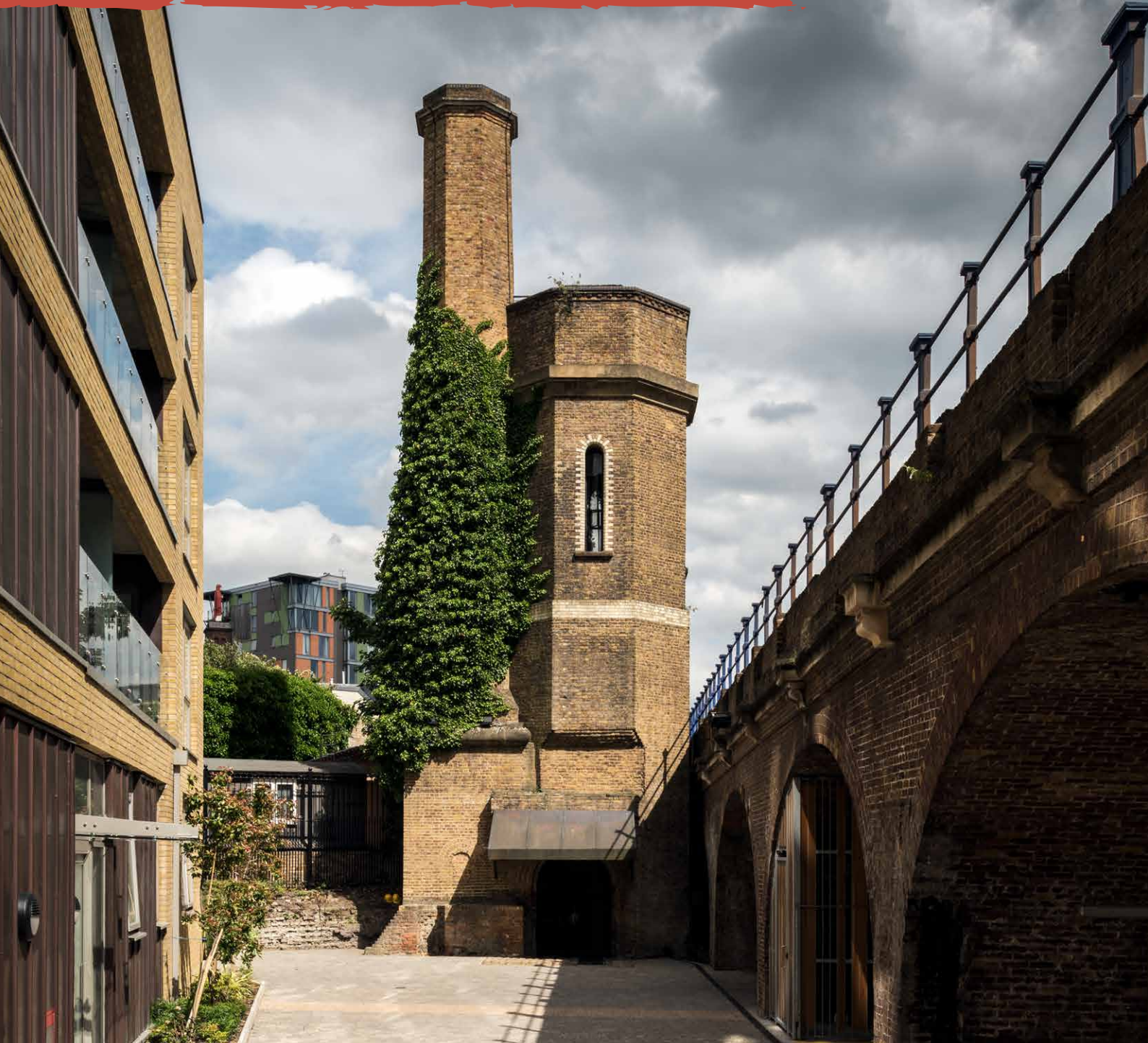


# Heritage at Risk



Historic England

London Summary 2017



**T**he Heritage at Risk Register is a tool to help understand the ‘health’ of London’s historic environment. It includes buildings and sites known to be at risk from neglect, decay or inappropriate development, helping to focus advice and support where it’s most needed. In London there are 683 sites on our Heritage at Risk Register – everything from the remains of a medieval moated manor house in Bromley, to a 1950s concrete sculpture on the Great West Road. Finding solutions to these sites isn’t easy, but we’re grateful for the support of all those who work tirelessly to protect our historic environment. Your efforts have helped to secure the future of 96% of buildings that appeared in our first published Register in 1991. We’re confident that by tackling heritage at risk, we will continue to contribute to the character and strength of our great capital city.

**Emily Gee** Planning Director, London



2017 has been another successful year, with 42 buildings and sites rescued and removed from the Heritage at Risk Register in London. Some of these successes showcase the capital’s finest architecture.

39 Charles Street, for example, is one of Mayfair’s best Georgian townhouses with a beautiful interior, including rare Chinese silks. Equally impressive is the grade II\* listed Commonwealth Institute, a striking 1960s building with a copper tent-like roof, now home to the Design Museum.

There have been inspiring stories too. One of these is Sandycombe Lodge, a villa in Twickenham with a unique connection to JMW Turner. Turner is one of England’s greatest painters, but his aspirations to pursue a career in architecture are less well known. Sandycombe was built in 1813 as a family retreat to Turner’s own designs. It is now owned by a charitable trust, and has been beautifully restored with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The house provides a tantalising glimpse into Turner’s architectural ambitions.

We’ve also discovered new stories and treasures through our work to tackle London’s cemetery monuments at risk. Two years ago we revealed that 80% of all commemorative monuments at risk nationally were

in London. Ten of these have been removed from the Heritage at Risk Register this year. They include an impressive mausoleum to a Peruvian nitrates magnate in St Mary’s Roman Catholic Cemetery, and a modest pedestal monument to the daughter of abolitionist Olaudah Equiano in Abney Park. We’re delighted that these monuments have been so carefully conserved.

Despite these successes our historic environment in London is still vulnerable. 45 buildings and sites have been added to our Heritage at Risk Register. These sites reflect the richness of London’s heritage – from a group of school huts built during the First World War for the children of workers at an adjacent munitions factory, to a grand church designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor in London’s East End. Also noteworthy is the addition of 12 conservation areas, where the challenge is to accommodate growth in a positive and characterful way.

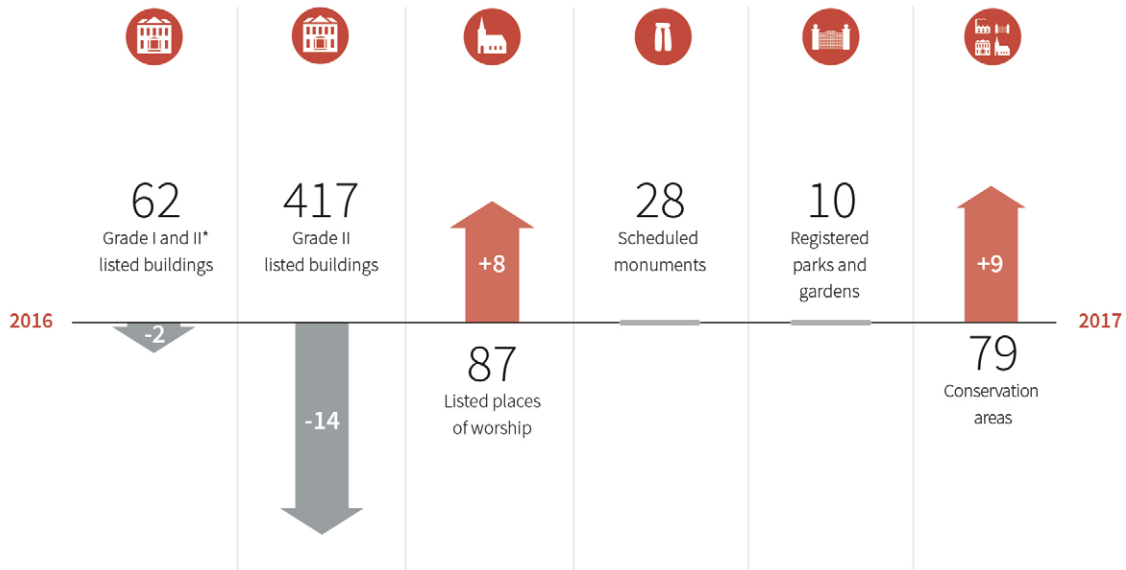
Finding solutions to these sites requires the imagination and support of all our partners – volunteers, local authorities, charitable organisations, private owners and commercial developers alike. But we know that tackling heritage at risk makes a valuable contribution to the wellbeing and vitality of our capital city and its diverse network of places and communities.

We look forward to working with you over the coming year to protect and champion London’s remarkable heritage.

**Rebecca Barrett** Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

**Cover image: The Accumulator Tower and Chimney, Limehouse** is a distinctive landmark in London’s East End, known to hundreds of commuters who pass it each day on the Docklands Light Railway. It was built in 1869 by William Armstrong, inventor of the hydraulic crane, and is the last surviving accumulator tower of three originally built in Regent’s Canal Dock (now Limehouse Basin). Some repairs were undertaken almost 30 years ago, but the tower is once again showing signs of decay – it is no longer watertight and vegetation is damaging the brickwork. The building has been added to the Heritage at Risk Register this year.

## Designated assets on the 2017 London Register



There are **683** assets on the **London Register**, just **1** more than in 2016

## Kensal Green Cemetery **Kensington and Chelsea**



Kensal Green is one of England's most beautiful and prestigious Victorian cemeteries. Designed by John Griffith, it opened in 1833 and quickly became the cemetery of choice for the great and the good of London society. The collection of impressive funerary monuments reflects this status.

saved seven from total collapse, most clustered around the Central Avenue of the cemetery, and six of these monuments have been removed from the Heritage at Risk Register this year.

One of these is for architect Henry Edward Kendall. Kendall won the competition in 1831 to design Kensal Green, but his ambitious Gothic vision for the cemetery was eventually overlooked. The elegant monument to Julia Slater has also been restored, with missing sections found in the undergrowth close by. For the first time in years the full scale of the monument can be appreciated.

Over 250,000 people have been laid to rest in Kensal Green Cemetery since it opened, and burials continue today. However, the upkeep of its landscape, set-piece buildings and monuments is a constant challenge. A growing number of its 153 listed monuments are in need of attention, and 33 were included on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2016.

With the help of the General Cemetery Company and Friends Group, Historic England has started to prioritise the repair of these monuments. A grant of £218,114 has

There were more surprises when the bricked-up doorway to the Perry/O'Brien mausoleum was unblocked, revealing a richly decorated interior. The marble altar, ornate doors and inlaid flooring were unexpected treasures which have been sensitively conserved.

Despite these successes, there is still more to do – the determination and imagination of all partners will be essential to preserve this magnificent cemetery for years to come.

# Second World War Fighter Pens **Former RAF Kenley**

Kenley aerodrome is the most complete surviving Battle of Britain airfield in England. It was fully operational by 1939 with space for two squadrons of 12 aircraft, including Spitfires and Hurricanes. The aircraft were housed in brick and concrete fighter pens dispersed around the perimeter of the site.

Kenley played a vital role throughout the Battle of Britain and the later London Blitz. Despite sustained aerial attacks, 11 of the original 12 fighter pens survive and are now protected as scheduled monuments. However, their condition has deteriorated, partly due to their wartime construction when materials were in short supply and often of poor quality. The surviving fighter pens were added to the Heritage at Risk Register in 2009.

Plans were soon underway to save the pens, led by the City of London, Kenley Airfield Friends Group and Historic England. On the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a large grant to help conserve the site and ensure that Kenley's story is better revealed and shared. Historic England contributed a further £15,000.



Repairs are now well underway, due to complete in Autumn 2017, and an imaginative calendar of events will help to keep the story of RAF Kenley alive for future generations.

## Caring for Conservation Areas

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of conservation areas. These come in all forms, from the quintessential English village to the urban heartland. They are united by a common theme – they are special places full of character and history, much loved by those who live and work in them. Because of their unique character they are also engines for economic regeneration and this is the key to tackling risk in many conservation areas.

This year we have added more conservation areas to the Register than have been removed. But it's also the year we launched Heritage Action Zones, many of which include conservation areas at risk where we will unlock economic potential with our partners over the coming years.

### For more information contact:

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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](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk/har)