



Scheduled Monuments at Risk

East Midlands Region



ENGLISH HERITAGE

THE EAST MIDLANDS

Scheduled monuments are our most cherished, nationally important archaeological sites and landscapes. They include prehistoric burial mounds, stone circles and hill forts, Roman towns and villas, medieval settlements, castles and abbeys and the industrial structures of our more recent past. They are a unique inheritance that tell the story of many generations of human endeavour and life. They create our sense of time and place, and add greatly to the distinctiveness of our towns and countryside.

Although protected by law, scheduled monuments are vulnerable to a wide range of human activities and natural processes. Survey in the East Midlands has shown that 527 (35%) of the region's 1493 monuments are at risk from damage, decay or loss, unless action is taken. Agriculture, natural processes, development and the recreational use of the landscape are the main agencies putting monuments at risk.

When damaged or lost, scheduled monuments cannot be replaced. Careful management is required if we are to pass them on to future generations in good condition. This requires close co-operation between the owners of scheduled monuments, government, and all organisations charged with care for the environment.



Cover image: Gib Hill, Derbyshire: sunset at prehistoric burial mound. This monument is in good order – but many legally protected monuments are not in an acceptable condition

- 1 Arbury Banks, Northamptonshire: ploughing has destroyed half of the overlying medieval ridge and furrow and has damaged the underlying Iron Age fortification
- 2 Cop Rake, Derbyshire: illicit dumping on 19th century and earlier lead mining remains
- 3 Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire: the remains of a medieval church, with eroded and deteriorating stonework

4 Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire: Iron Age hillfort, partly destroyed by quarrying, with setting also very damaged

5 Witherley, Leicestershire: prehistoric burial mound left as an island and being clipped by ploughing

6 Pinxton, Derbyshire: medieval moated site, shrouded by trees, with most of setting lost to roads and development



SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AT RISK: A PILOT STUDY IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

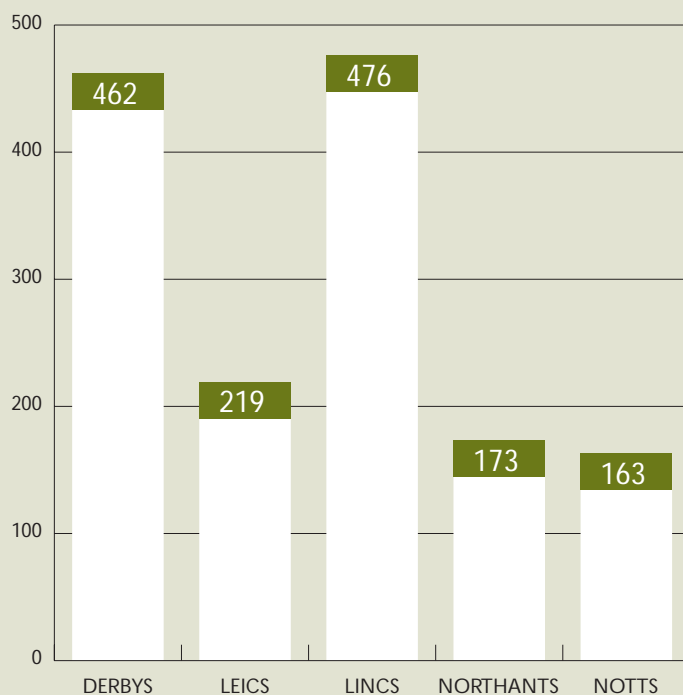
In 1998 English Heritage published a national Monuments at Risk Survey (MARS). This showed that since 1945, an average of one archaeological site has been destroyed every day. These losses include scheduled monuments – historic sites designated as being nationally important. The Scheduled Monuments at Risk study examined in more detail the processes affecting these nationally important sites in the East Midlands.

THE STUDY HAD FOUR MAIN AIMS:

- to evaluate the condition, amenity value and setting of scheduled monuments in the region and the extent to which they are at risk
- to test methodologies of risk assessment
- to establish priorities for action and monument management
- to act as a pilot for a national Scheduled Monuments at Risk survey

The study systematically assessed all 1493 scheduled monuments in the region. Its results demonstrate that with 35% of monuments at risk, there is an urgent need for action before more of our heritage is damaged or lost.

Number of Scheduled Monuments



THE EAST MIDLANDS: FACTS AND FIGURES

The East Midlands region encompasses 15630 km² of land with a population of c.4.2 million. The average density of scheduled monuments is 1 per 10.46km².

- **Ownership:** 1210 scheduled monuments are in private ownership, 250 are owned by local authorities, 16 by government or their agencies, and 11 by utilities.
- **Form and date:** the majority of scheduled monuments are earthworks (57%), mainly of prehistoric and medieval date, or standing structures (28%) that are principally of medieval and later date.
- **Land use:** 42% of scheduled monuments are under grassland cover, 30% are on developed or urban land, 11% are under cultivation, 8% are on semi-natural land, and 7% are in woodland.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS UNDER THREAT

The study assessed not only the condition of each monument's fabric (whether buried or upstanding remains), it also included an initial evaluation of its setting and amenity value. The setting of a monument is its general surroundings and is usually fundamental to forming an understanding and appreciation of the site itself. Amenity value is what the visitor can appreciate of the monument when visiting the site. Clearly inappropriate development or landuse next to a scheduled monument can be an eyesore, or can lead to the site becoming an 'island', cut-off from its surroundings. Other impacts such as traffic, noise and dust from nearby mineral extraction can also spoil the enjoyment of visitors.

Key findings from the survey were:

- **Condition:** problems were noted on 35% of scheduled monuments, and 13% were in a wholly unsatisfactory condition. Condition is in decline for a quarter of monuments, and only 5% are improving.
- **Risk:** 13% of monuments are at high risk (at risk in the short term) and 22% are at medium risk. Consequently, more than one third need urgent action to prevent deterioration, loss or damage.

7 Middleton Moor, Derbyshire: prehistoric burial mound with erosion scar caused by stock

8 Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire: medieval motte and bailey castle, being damaged by the feet of visitors, now repaired

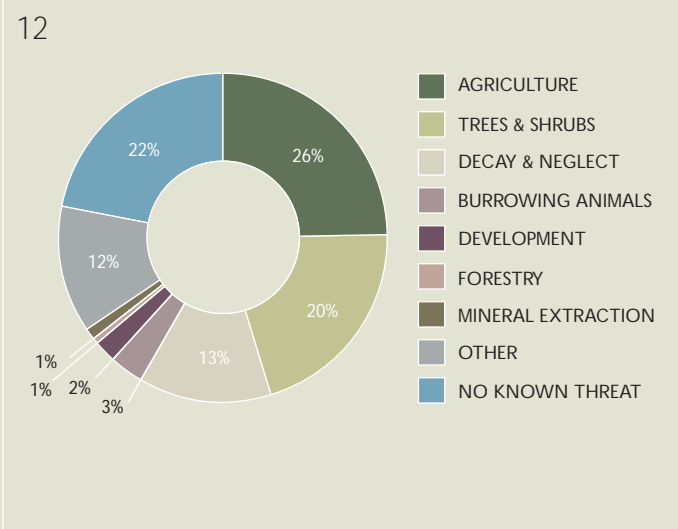
9 Hoon Mount, Derbyshire: animals can cause extensive damage to earthworks, such as this fine prehistoric burial mound



10 Swinstead, Lincolnshire: medieval cross shaft and base festooned with road signs

11 Duffield, Derbyshire: the parapets of scheduled historic bridges are particularly vulnerable to damage caused by vehicles

12 Vulnerability: the main human and natural agencies that place scheduled monuments at risk in the East Midlands



- **Vulnerability:** 26% of scheduled monuments are at risk from agriculture (mainly ploughing and erosion caused by stock), 20% are vulnerable to unmanaged tree and scrub growth, 13% are prone to decay and neglect and 4% are threatened by development, mineral extraction and forestry.
- **Risk and land use:** 71% of high risk monuments are located in cultivated land, 13% are in grassland, 8% are on developed or urban land, and 6% are in woodland. Lincolnshire has the greatest number (106) of high risk monuments in the region, of which 84 are on cultivated land.
- **Legislation:** current ancient monument legislation permits potentially damaging activities (ploughing, horticulture, forestry, gardening) on all or parts of 16% of scheduled monuments.
- **Amenity value:** 81% of monuments are visible, and 8% are partly visible. Buried remains alone survive for 11%. 31% are fully accessible to the public, and 44% have no public access. Detailed on-site interpretation is available at only 2% of monuments, 10% have some interpretation, and 88% have none available on-site.
- **Setting:** an initial appraisal of the setting of monuments suggests that 17% include many features of more recent date, 51% have some modern features, and 32% have few or no modern features. In 60% of cases the monument's setting has changed substantially since the monument was constructed or in use. Partial changes in setting have occurred in 27% of cases. In 2% of cases it can be considered to be unchanged. Setting was not assessed in 11% of cases.
- **Designation:** monuments within National Park and Environmentally Sensitive Area boundaries are generally at lower risk than the regional average. Risk is not significantly reduced on land holdings in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and monuments within within the boundaries of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are at higher risk than the regional norm.

IMPROVED AREA CONSERVATION

Many of our landscapes and townscapes are recognised as being of special importance because of their historic, natural, or aesthetic qualities – or because they are in need of economic regeneration.

These areas normally benefit from strong safeguards against unsympathetic development, and can be eligible for grant schemes that could significantly help to reduce the extent to which scheduled monuments within their boundaries are at risk.

DESIGNATION	HIGH RISK	MEDIUM RISK	LOW RISK
	SCHEDULED MONUMENTS		
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST	9	33	131
SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION	1	14	95
SPECIAL PROTECTED AREA	0	4	88
NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE	0	0	3
GRASSLAND INVENTORY	6	23	49
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY	48	10	36
NATIONAL PARK	17	75	229
REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS	0	0	3
REGISTERED PARKS & GARDENS	2	11	35
WORLD HERITAGE SITE	0	0	6

REDUCING THE RISKS

In some cases the risks to scheduled monuments can be reduced simply by good land management, or by informed planning policies and decisions that take full account of the national importance of historic sites. However, some monuments do require significant resources in order to stabilise their condition, to carry out repairs, or to change the way in which the land on and around the monument is used.

For the first time the priorities for improved scheduled monument management have been identified throughout the East Midlands region. At the strategic level, the major sources of risk to the condition of monuments in the region have been identified. At the individual site level, practical management needs have been identified.

Practical advice on the management of scheduled monuments is available from the Historic Environment Local Management website at www.helm.org.uk

13 Stanton Moor, Derbyshire: proposals for stone quarrying around the edge of the moor are a major threat to the setting and amenity value of this scheduled Bronze Age landscape

14 Pleasley, Derbyshire: 20th century colliery now under repair

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15 Codnor Castle, Derbyshire: a neglected medieval ruin to be repaired as a condition of planning permission for the nearby opencast extraction of coal

16 Grace Dieu Priory, Leicestershire: former neglected and collapsing medieval ruin, now repaired and interpreted for visitors

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THE WAY FORWARD

There will be no easy or 'overnight' solution to the issues identified by the East Midlands Scheduled Monuments at Risk study. Although English Heritage has a statutory duty to promote the conservation of ancient monuments, our financial resources can only solve a small fraction of the problems. Other partners will also play a vital role in improving the condition of these important sites and, in some cases, legislative change is required.

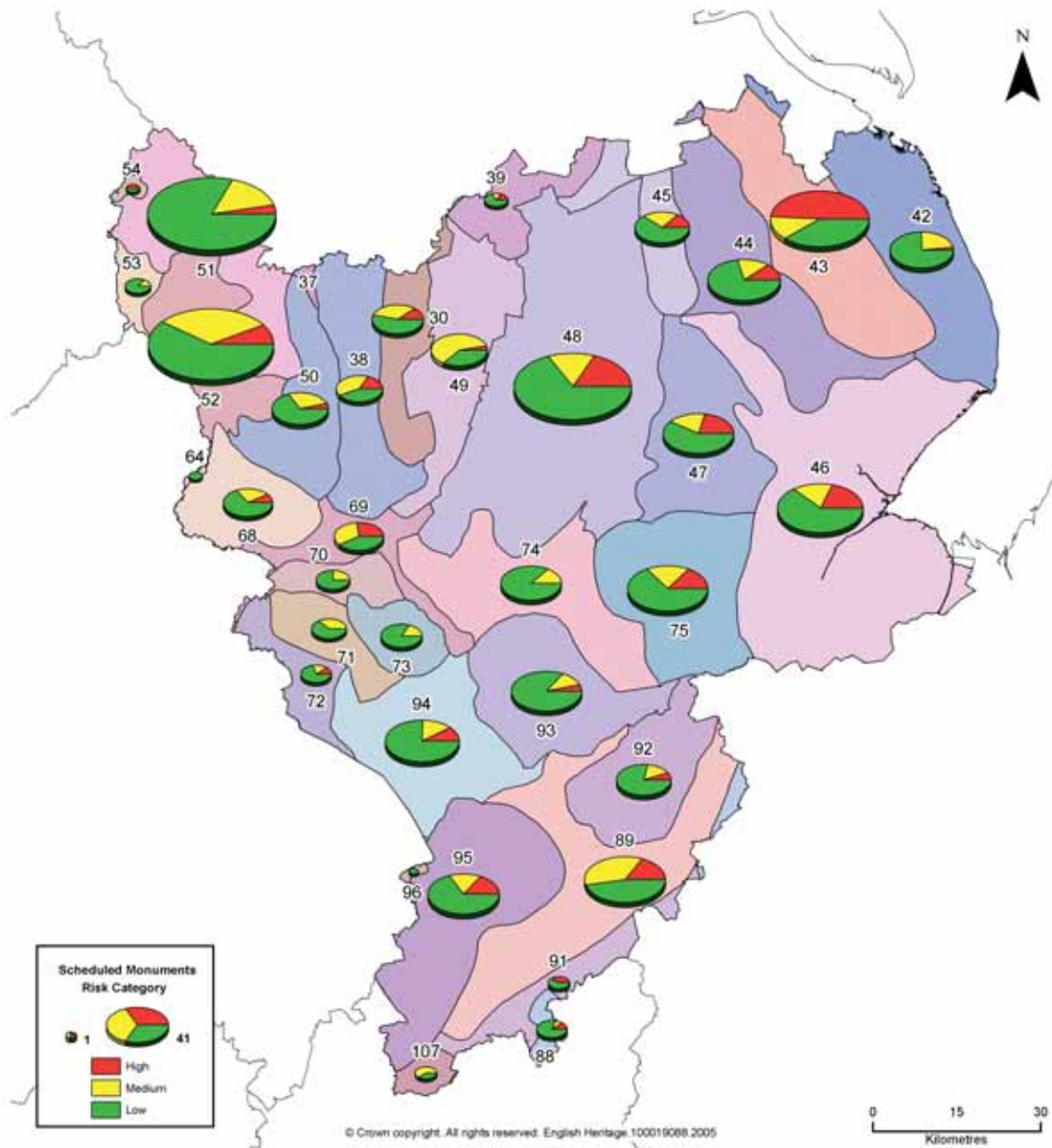
If we are to pass on this fragile heritage to future generations, the current level of risk to scheduled monuments must be reduced. Over one third are in need of management action to prevent further deterioration, loss or damage. English Heritage believes that no monuments legally protected in the public interest should be at high risk.

In particular, we wish to see the current ineffective legislative framework for conserving scheduled monuments in areas of cultivation replaced by workable protective arrangements and we welcome the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's commitment to review this legislation as part of the wider Heritage Protection Review.

English Heritage believes that concerted effort by landowners, local and national government and the organisations that make decisions about our environment can make a real difference. We particularly encourage public sector funding bodies to achieve a balance between historic, natural and other environmental issues when deciding grant priorities and we welcome the enhanced profile accorded to the heritage by the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

We believe that reducing the risk to scheduled monuments should be accorded a similar priority to the achievement of biodiversity targets, and that these efforts can often be mutually supportive.

English Heritage is committed to measuring our success as an organisation by securing a year on year reduction in the number of buildings, monuments and landscapes at risk. We are therefore extending the Scheduled Monument at Risk Programme to the other English regions, as part of a wider Historic Environment at Risk initiative, and have set clear targets for reducing the types and degree of risk to scheduled monuments in the East Midlands.



Countryside Character Areas

Number refers to CCA Reference Code

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 30. SOUTHERN MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE | 48. SHERWOOD | 73. CHARNWOOD |
| 37. YORKSHIRE SOUTHERN PENNINE FRINGE | 50. DERBYSHIRE PEAK FRINGE AND LOWER DERWENT | 74. LEICESTERSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WOLDS |
| 38. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE COALFIELD | 51. DARK PEAK | 75. KESTIVEN UPLANDS |
| 39. HUMBERHEAD LEVELS | 52. WHITE PEAK | 88. BEDFORDSHIRE AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE CLAYLANDS |
| 42. LINCOLNSHIRE COAST AND MARSHES | 53. SOUTH WEST PEAK | 89. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE VALES |
| 43. LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS | 54. MANCHESTER PENNINE FRINGE | 91. YARDLEY-WHITTLEWOOD RIDGE |
| 44. CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE VALE | 54. POTTERIES AND CHURNET VALLEY | 92. ROCKINGHAM FOREST |
| 45. NORTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE EDGE WITH COVERSANDS | 46. NEEDWOOD AND SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CLAYLANDS | 93. HIGH LEICESTERSHIRE |
| 46. THE FENS | 60. TRENT VALLEY WASHLANDS | 94. LEICESTERSHIRE VALES |
| 47. SOUTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE EDGE | 70. MELBOURNE PARKLANDS | 95. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UPLANDS |
| 48. TRENT AND BELVOIR VALES | 71. LEICESTERSHIRE AND SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COALFIELD | 96. DUNSMORE AND FELDON |
| | 72. MEASE/SENCE LOWLANDS | 107. COTSWOLDS |

The distribution of scheduled monuments at risk in the East Midlands analysed using Countryside Character Areas. The Character Areas, defined jointly by the statutory conservation agencies, are increasingly providing the basis for targeting environmental farming schemes. Note the number of monuments at high risk (under arable) in the Lincolnshire Wolds (Area 43), an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.