



ENGLISH HERITAGE

HERITAGE AT RISK

2013

EAST OF ENGLAND



HERITAGE AT RISK

Heritage at Risk teams in each of our nine local offices work to save listed buildings, scheduled monuments and important historic places and landscapes from neglect or decay. The Heritage at Risk Register contains details of each site known to be at risk. Designated sites are regularly analysed and we publish an annual snapshot of at risk sites here and online, which allows us to share our successes and identify future challenges.

The good news is that we are on target to save 25% (1,137) of the sites that were on the Register in 2010 by 2015. From Finchingfield Guildhall to the Iron Age Religious Site at Gallows Hill, Thetford, our local successes are down to good partnerships with owners, developers, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England, councils and local groups. It will be increasingly important to build on these partnerships to achieve the overall aim of reducing the number of sites on the Register. **Greg Luton**, Planning and Conservation Director, East of England

Threats in the East of England arise particularly from arable cultivation and unmanaged woodland as well as deterioration and loss of historic fabric in buildings and within some of our major designed landscapes.

Over the last year 11 listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments, 23 places of worship, 2 conservation areas and 21 non-structural scheduled monuments have been saved and removed from the 2012 Register. Since 2010 a total of 66 heritage assets have been removed from the Register.

The Heritage at Risk team also provides a dedicated advisory service for the Heritage Lottery Fund under their Grants for Places of Worship scheme. We work closely with dioceses as part of a national programme to assess all listed places of worship where their condition means they could be added to the Register, so that resources can be targeted towards their repair.

Close co-operation with Natural England, aimed particularly at shared objectives for scheduled monuments through Environmental Stewardship schemes, has seen many sites removed from the plough and others brought into sustainable management. This year 11 of our 27 archaeological successes have come via this route and more are in the pipeline.

Three of our priority sites were saved this year. The surviving fragment of a renaissance mansion, built on the site of Elstow Priory was conserved during the development of a new village hall. Conservation was made possible by a combination of English Heritage grant aid and local funds.

The Church of St Mary's, Ickworth Park, was restored following close collaboration with the owners (the Ickworth Church Conservation Trust) and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Repair work made it possible for the building to be brought back into use, and it can now be enjoyed by visitors to the National Trust park.

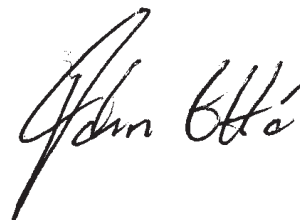
A partnership with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Department of Culture Media and Sport, utilising "Sea Change" funds, saw the restoration of St George's Theatre, allowing this landmark building to thrive once again as a community arts venue.

Notable successes also include repairs to Dunwich Priory and Clare Castle in Suffolk ahead of their transfer to local Trusts.

Other partners have included The Architectural Heritage Fund, numerous building preservation trusts, distributors of Land Fill Tax funds and, of course, scores of private individuals.

Ongoing assessment inevitably means that additional sites are added to the Register and 56 sites, including Denver Mill in Norfolk where the render and sails require restoration, have been added this year.

A particularly challenging case for the year ahead will be the continued restoration of the former nuclear bomb store at Bamham, near Thetford, due to the nature and fabric of this unusual site.



John Ette,
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

ST GEORGE'S THEATRE, GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK

Built in 1714 as a chapel of ease and modelled on Wren's St Clement Danes, St George's is one of the most important examples of Baroque church architecture outside of London. The Chapel was closed in 1959, then converted to a theatre in the 1970s. The building stands in an elevated location, exposed to weather coming in from the North Sea. Structural defects, wet rot and deathwatch beetle forced its closure in 2006. Following major grant-aided refurbishment, St George's Theatre has now reopened as a multi-purpose arts venue, with adaptable space for conferences, exhibitions and performances.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- Nationally, 4.1% of grade I and II* listed buildings (excluding places of worship) are on the Register. In the East of England the percentage is 2.9% (98 buildings).
- 11 building or structure entries have been removed from the 2012 East of England Register because their futures have been secured, but 10 have been added.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

- Of the 294 listed places of worship assessed in the East of England, 86 are on the Register.
- 23 places of worship have been removed from the 2012 Register following repair work.

ARCHAEOLOGY

- 3,265 (16.5%) of England's 19,792 scheduled monuments are on the Register, of which 220 are in the East of England.
- 21 archaeology entries have been removed from the 2012 Register for positive reasons and 7 have been added.
- 26.6% of archaeology entries (54) on the East of England baseline 2009 Register have been removed for positive reasons, compared to the national figure of 21.1%.
- Nationally, damage from arable cultivation is the greatest risk factor, accounting for 43% of those on the Register. In the East of England the proportion is 72%.

PARKS AND GARDENS

- 100 (6.2%) of England's 1,624 registered parks and gardens are on the Register. In the East of England, 7 are on the Register, an increase of 1 on last year's Register.

BATTLEFIELDS

- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 are on the Register. The only registered battlefield in the East of England is not on the Register.

WRECK SITES

- Of the 46 protected wreck sites around England's coast, 4 are on the Register. The East of England's single protected wreck site is not on the Register.

CONSERVATION AREAS

- 8,179 of England's 9,839 conservation areas have been surveyed by local authorities. 510 (6.2%) are on the Register. Of the 887 conservation areas surveyed in the East of England, 45 (5.1%) are on the Register.
- 2 conservation areas have been removed from the 2012 East of England Register for positive reasons, but 3 have been added.



BRITON'S ARMS, ELM HILL, NORWICH

Briton's Arms, reputed to be the only house in Elm Hill to have escaped destruction by fire in 1507. Located next to the church of St Peter, Hungate, it is a rare surviving example of a medieval city centre building with a reed thatched roof, once common in the city.

54% OF
BUILDINGS AND
STRUCTURES
ON THE 1999 REGISTER
HAVE BEEN
SAVED

45
CONSERVATION
AREAS ARE ON
THE REGISTER

12.7%
OF SCHEDULED
MONUMENTS ARE ON
THE REGISTER

£2.4m IN
GRANTS
WAS OFFERED TO
23 SITES
ON THE REGISTER

Heritage assets are assessed 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.

PRIORITY HAR SITES

- Chantry Chapel and Mausoleum, Thorndon Park, Brentwood, Essex
- Church of St Mary the Virgin (Old Parish Church), Clophill, Bedfordshire
- Croxley Great Barn, Three Rivers, Hertfordshire
- Knebworth House, Knebworth, Hertfordshire
- Langham Airfield Dome Trainer, Langham, Norfolk
- Pentney Priory Gatehouse, Pentney, Norfolk
- Remains of Sibton Abbey, Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk
- Remains of St Mary's Friary, Little Walsingham, Norfolk
- St Osyth's Priory, St Osyth, Tendring, Essex
- Tilty Mill, Tilty, Essex

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ATOMIC BOMB STORE, BARNHAM, SUFFOLK

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Built between 1953 and 1955, the Barnham facility was built for the storage and maintenance of Britain's atomic bombs.

The site was carefully designed with security and surveillance in mind, and is enclosed by a double fence and patrol path incorporating four steel-framed observation towers.

Within this enclosure the various storage and maintenance units for the components of the bomb are laid out in a functionally designed landscape with a central area enclosed by an earthen bank. The bomb cores were stored separately from the outer casings, in 54 small rectangular kiosk-like buildings or 'igloos'. The buildings are constructed of concrete and rendered internally with gritless plaster to reduce the risk of accidental sparks. The many other buildings on site give vital clues as to how the atomic bomb store operated on a daily basis.

Storage of weapons here probably ceased in 1963. By late 1965, the site had been sold to a new private owner for use as an Industrial Estate. The site was scheduled in 2003 and also now contains five listed buildings.

IS IT AT RISK?

The Atomic Bomb Store at Barnham has been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 2012. Although much of the site has been in active use as a viable industrial estate since the RAF sold it in 1965, some elements, such as the perimeter fences, the 'igloos' and the watch-towers are not in use and until recently have been at risk of neglect and decay.

Exposed timber, steel reinforcement within concrete, and steel frames have decayed and corroded. The conservation of these elements is an on-going process, as new techniques are trialled and tested.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

The parts of this nationally important site which are not in use have been targeted for selected pilot schemes to conserve the unstable and corrosive elements. English Heritage has offered grant assistance towards this work.

A conservation management plan was commissioned in 2008 and awarded a grant. This has led to three phases of investigation, repair and pilot studies in conservation, including dismantling and restoring one watch tower and work to fences and 'igloos'. These ensure the whole site is better understood. A fourth repair phase is envisaged.

Some elements within the site will not receive any conservation treatment, in order to better understand the nature of decay in these relatively modern fabrics.

Find out what's at risk by searching or downloading the online Heritage at Risk Register at www.english-heritage.org.uk/har

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our customer services department on telephone: 0870 333 1181 fax: 01793 414926 textphone: 01793 414878 email: customers@english-heritage.org.uk