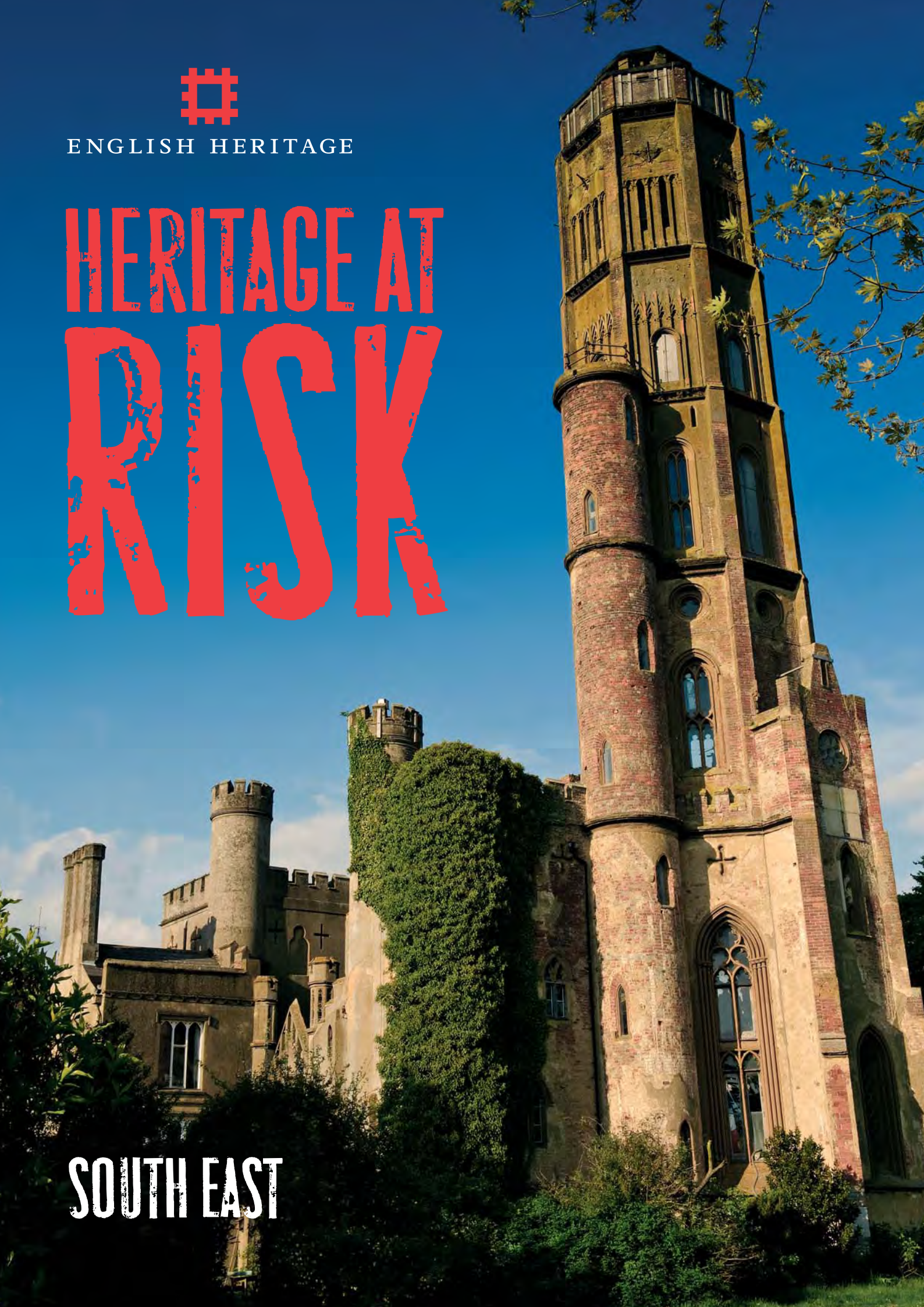




ENGLISH HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT RISK

SOUTH EAST



# HERITAGE AT RISK

2010 marks the publication of the third edition of our Heritage at Risk Register. It identifies which of this country's most important grade I and II\* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wreck sites and conservation areas are threatened by development pressures, neglect or decay. The Heritage at Risk Register also monitors the changing condition of assets to help prioritise where resources and expertise can best be deployed. This year, we undertook a pioneering 15% sample survey of England's 14,500 listed places of worship to help us understand the condition of the thousands of designated churches, chapels, synagogues, mosques and temples and other faith buildings that are the spiritual focus for our communities. They face many different kinds of challenges and we need to ensure their future.

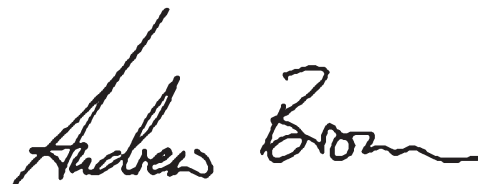
The expansion of the Heritage at Risk Register in the South East has presented both opportunities and challenges. Complex and problematic defence buildings still feature strongly in the Register. The threats to conservation areas and landscapes are also challenging because the problems are more difficult to address; they are often related to development pressures and multiple ownership rather than to neglect and decay of individual structures.

However, the past year has seen successes on all fronts too. We have seen some of our longest-standing buildings at risk conserved and removed from the Register, including the magnificent barn at Westenhanger Castle in Kent and the ruined church of St Mary at Treyford in West Sussex. As well as working to understand better the data provided by the Register, we have been sowing the seeds of what we hope will turn out to be a number of positive future solutions. For example, we have improved liaison with owners and have provided advice and guidance to partners on Environmental Stewardship schemes that improve site management within the agricultural landscape. Several of the region's registered parks and gardens at risk have had conservation management plans commissioned to help owners understand and better manage their sites.

The global financial recession and its consequences are having an impact on progress in dealing with Heritage at Risk. Funding is becoming ever more difficult to obtain and competition is increasing for scarce public grants and subsidies. Many sites have no obvious commercial value, which discourages owners from investing in them.

It is also becoming harder to find developers with the will and the resources to take on the most difficult cases. At some sites, even though plans have been agreed, work will not start until the economy recovers. Elsewhere, improvement or repair works have been partially completed when contractors have gone into receivership and projects have stalled – as at Swaylands, a grade II registered park and garden in Kent, and the Smithery at Chatham Dockyard, although happily the hiatus was short-lived at both these sites.

Safeguarding our heritage will remain very challenging, even as we emerge from the recession. Strong partnership working and positive engagement with owners and local authorities on sustainable solutions will remain at the heart of future success in managing Heritage at Risk in the region.



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## HADLOW TOWER, KENT

This grade I listed folly once belonged to a demolished early 19th century country house; it has been on the Buildings at Risk Register since its inception in 1998. Plans for the tower to be restored for use as a holiday property by the Vivat Trust have been developed. The Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage have both agreed to provide grants but the project has been delayed because of difficulties in securing partnership funding in the wake of the global economic downturn. The Trust is now looking at a reduced scope of works that can be achieved with the budget available.

## LISTED BUILDINGS

- 1 in 32 (3.1%) grade I and II\* listed buildings are at risk across the country. In the South East this falls to 1.8% (102 sites).
- 7 sites were removed from the 2009 Register in the region during the year, but 3 new sites have been added.
- Since publication of the 1999 baseline Register 49.4% of the region's buildings at risk (115 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 to 76 sites on the Register during 2009/10. In the South East we awarded grants totalling £450k to 8 sites.

## CONSERVATION AREAS

- 272 local authorities (81%) have taken part in our national survey of conservation areas, 52 of which were in the South East region.
- We now have information for 7,388 of England's 9,300 designated conservation areas, of which 1,423 are in the South East.
- 549 (7.4%) of the conservation areas for which we have information are at risk, 101 (6.6%) of them in our region.

## SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- Approximately 1 in 6 (17.2%) of England's 19,731 scheduled monuments are at risk, compared with 9.4% (246 sites) in the South East.
- The total at risk has fallen by 142 (4.0%) since 2009, 24 of which (8.9%) were in this region.
- Arable ploughing and unrestricted plant, scrub or tree growth account for nearly two thirds of sites at risk nationally. This increases to three quarters in our region.
- Nationally, 82% of scheduled monuments at risk are in private ownership, rising to 89% in the South East.
- Of the £450k offered to owners of scheduled monuments at risk in 2009/10, £64k was awarded to 11 sites in our region.

## 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 South East, 24 of our 368 sites are at risk (6.5%).
- Nationally, 5 sites have been added and 2 removed from the Register. There has been no change in the South East.

## REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 are at risk, 1 fewer than in 2009.
- Of the 6 registered battlefields in the South East, 1 (Newbury) is at risk.

## PROTECTED SHIP WRECKS

- Of the 46 protected wreck sites around England's coast, 8 are at risk, a fall of 1 since 2009, due to the implementation of an improved management regime.
- 7 of the South East's 20 protected wreck sites are at risk, 4 of them on the Goodwin Sands.



### BROOKWOOD CEMETERY, SURREY

Brookwood's huge size, wealth of monuments and multiple ownership have combined to put its future at risk. Woking Borough Council and English Heritage are encouraging development of a Conservation Management Plan to guide this unique landscape to long-term safety.

THERE ARE

**5,574**

GRADE I AND II\*  
LISTED  
BUILDINGS  
IN THE SOUTH EAST

**9.4%**  
OF THE  
REGION'S  
SCHEDULED  
MONUMENTS  
ARE AT RISK

**7.1%** OF  
CONSERVATION  
AREAS SURVEYED  
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AT RISK

**6.5%**  
OF THE REGIONS  
368 REGISTERED  
PARKS AND  
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## CARING FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship make a huge contribution to our towns and villages. They sit at the heart of communities, dominating skylines and landscapes. They are the product of centuries of invested skill and philanthropy. Most remain as places of prayer and spirituality but others have acquired new social uses that benefit a much wider cross-section of urban and rural society.

Like all buildings, they require regular maintenance to keep them in good condition. They also need to adapt to the evolving needs of their congregations and the wider community. Responsibility for their care falls almost entirely on the shoulders of volunteers, and for many smaller congregations the burden can be heavy.

We have therefore undertaken a series of consultation events with congregations, user groups and local authorities to identify the biggest concerns of those who manage these very special places. Places of Worship 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 an accompanying report.

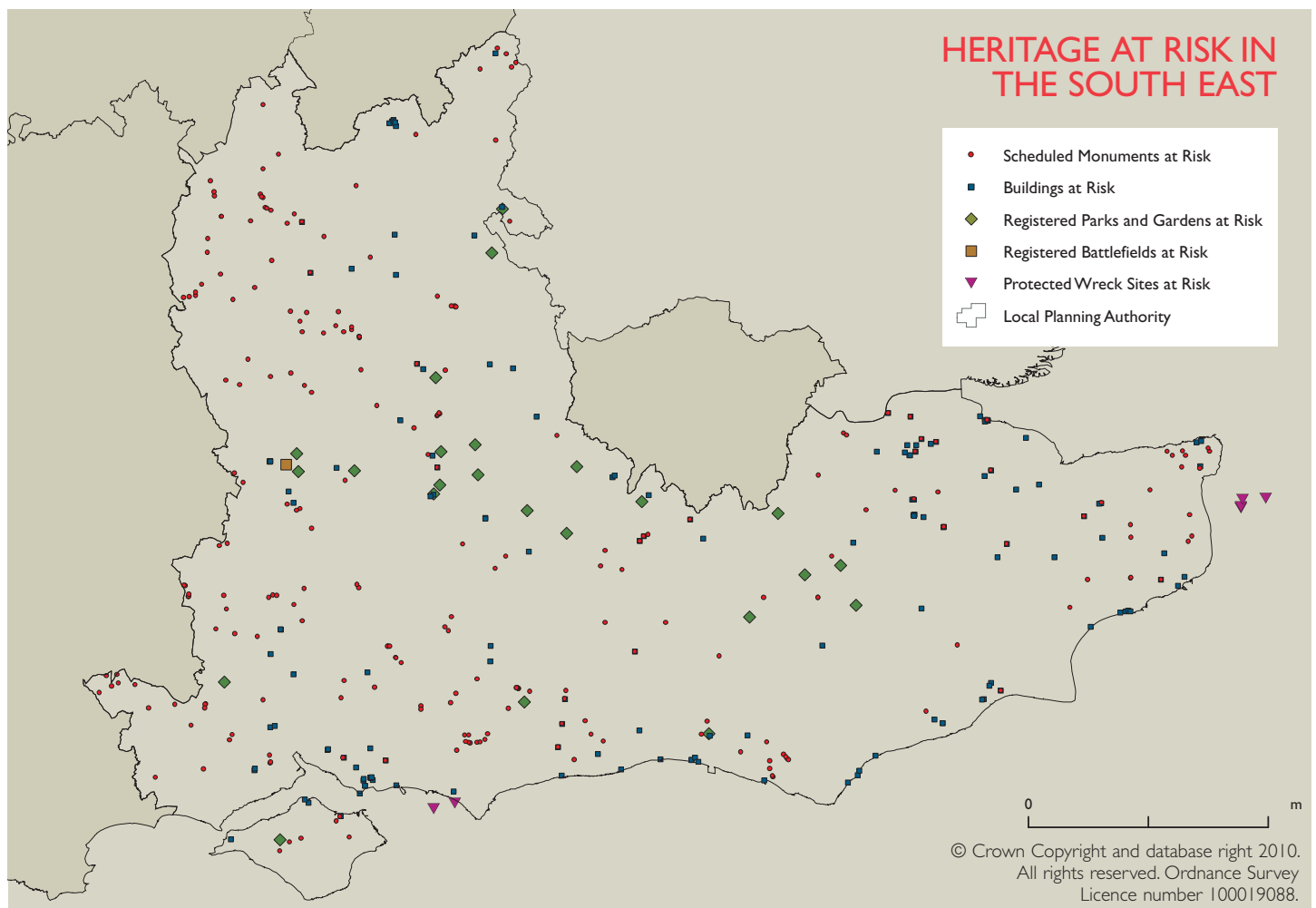
## What we know

- 45% of all grade I buildings are places of worship.
- 85% of listed places of worship belong to the Church of England.
- Up to 1 in 10 could be at risk from leaking roofs, faulty gutters or eroding stonework.
- 1,850 repair projects at 1,567 buildings have shared £171m of English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund grant aid since 2002/3.

## What congregations want to understand better

- Why their building has been listed and what that means.
- How to get permission to make changes and find expert help.
- How to raise money for one-off projects and day-to-day maintenance.
- Who will look after their buildings in the future.

All of these are considered in our booklet *Caring for Places of Worship*, sent to every listed place of worship.



For more information, see  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk)  
or contact your English Heritage regional office.

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](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)