



ENGLISH HERITAGE

HERITAGE AT RISK

2013

WEST MIDLANDS



HERITAGE AT RISK

Heritage at Risk is our campaign to save listed buildings and important historic sites, places and landmarks from neglect or decay. At its heart is the Heritage at Risk Register, an online database containing details of each site known to be at risk. It is analysed and updated annually and this leaflet summarises the results. Heritage at Risk teams are now in each of our nine local offices, delivering national expertise locally.

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 St Barnabus Church in Birmingham to the Guillotine Lock on the Stratford Canal, this success is down to good partnerships with owners, developers, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), 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. **Tim Johnston**, Planning and Conservation Director, West Midlands

Our partnership with Natural England is built on the importance of heritage to the value of the rural environment. In 2012 a combination of Natural England stewardship funding and specialist advice from English Heritage helped keep the number of scheduled monuments at risk in the West Midlands below the national average. 23 monuments, ranging from Roman villas to engine houses, have been removed from the Register and significant progress has been achieved at many more including Norbury medieval moated site in Staffordshire.

At 5.4%, the proportion of listed buildings on the Register in the West Midlands is slightly higher than the national average. Progress is, however, being made through English Heritage grant aid on a number of our priority sites. Repairs to the stonework at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham are now underway while the HLF has provided key additional funding for work which has started at the Birmingham Coffin Fitting Works, and Ditherington Flax Mill.

Our grants depend upon the real commitment of owners and local authorities for success. Without this commitment it would not have been possible to remove Rugeley Conservation Area from the Register, improve the condition of Longton Conservation Area in Stoke on Trent or progress repairs at 48 Mill Street in Bridgnorth. Additional help has come from increased activity by building preservation trusts (BPTs) helped by our investment in a Support Officer at the Architectural Heritage Fund. New BPTs have been formed for the Toll House, Stratford and Coventry Charterhouse, while an options appraisal has been completed for the former Moseley School of Art and a BPT is being explored for the Old Rectory, Whitchurch.

Over the last year, we have focussed our efforts by creating a local Heritage at Risk Team to work proactively with owners and our partners to tackle heritage at risk. The new team includes our Heritage at Risk Architects: Cristina Gardiner, Chris Miners and John Tieman who provide architectural advice for grant applications under our secular grants scheme, our Heritage at Risk Project Officers: Jenny Marriot and Imogen Sambrook, whose responsibilities include delivering Management Agreements for scheduled monuments and Kim Auston our Heritage at Risk Landscape Architect who specialises in registered parks and gardens. We have also funded three pilot projects on grade II listed buildings in the West Midlands. These have shown how important our local authority partners are in maintaining information on condition, in tapping the interest and enthusiasm of the voluntary sector and how English Heritage can help through the provision of specialist advice. The provision of technical advice like this is one of the ways we hope to address the challenge of declining resources in local authorities in the year ahead.



Sarah Lewis,
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

NORBURY MANOR MOATED SITE, STAFFORDSHIRE

The scheduled remains of the medieval moated manor house at Norbury in Staffordshire. The revetment walls retaining the moat platform were collapsing as the joints were forced open by invasive vegetation. The presence of Great Crested Newts and the need to retain their habitat has resulted in a two-phase repair strategy. The first phase of which has been completed with funding from a Natural England Higher Level Stewardship scheme. The monument will be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register on the completion of the second phase of repair.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- Nationally, 4.1% of grade I and II* listed buildings (excluding places of worship) are on the Register. In the West Midlands the percentage is 5.4% (103 buildings).
- 2 building or structure entries have been removed from the 2012 West Midlands Register because their futures have been secured, but 15 have been added.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

- Of the 169 listed places of worship assessed in the West Midlands, 41 are on the Register.
- 1 place of worship has 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 224 are in the West Midlands.
- 23 archaeology entries have been removed from the 2012 Register for positive reasons and 12 have been added.
- 36.2% of archaeology entries (94) on the West Midlands 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 West Midlands the proportion is 39%.

PARKS AND GARDENS

- 100 (6.2%) of England's 1,624 registered parks and gardens are on the Register. In the West Midlands, 10 are on the Register, the same as last year.

BATTLEFIELDS

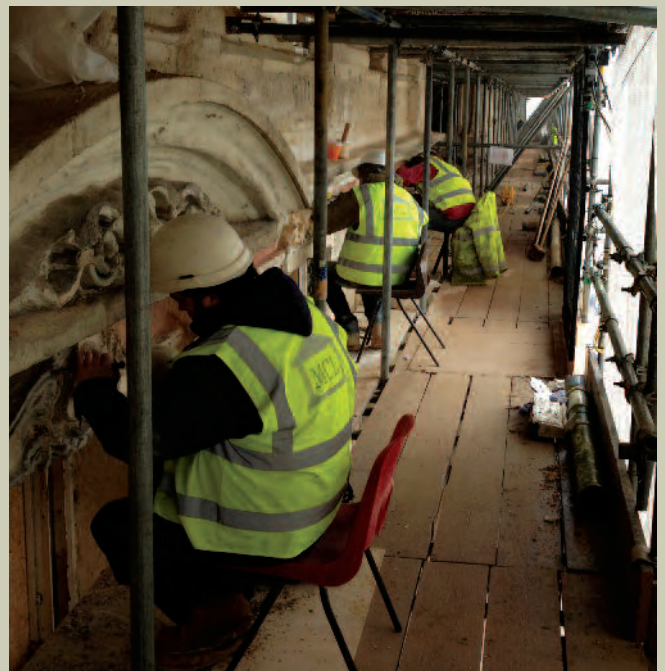
- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 are on the Register. None of the 6 registered battlefields in the West Midlands are on the Register.

WRECK SITES

- Of the 46 protected wreck sites around England's coast, 4 (off the South East coast) are 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 667 conservation areas surveyed in the West Midlands, 54 (8.1%) are on the Register.
- 2 conservation areas have been removed from the 2012 West Midlands Register for positive reasons, but 2 have been added.



GRAND HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM

With the help of a grant from English Heritage, masons are working to chip away coatings of cement-based repairs and paints from the façade of the Grand Hotel in Birmingham. They are uncovering and repairing the original stonework and making the elevation stable to remove the building from risk.

55% OF
BUILDINGS AND
STRUCTURES
ON THE 1999 REGISTER
HAVE BEEN
SAVED

54
CONSERVATION
AREAS ARE ON
THE REGISTER

15.8%
OF SCHEDULED
MONUMENTS ARE ON
THE REGISTER

£1.1m IN
GRANTS
WAS OFFERED TO
31 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

- Former Ditherington Flax Mill (including the attached former malt kiln, Apprentice House, Flax dressing building, and the Stove House and Dye House), Spring Gardens, Ditherington, Shrewsbury
- Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham
- Longton Town Centre Conservation Area, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent
- Ludlow town walls, Ludlow, Shropshire
- Middleport Pottery, Middleport, Stoke-on-Trent
- Newman Brothers Coffin Furniture Works, 13-15 Fleet Street, Hockley, Birmingham
- Snailbeach New Smeltnill and Candle House, Snailbeach Lead Mine, Worthen with Shelve, Shropshire
- Snodhill Castle and scheduled area, Snodhill, Peterchurch, Herefordshire
- The Old Rectory, Lower Brailes, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire
- Toll House, Clopton Bridge, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire

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ST BARNABAS CHURCH, ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

The grade II listed St Barnabas church was designed by the Birmingham architect Thomas Rickman for the Church Commissioners in 1824. It is one of a number of large Victorian churches built in the 19th century when the villages around Birmingham expanded in response to the vibrant growth of the city.

Erdington now lies within the conurbation and has a mixed population facing considerable economic hardship; the church is the only landmark building.

In 2007 an arson attack destroyed the church roof and the interior. The building was added to the Heritage at Risk Register in 2011 when places of worship were first added to the Heritage at Risk Register. For six years the congregation worshipped in a series of temporary locations while plans were made, funds were raised and repairs were carried out. The fire had destroyed the roof entirely and damaged the walls so that they could no longer take the load of a new roof. After much debate, a scheme which conserved as much of the historic building as possible and replaced missing elements with contemporary architecture was approved.

IS IT AT RISK?

The church was put on English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register in 2011. It has been removed in 2013 following full repair and re-opening.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

The congregation was keen to extend the church to create a cafe and to improve access for the disabled so that the church could deliver a wider

community function. They chose a contemporary architectural style for the extension to reflect this new role.

A curving, standing-seam metal roof now shelters the nave and swoops low over the café extension on the north side which has a glazed wall giving views across the churchyard to the High Street. The Harbour Café has become a popular meeting place and meeting rooms on the first and second floors at the west end of the nave are now used across the community.

The interior of the church, whilst conserving the surviving historic fabric, has also been finished in a contemporary style. The result is a building which stands out as an example of high quality new design in the otherwise tired streetscape of Erdington. For the parish, it symbolises their triumph over the arson attack and provides a symbol of hope in a challenged community. As Reverend Freda Evans, the Vicar of St Barnabas says, the rebuilding has been a resurrection in every sense of the word.

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