

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

North East Summary 2017



Championing and protecting our local heritage is a constant balancing act. During 2016/17, four listed structures were removed from the local Heritage at Risk Register, including the halls at Hamsterley and Sockburn. It was fitting too that Saltburn's First World War memorial was repaired. Offsetting the good news, four structures were added to the Register, one being The Cooperage, Newcastle; a building rich in memories for many people. Fourteen archaeological sites lost their at risk status, several due to our national partnership initiative on bracken control. Promisingly, only seven archaeological sites were placed on the Register; however, eight places of worship were added too, with only one removed, neatly squaring the archaeological 'gain'. We contributed £336,000 grant aid towards repair projects in 2016/17. Importantly, our specialist expertise and advice helped people put together realistic projects to protect our local heritage so it continues to generate stories for everyone.

Carol Pyrah Planning Director, North East



This year, we've been telling the story of England in 100 places; special, inspiring historic places that shaped our nation and the world. They are our shared heritage and, even today, are witness to important events, but many need our help to survive.

sites during 2016/17. Additionally, grant aid from Historic England has allowed scrub and bracken encroachment to be tackled on upland monuments. Targeting such threats and mapping out future site maintenance are key elements in our local heritage at risk strategy.

2016/17 also saw a focus on historic urban cemeteries and we've encouraged local authorities to take enforcement action to challenge neglect. In Newcastle, the city council is working with us, and others, to identify much needed long-term solutions for several historic cemeteries. Hartlepool Council has used its statutory powers effectively too, combining such action with an innovation and skills regeneration project in the centre of Hartlepool. We've supported this action by providing specialist advice and backed it up financially by underwriting **Urgent Works** and **Repairs Notices**. We will continue to encourage all local authorities to take such action to protect our important local heritage.

So, a successful year, but we still face a daunting task. Many sites have been saved but twenty-one were added to the local 2017 Register, eight of which are places of worship. This year, our priorities will include encouraging positive change in communities through initiatives such as **Heritage Action Zones**. Relishing the challenge, we'll continue to work with partners to make sure our shared heritage, which shaped the past, continues to be special and inspiring long into the future.

Kate Wilson Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

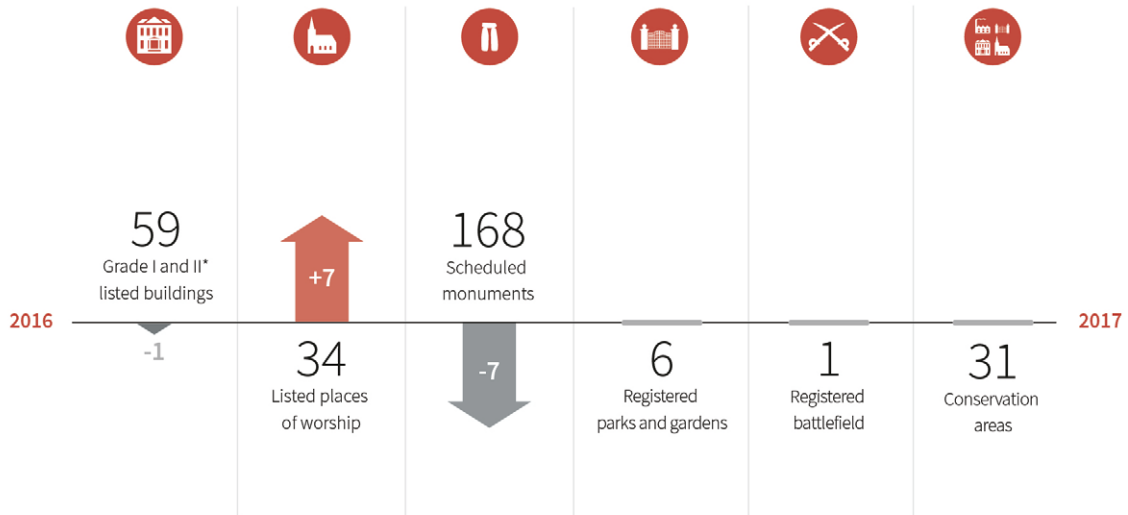
The Heritage at Risk Register provides a dynamic picture of historic places most at risk and in need of support. Promisingly, creative partnerships have removed twenty entries from our regional 2016 Register and reduced the risks affecting many other vulnerable sites across the North East.

A major achievement is the repair of **Sockburn Hall**, a family home that is once more habitable thanks to prolonged effort by the owners, the local authority and Historic England. Encouraging backing from local community groups and trusts continues to reap rewards at sites such as **Bowes Railway** and **Holy Trinity Church**, Sunderland. Both sites are improving appreciably as targeted grant aid from Historic England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund finances repair schemes.

Natural England's support to land managers and farmers through stewardship continues to deliver positive solutions for archaeology too, and improved the prospects of several

Cover image: The Shades Hotel, located on Church Street, Hartlepool, opened in 1856 to meet the needs of a population growing in line with rapid industrial development in the area. The building's most striking feature is the 19th century Art Nouveau faience tiles featuring human figures and masks. Since its closure, a lack of maintenance has triggered structural problems and deterioration of the faience decoration. With support from Historic England the local authority, using its statutory powers, has taken action to protect the building so it can continue to make a significant contribution to the Church Street Conservation Area.

Designated assets on the 2017 North East Register



There are **299** assets on the North East Register, **1** fewer than in 2016

Fulwell Mill Sunderland, Tyne and Wear



Built in the early 19th century, Fulwell Windmill is an unusually complete example of a vaulted tower mill. Six storeys in height, its tower is constructed of magnesian limestone and the lower two storeys are enclosed by a substantial stone base. A distinctive and much loved local landmark, the building contains the

most complete set of internal machinery of any tower mill in the North East. This high level of preservation contributes to its grade II* listed status.

The site functioned as a mill until the 1950s and was open as a visitor attraction until 2011, when parts of the sails and fantail were removed due to their poor condition and safety concerns. In 2015, specialists identified further deterioration and the timber-domed cap was removed in order to safeguard the structure and internal machinery.

The building was placed on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2014 because of its deteriorating condition and uncertainty about the site's future use.

The mill is owned by Sunderland City Council, which has initiated a repair programme with grant funding from Historic England. Repairing buildings like this requires specialist skills so the repair of the cap, fantail and sails has been carried out by a team of millwrights possessing the necessary expertise (see image). Historic England actively promotes and supports the use and development of traditional building skills as preserving this expertise is fundamental to repairing historic buildings.

When the repairs are complete, the local authority will lease the building to a community organisation and it will be reopened to the public as a visitor attraction. Given the survival of the important internal machinery and the contribution the mill makes to local character and identity, this is the best option for securing the site's future.

Roman Period Settlement **Northumberland**

Situated on a promontory, on the south-facing slope of Hart Heugh hill, these earthworks are all that remains of a small native homestead dating from the Roman period. There are numerous well-preserved archaeological sites like this surviving all over Northumberland's uplands. These small settlements normally contain the foundations of one or two houses within a stone or timber enclosure. In this example, the settlement is enclosed within a roughly circular bank of earth and stone with an entrance on the south side. Native settlements like this contain significant archaeological deposits, but they are under threat from the uncontrolled advance of bracken. Bracken fronds obscure the visibility of archaeological sites and their root systems (rhizomes) damage important buried archaeological deposits.



Historic England is taking a strategic, long-term approach to tackling this menace. Working with some of the major estates in the region, we are targeting groups of high-risk archaeological sites over a wide geographical area. A combination of bracken control methods are being used, including chemical treatments, cutting

and bashing (with specially designed equipment), and animal grazing. To support this work we are also carrying out research that tests the effectiveness of all the available treatments and their potential impact on a range of archaeological sites across the country.

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.

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[HistoricEngland.org.uk/har](https://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk/har)