

# Heritage at Risk



Historic England

Yorkshire Summary 2016



**H**istoric England's Heritage at Risk Register provides an annual snapshot of the condition of England's historic sites. In Yorkshire the number of entries on our Register has fallen again, from 704 to 640, largely through continued progress in rescuing scheduled monuments. But rising repair costs and slow growth in property values have widened the funding gap for many of our buildings at risk. Textile mills are a prime example. The nine on the Register are the tip of the iceberg and a real challenge. But across the region our empty and underused mills, over 1,000 buildings, represent a vast opportunity for our economy. We believe that 150,000 jobs or 27,000 homes could be created if they were in full use. Our recent report *Engines of Prosperity: new uses for old mills* highlights best practice and creative ways that these iconic sites can be put back to work.

**Trevor Mitchell** Planning Director, Yorkshire



An important landmark has been reached this year. Since 2009 we have reduced the number of archaeological sites at risk by more than a half, from 744 to 364. This has been achieved with funding from Natural England alongside

key partnerships with the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. There is also good news for some of our larger monuments, with repairs completed at Barden Chapel on the Bolton Abbey estate and the Stray Walls at Castle Howard.

### **Textile industry of the West Riding**

Work is underway to fix the roofs of two of our textile mills at risk, Dalton Mills, Keighley and Waterloo Mill, Silsden. The repair and reuse of the 300 year-old First White Cloth Hall in Leeds has taken a step forward since the Council has completed an Options Appraisal and Conservation Management Plan part-funded by us.

### **Designed Landscapes of South Yorkshire**

Our grant aid has helped secure the removal of two important landscape features from the Register this year. In Sheffield the ornate iron gates and stone gate piers to Oakes Park have been saved. At High Melton we've funded the repair of the late 18th century ice

house within the grounds of High Melton Hall, now the University Centre Doncaster. There has also been further progress at Sheffield General Cemetery, where the Council has secured a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund that could lead to a £4 million restoration project. In support, Historic England provided advice and grant aid to investigate structural issues. The growing long-term repair needs at Wentworth Woodhouse have prompted us to put it back on the Register this year. A programme of urgent works is ongoing, but sadly the overall condition is in decline.

### **The Ancient Landscapes of the Wolds and Moors**

Repairs are nearing completion to save the 16th-century priory buildings at Watton Abbey, including a completely new roof, supported by our grant aid. We are currently helping to develop a scheme to repair the fragile chalk walls of Flamborough Castle. In the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty volunteers will have a key role to play in a new partnership we've launched to survey and repair scheduled monuments at risk.

### **South Yorkshire Metal Trades**

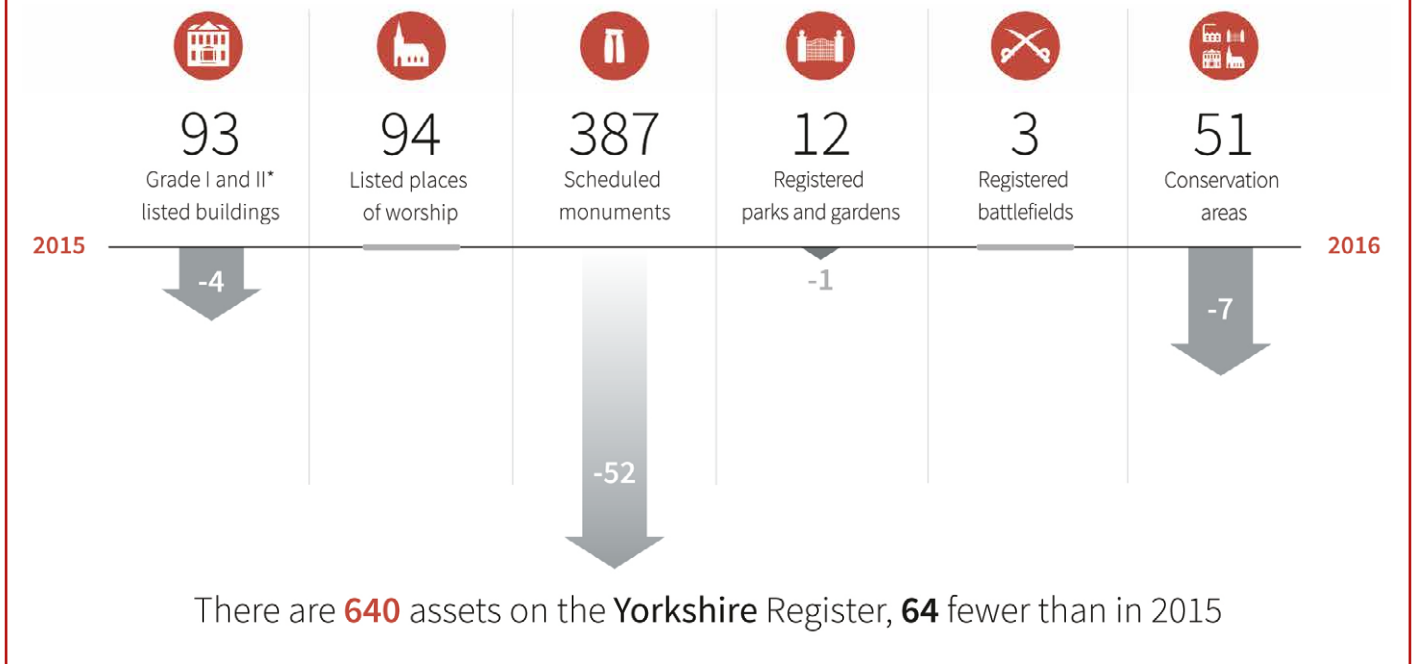
Works are now underway to repair the grade II\* listed Green Lane Works, whose clock tower is a landmark of Kelham Island. New extensions and adjacent new housing will continue the revitalisation of the conservation area.

**Craig McHugh** Acting Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

**Cover image:** Rising phoenix-like from years of dereliction and a serious fire, **Dalton Mills'** future is now looking bright under the care of its new owner. With an extensive programme of repairs underway, including repairs to the water tower and central roof pavilions which we are part-funding, this impressive grade II\* building is coming back to life. In its heyday over 2,000 people worked here producing worsted yarn. Today you are more likely to find film crews, ghost hunters and airsoft players making use of its atmospheric buildings while they are undergoing repair and refurbishment.



## Designated assets on the 2016 **Yorkshire Register**



## Oakes Park **Norton, Sheffield**



Skilled blacksmith Daniel Liggins repaired these ornate wrought iron gates from Oakes Park near Norton, Sheffield. We provided grant-aid to support the rescue of the grade II\* listed gates and gate piers which date from the early 18th and 19th centuries. The works, which also included tree management and the

replacement of ornamental urns and finials, have enabled their removal from the Heritage at Risk Register this year. The grade II\* registered park and garden remains at risk.

Oakes Park contains gardens and pleasure grounds extending over 100 acres. It was first laid out in the 18th century around The Oakes, a country house dating back further still to the 17th century. The park's

features include a terrace to the front of the house with sweeping views to the south, a kitchen garden and ha-ha separating the formal gardens from the parkland beyond. The house and park remained in the ownership of the Bagshawe family for 180 years until the mid-1980s when they were sold.

The main house and approximately 7 acres of parkland has now found a thriving new use as the Oakes Holiday Centre, which provides Christian holiday camps for young people. Ownership of the remainder of Oakes Park is now fragmented and the level of maintenance varies. To secure the long term future of the park, we hope to work with owners to develop a management plan covering the entirety of the site and to identify funding for further remedial and repair works.

# Waterloo Mill Engine House **Silsden, Bradford**

The most remarkable part of Waterloo Mill is also the most recent addition. The mill was built in the 1860s, but a new engine house was added in 1916 to contain a second-hand 1896 Scott & Hodgson inverted vertical cross compound steam engine, which was working until 1977. Most engines were sold for scrap when they became redundant so this one, with its apple green livery, is the last of its type. The baroque design of the engine house, its panelled interior lit by electricity from the start, is an eloquent testimony to the pride of Taylor Brothers, woollen yarn spinners, who operated the mill.



We are supporting the repair of the engine house with grant-aid. Work will include structural repairs to prevent

the collapse of the concrete flat roof, a new asphalt covering and repairs to the masonry and windows. The panelling will be repainted. A new staircase will give improved access to the interior, allowing visitors to savour the oily majesty of this unique survivor from the glory days of the West Riding woollen industry.

## 50th Anniversary of Conservation Areas

In 2017, Historic England will celebrate the 50th anniversary of conservation areas. These precious historic areas, from urban and industrial to rural and remote, create a strong sense of place and are likely to be what you think of when you think of special local character.

We'll carry out research into people's attitudes towards conservation areas and the challenges they

face in protecting them. We also plan to analyse local authorities' conservation area survey data to better understand what puts conservation areas up and down the country at risk. Finally, at a time when local authority resources are under pressure, we'll ask how local civic groups and organisations can become more involved to help safeguard conservation areas.

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