



Historic England

# Highlights

Our work in London in 2015–16





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# Introducing Historic England

This is a new era for England's heritage, and I'm delighted to have joined Historic England as its first Chief Executive. I'm looking forward to meeting our partners, friends and champions across England. Public support and enthusiasm for the historic environment has never been greater. Its economic benefits and role in defining our national identity are more clearly acknowledged than ever before. But there are significant challenges.

Historic England is the public body for England's historic environment, and we have a unique role and opportunity as its champion and protector. We provide expert advice, help people protect and care for it and help the public to understand and enjoy it. These different aspects to our role are interdependent: the more people know about it and appreciate it the better it will be protected.

We're committed to working with you and our many other partners across the region to raise the profile of the historic environment; ensuring it makes the fullest possible contribution to communities, and enriches all our daily lives. Our local offices are usually the principal point of contact for people. Our local teams specialise in

assessment, processing grants, giving advice to owners, developers and local authorities, as well as designation, heritage data, government policy and communications.

Following are highlights of the work we will be doing in London in the year ahead. We work in partnership wherever that helps us to achieve our aims, recognising that working together with sympathetic organisations and individuals we can always achieve more. Do stay in contact with my colleagues both locally and nationally. There are so many opportunities to get involved in our work, and you can find out about these by joining our mailing list, following or liking us on social media, and contacting our local teams.

With best wishes,

**Duncan Wilson**  
Chief Executive



# We understand historic places

Using pioneering science and research, we help to increase understanding of the significance of England's historic places. We also share our understanding of historic places to help local communities manage them, both physically and economically. We provide training and guidance, conservation advice and access to resources to support local groups.

## The London Urban Archaeological Database project

The historic heart of London has seen a huge amount of archaeological work, extending back over many decades. Knowledge of what has already been investigated helps us to advise developers and planners about what may be found on future development sites. We keep this information on Historic England's Greater London Historic Environment Record and we now need to update the format it is held in. We are providing funding and support to the Museum of London Archaeology Service for The London 'Urban Archaeological Database' which will bring together information about all past archaeological work in the area. The information is held in the Historic Environment Record database linked to a Geographical Information System (GIS), a sophisticated computer mapping system.

The London 'Urban Archaeological Database' is one of a national programme of such projects, covering 35 of the most important historic towns and cities. We have been supporting this programme in partnership with local authorities.

## Greater London Archaeological Priority Areas Programme

We are working with the Mayor of London and London Boroughs to provide guidance on Archaeological Priority Areas in Greater London for a new strategic framework to manage the Capital's archaeology, a need recognised in the London Plan. Reflecting national planning policy, it will aid local planning authorities in the development of their Local Plans by providing up to date evidence from the Historic Environment Record about heritage assets of archaeological interest and potential for new discoveries. Consultation is planned for the summer of 2015.

## Pubs

Pubs are one of England's most-loved building types but are increasingly under threat of closure or conversion to other uses. A number of research projects will help increase understanding and protection for pubs by identifying especially threatened or significant ones. We are looking in particular at mid – and later 20th century – examples as these are vulnerable and rarely protected by listing.

# We champion historic places

We champion and support historic places to make sure that the benefits of heritage are appreciated and cherished.

## Kensal Green Cemetery

Kensal Green, one of London's 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian cemeteries, opened in 1833. It is still used for burials, but the condition of the historic landscape and many of the listed monuments and structures has deteriorated. We are supporting the General Cemetery Company and local Friends Group in developing a strategy for long-term management and conservation; including an Options Appraisal for the Grade I listed Anglican Chapel.

## Battersea Power Station

This Grade II\* listed building, recognisable worldwide as a symbol of London's architectural greatness, is now one of the largest projects involving a historic building in the world. Battersea Power Station is one of the longest standing and most important buildings on our Heritage at Risk register and work has now begun on a scheme which will not only see a sensitive repair and restoration of the Power Station, but see it placed at the centre of a new quarter of London. We will continue to provide expert advice on the works, to ensure the new buildings and the associated public realm are of a quality appropriate to the site.



Kensal Green Cemetery.



# Garrison Church of St George, Woolwich

An imaginative project is underway, led by Heritage of London Trust Operations, to conserve the remains of the Garrison Church of St George in Woolwich. This Grade II listed church, designed by Thomas Henry Wyatt, has important connections to the Royal Artillery. In 1944 the building was badly damaged by a V2 flying bomb, leaving a roofless ruin with fragments of the richly decorated interior. The mosaics are being meticulously repaired, with the help of apprentices and a grant of £86,000 from Historic England.

## Curtain Theatre, Shoreditch

We are working with the London Borough of Hackney and developers on the excavation and exhibition of the Shakespearean Curtain Playhouse. The Curtain will be preserved in-situ and we have recently agreed a scope of works for archaeological investigation across the rest of the site. This exciting project promises to

add to our knowledge of Elizabethan Theatres and inform a new heritage-based visitor attraction, plus enabling major development to proceed around an exceptional heritage asset.

## Places of Worship

We will continue to work with partners to support congregations caring for historic places of worship. We will build on the success of support officers working locally to provide focussed help in sourcing funding and planning maintenance.

## Heritage Action Zones

Heritage Action Zones are areas where Historic England will bring all our different expertise together to work with local people in unlocking the potential of the historic environment. We will work with partners to establish the zones in areas of economic need.



Garrison Church of St George, Woolwich.

# We identify and protect

Advising on which historic assets need to be designated is at the very heart of what we do as expert advisor to the Government. Using our knowledge and understanding we celebrate what's special and make sure that England's history is recognised, respected and enjoyed.

The National Heritage List for England is a remarkable resource, available to everyone through our website. It covers all designated places from listed buildings to protected wrecks, scheduled monuments to registered battlefields, the Register of Parks and Gardens and World Heritage Sites.

We are working on a number of research and designation activities to identify and protect England's most important heritage including the following:

## First World War

We are working in a new way with volunteers, led by partners Civic Voice and War Memorials Trust, to ensure that we deliver an ambitious programme of listing 2,500 war memorials during the centenary period. Recently listed memorials in London include the Kew war memorial in Richmond and the Euston Square war memorial.



Royal Fusiliers War Memorial on High Holborn, listed Grade II.



## Enriching the List

This year, for the first time, we will enable members of the public to upload their own information to a new section of the List on our website. People will be able to share their knowledge of historic places they care about for everyone to use. The List has a million visitors a year, showing the immense appetite people have for finding out about historic places.

## Public Libraries

For over a century and a half public libraries have been at the heart of English life; they were and are places of learning, leisure, enlightenment and betterment, open to all. In recent years public library service provision in the United Kingdom has been undergoing radical change, particularly since severe cuts to local authority budgets in 2010. We will be assessing English public libraries for listing in two thematic projects: pre-1939 and post-war.

## Post-War Public Sculpture

We will carry out an assessment of fixed sculptural artworks in public, civic, communal and commercial places across England with the aim of understanding the significance of public art in the period 1945-1985. A selection of the best examples will be identified and assessed for listing in order to deliver protection for this important – and sometimes threatened – aspect of modern culture.

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

With our help the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster has compiled a heritage assessment of all of its churches. We will now, with the help of Alastair Coey Architects Ltd, carry out individual listing assessments of 25 of these within the Greater London area to make sure that all those buildings which are good enough to be listed are included on the National Heritage List for England. This will help the Diocese manage their stock of historic buildings by giving them certainty about the listing status of each one.



Teddington Library (1906) was listed Grade II in 2011.

# We support change

We want people to use and enjoy historic places in ways that reveal and reinforce their significance and safeguard their setting in a wider landscape.

## Gunnersbury

The Grade II\* registered Gunnersbury Park is one of the most important parks in the country but many of its 22 listed buildings and structures are now at risk and in need of repair. With funding from Historic England, urgent work has now been carried out to stabilise and repair the North and West Lodges and Stable Blocks. The Heritage Lottery Fund has committed a further £8.8 million to secure the future of the park. Work is due to start in 2015.

## Triforium, Westminster

We have been providing advice and support to Westminster Abbey in their plan to construct an external lift to open up the Triforium Gallery. The gallery provides a magnificent bird's eye view over the interior of the Abbey and contains important sculpture and monuments but it has been completely inaccessible to the public for many years. Access to the gallery will allow full enjoyment and appreciation of one of the most outstanding buildings in the world. Our archaeological advice on the proposals instigated an investigation which found graves associated with Edward the Confessor's cathedral and discovered that Henry III's cathedral was built on an innovative lime-concrete raft foundation.



Gunnersbury Park, Hounslow.



## Alexandra Palace

Alexandra Palace is one of the last remaining Victorian Great Exhibition buildings and the birthplace of television broadcasting, but the building is currently at risk. We championed a major scheme of works to the building, which has gained funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The proposals are in the spirit of the original ‘people’s palace’ and include the refurbishment of the eastern lobby bringing the theatre back into use as an events and entertainment space; and the creation of a new public exhibition that will celebrate the BBC’s occupation of Alexandra Palace between the 1930s and the 1980s.

## Poplar Baths, Tower Hamlets

Poplar Baths, an iconic 20th century building located in the heart of the East End of London is at risk and in desperate need of repair. We are supporting the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as they and their development partners lead on a major scheme of repair and enhancement to bring the building back into community use, providing new sporting and leisure facilities.

## Regent Street/St James

We are providing advice to the Crown Estate on a major programme of works to enhance its portfolio of buildings in Regent Street and St. James’s. Working closely with Historic England and Westminster City Council, the Estate has developed a strategy to significantly enhance the appearance of its many listed buildings; ensuring that economic regeneration has gone hand-in-hand with a meticulous restoration of its historic building stock, whilst commissioning brand new buildings, where appropriate, to the highest architectural standards. The latest project, St James’s Market, on Lower Regent Street and Haymarket is now well underway and will both restore the appearance of the listed buildings to Regent Street and provide a new building to Haymarket, which is due for completion in 2017.

## Listed Building Owners

We are doing a survey of owners of listed buildings to find out what they think about owning a nationally important building. In this first comprehensive survey of its kind, we will find out more about owners and their needs, ensuring we are better placed to respond to them in future.



Alexandra Palace. © Alexandra Palace.



## Historic environment snapshot



In London, there are:



18,896 Listed buildings



156 Scheduled Monuments



1,014 Conservation Areas



150 Registered Parks and Gardens



1 Registered Battlefield



4 World Heritage Sites











0 Protected Wrecks



St James gateway (Crown Estate). © Eric Parry Architects.

# Heritage at Risk in London

	National average of assets on the Register	Sites on the 2014 London Register
	4%	4.2% of grade I and II* (69) 2.6% of grade II (430) (Total: 499 Buildings and structures)
	6%	9.2% (73 Places of Worship)
	15.2%	19.9% (31 Scheduled Monuments)
	5.7%	7.3% (11 Registered Parks and Gardens)
	13%	No Registered Battlefield
	8.2%	No Protected Wrecks
	6.1%	6.3% (60 Conservation Areas)
		49 Industrial sites
	Funding	£813,000 in grant was spent on 17 entries on the London Heritage at Risk Register during 2013/14.

## Threats to agricultural sites:



Damage from arable cultivation is the greatest risk, affecting 43% of archaeological entries on the national Register and 10% of those in London.



The greatest risk, to 26% of entries on the London Register, is from unrestricted plant, scrub and tree growth, the same as the national figure of 26%.

Risk assessments of heritage assets are based on the nature of the site. Buildings and structures include listed buildings (excluding listed places

of worship) and structural scheduled monuments; archaeology assessments cover earthworks and buried archaeology.

Data collected as part of Heritage Counts 2014 – asset data correct as of April 2014, Heritage at Risk data August 2014.  
Map shows revised Historic England Localities.





# Historic England

## National expertise, locally delivered

Our local office is the principal point of contact for many customers. Our staff specialise in assessment, processing grants, giving advice to owners, developers and local authorities, as well as designation, heritage data, government policy and communications.

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[HistoricEngland.org.uk/archive](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk/archive)

We make available information about every listed building, scheduled monument, protected wreck, registered park, garden and battlefield in England through the National Heritage List for England:  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk/list](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk/list)



Above: 'Three Standing Figures' by Henry Moore (1948) stand in Battersea Park and are Grade II listed.  
Front cover: Battersea power station. All images © Historic England unless otherwise stated.