Register in 2000.

What's the current situation?

In 2011 the site was acquired by Heritage of London Trust Operations (HOLT Ops). With funding from Historic England the mosaics have been meticulously conserved. The tiles were carefully cleaned and loose elements re-secured. The tops of the walls were also repaired to prevent water ingress. The mosaics are now protected by a permanent roof, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Despite this progress, there are still significant challenges. The decorative marble and tiles in the apse require urgent attention and further funding is needed. Historic England will continue to work closely with HOLT Ops and the Friends Group to secure these repairs, ensuring that St George's continues to serve the local community as a place of commemoration for years to come.

Harmondsworth Barn **Hillingdon**

Background and history

Built in 1427, Harmondsworth Barn is a medieval timber-framed building of huge proportions. It ranks alongside the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey given its exceptional architectural and historic importance.

For almost 600 years the barn remained in agricultural use. But in 2006 it was bought as a speculative investment and its condition deteriorated. Roof tiles started to slip and plants took root in the brick and stone plinth.

Is it at risk?

The barn was added to the Heritage at Risk Register in 2008.

Following lengthy negotiations the building was sold to English Heritage. Work started immediately on an ambitious restoration project. The vast roof was re-tiled with handmade clay peg tiles. Structural repairs were carried out to the timber frame and the rare medieval weatherboarding was sensitively conserved. Throughout the project there were opportunities for training in traditional building skills. With repairs complete,



Harmondsworth Barn was removed from the Heritage at Risk Register this year.

What's the current situation?

The barn is managed on a day-to-day basis by an active Friends Group. Open days allow visitors to appreciate its sheer scale and outstanding medieval carpentry.

Historic England Angel Awards

The Historic England Angel Awards were founded in 2011, co-funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. They celebrate local people's extraordinary efforts to save historic buildings and places. Over the past five years, the Angel Awards have showcased inspirational friends groups, communities, worshippers, owners and craftspeople.

From 2016, we'll be looking for projects that champion the historic environment in many ways. These could include:

- community action projects
- heritage research, survey or education projects
- heritage professionals
- lifetime achievements
- and of course, rescues of heritage sites

Shortlisted Angels will continue to be put to the vote in the ever-popular People's Favourite Award.

Look out for news at www.HistoricEngland.org.uk/AngelAwards

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Find out what's at risk by searching or downloading the online Heritage at Risk Register at:
HistoricEngland.org.uk/har