

HELP HISTORIC BUILDINGS



ENGLISH HERITAGE



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 we know how challenging that can be.

The Heritage at Risk Register is an effective tool to prioritise action and reduce the levels of risk to heritage assets. With the exception of London, grade II buildings, which make up 92% of all listed buildings in England, are not included in the Register. However around half of local planning authorities keep some kind of record of grade II buildings at risk. The information is not consistently recorded and it's not currently possible to build a national picture of the condition of grade IIs. We want to make building that national picture possible.

An English Heritage led sample survey across 19 areas in England has shown that around 4.2% (several thousand) of grade II listed buildings are at risk. As a result of the pilots, English Heritage is sharing its heritage at risk expertise and encouraging people across the country to come together to record the condition of grade II buildings to a nationally consistent standard.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If local authorities, volunteers and building owners work jointly together to record the condition of grade II listed buildings, using an online survey tool, we will be able to produce the much needed local and national picture. We will provide the guidance and skills needed to carry out high level condition surveys, to enable the collection and maintenance of nationally consistent grade II data.

Local authorities will be able to create their own grade II Buildings at Risk Register through the online survey. English Heritage will use the data nationally to detect trends and inform strategies for reducing risk to historic buildings. We will encourage local authorities to engage with individual recording projects and use the data captured to inform local strategies and priorities. Data will be formatted so it can be shared with local Historic Environment Records.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES?

- English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register is successful in rescuing heritage nationally. This is a chance to apply these successes locally
- Information collected by volunteers will give you a better understanding of the condition of your local grade II listed buildings
- Ability to create your own local Buildings at Risk Register to secure the future of those buildings most at risk
- Opportunities to engage with your local communities
- Survey data can be exported into Historic Environment Records services

WHAT ROLE CAN YOU PLAY?

- Set-up and co-ordinate local survey groups
- Work collaboratively with other organisations such as local civic societies or universities
- Encourage groups to run their own local projects, reducing the demand on your time
- Provide expert input into the overall risk assessment of listed buildings
- Create a local Buildings at Risk Register from the online surveys



West Lodge, Gunnersbury Park, Hounslow, grade II building at risk

'By taking part in the pilot project we've been able to create an up to date and comprehensive Heritage at Risk register. We've worked closely with our local Civic Society and enhanced the Historic Environment Record for all grade II and locally listed buildings.'

James Dinn, Worcester City Council

16 out of 17 local authorities said they would run the survey project again

FIND OUT MORE

Visit the English Heritage website:
www.english-heritage.org.uk/help/historicbuildings

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