



ENGLISH HERITAGE

HERITAGE AT RISK

EAST MIDLANDS



HERITAGE AT RISK

Ask people what makes them proud of their neighbourhood, and their local heritage will be high on the list. But however much respect and affection it commands, neglect and ill-conceived development can put it in jeopardy. Heritage at Risk identifies many of the most significant historic places in England whose future hangs in the balance. This year's report extends the scope of our analysis to focus on places of worship, which account for many of the nation's finest architectural treasures.

They are particularly close to the heart of local communities, but in practice it is often just a handful of dedicated individuals who maintain them. They face unique challenges, which are illustrated in our report *Caring for Places of Worship*.

The 2009 Heritage at Risk Register showed that the East Midlands has the lowest proportion of scheduled monuments at risk, with a significant reduction since 2006 as a result of strong partnerships with landowners and natural environment agencies. This year we can report continued success, and the prospects are good thanks to a second round of the risk management project known as COSMIC (Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation). An ambitious repair programme has enabled the historic colliery at Bestwood, Nottinghamshire, to be removed from the Register.

The state of the region's grade I and II* listed buildings is less positive. However, of those which have been removed from the Register, the Derby Roundhouse and associated railway works are now in use as a campus of Derby College, providing an outstanding example of imaginative regeneration. In Northampton, the Sessions House now serves as a fitting entrance for those visiting the County Council's headquarters.

This year's survey of conservation areas takes a closer look at those which are at risk. At this larger scale, inter-agency working is vital for success, and local and regional partners are working together to develop schemes in a number of our town centres – Melton Mowbray, Derby, Tuxford (Nottinghamshire), Boston, and the South Holland towns of Holbeach, Crowland, Long Sutton and Spalding.

All the registered parks and gardens on last year's Register continue to be at risk, with one more being added. Multiple ownership and development within the setting of the designed landscapes continue to be the biggest challenges to the region's registered parks and gardens.

The last three years have been turbulent times for anyone involved in investing in and marketing property. Deferring necessary repairs to historic properties can have disastrous consequences. Those in public ownership are no less vulnerable, and where disposal is being contemplated, care must be taken that heritage value is sustained and enhanced in the transfer.

It is now all the more vital that those involved in conservation are ready to take the opportunities that are opening up. The new frameworks for planning and economic development contain mechanisms for funding and call for more effective partnership working. The region's Heritage Forum and local authorities have been working together to agree 'shared statements of ambition' to make the most of these opportunities. Local authorities that retain access to relevant specialist expertise will be best placed to safeguard historic places and to reap its benefits.

Provided that our heritage remains at the heart of shaping and delivering the wider local vision, we shall honour our obligations to future generations in these challenging times.



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2 ST MARTINS, LEICESTER – 'AN EXPLOSION IN SCALE'

The former National Westminster Bank at 2 St Martins, Leicester earns this accolade in the authoritative *Buildings of England* guide. Its extravagant neo-baroque style expresses the commercial confidence of Leicester at the start of the 20th century. Now vacant, the bank has been at risk since 2003. In 2007, plans were approved which promised a new lease of life as a restaurant, shops and flats. However the main contractor for the works then went out of business. With the property market in continued recession, the building tells a rather different story these days.

LISTED BUILDINGS

- 1 in 32 (3.1%) grade I and II* listed buildings are at risk across the country. In the East Midlands this rises to 4.6% (132 sites).
- 9 sites were removed from the 2009 regional Register during the year, but 8 new sites have been added.
- Since publication of the 1999 baseline Register, 42.9% (69 sites) have been removed from the regional Register as their futures have been secured, compared to the national figure of 50.7% (724).
- Nationally, £6.2m was offered in grants to 76 sites on the Register during 2009/10. In the East Midlands we awarded grants totalling £1.1m to 6 sites.

CONSERVATION AREAS

- 267 local authorities (80%) have taken part in our national survey of conservation areas, 36 of which were in the East Midlands region.
- We now have information for 7,388 of England's 9,300 designated conservation areas, of which 893 are in our region.
- 549 (7.4%) of the conservation areas for which we have information are at risk, 55 (6.2%) of them in our region.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- Approximately 1 in 6 (17.2%) of England's 19,731 scheduled monuments are at risk. In the East Midlands, this falls to 7.7% (117 sites).
- The total at risk has fallen by 140 (4.0%) since 2009, 13 (10%) of which were in this region.
- Arable ploughing and unrestricted plant, scrub or tree growth account for nearly two thirds of sites at risk. In our region the proportion at risk from cultivation rises to nearly 80%.
- Nationally, 82% of scheduled monuments at risk are in private ownership, rising to 94% (110) in the East Midlands.
- Of the £450k offered to owners of scheduled monuments at risk in 2009/10, £180k was awarded to 3 sites in the East Midlands chosen on grounds of their size and complexity.

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

- 1 in 16 of England's 1,606 registered parks and gardens are at risk, with an increase from 6.0% (96) in 2009 to 6.2% (99) this year. In the East Midlands, 7 of our 136 sites are at risk (5.1%).
- Nationally, 5 sites have been added and 2 removed from the Register. One of the added sites (Belton House) is in the East Midlands.

REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 are considered to be at risk, a reduction of 1 on 2009.
- None of the 5 registered battlefields in the East Midlands are at risk.

PROTECTED SHIP WRECKS

- Of the 46 protected wreck sites around England's coast, 8 are considered to be at risk, a fall of 1 since 2009, due to the implementation of an improved management regime.
- There are no protected wreck sites off the coast of the East Midlands.



FLINTHAM HALL, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Inspired by Sir Joseph Paxton's Crystal Place, this extravagant cast-iron conservatory is in urgent need of comprehensive restoration.

THERE ARE

2,856

GRADE I AND II*
LISTED
BUILDINGS
IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

80%

OF THE
REGION'S
SCHEDULED
MONUMENTS
ARE AT RISK FROM
THE IMPACT OF
PLOUGHING

6.2%

OF
CONSERVATION
AREAS SURVEYED
IN THE REGION ARE
AT RISK

GRANTS
TOTTALLING MORE
THAN

£1.3m

WERE OFFERED TO
SITES ON THE
2009 REGISTER

