

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

South East Summary 2016



The good news for Heritage at Risk this year is that, nationally, there are fewer entries on the 2016 Register than there were on the 2015 Register, and this reflects our success across the country in delivering our strategy for Heritage at Risk. In the South East our Register now has 506 assets, down from 534 last year. However, the less good news is the increase for the first time in the number of sites on the Register which are capable of re-use. This suggests that fewer buildings and structures are economic to repair these days, which makes the problem of how to reduce risk a more difficult nut to crack. Nevertheless, our undaunted local Heritage at Risk team, led by Clare Charlesworth, continues to work with owners, funders, stakeholders and especially volunteers, to find the right solutions for sites on the Register.

Andy Brown Planning Director, South East



2016 has been a terrific year for Heritage at Risk in the South East. More sites than ever before have been removed from our Register. In order to achieve these outcomes, we have clear aims for our work:

Using advice and grants to reduce the amount of Heritage at Risk

For many of the entries removed from the Register this year, the solutions found were related to either advice or grant aid from Historic England. At Sheerness Dockyard, our advice has assisted in the Regency Close and Dockyard House being returned to private domestic use. Both buildings are testament to the area's illustrious former naval connections. In the Meon Valley, the ruins of the former hunting lodge of King John's House have been conserved with a Historic England grant.

Understanding trends in Heritage at Risk

So that money and time are directed to where they are most needed it is important that we know about future trends in risk. Our partner organisations have made use of this knowledge to design some of their grant schemes and we are able to support them by providing technical advice on applications. Largely because of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Grants for Places of Worship and Natural

England's Countryside Stewardship schemes, we are removing 22 monuments and 20 places of worship from our Register this year.

Helping people to appreciate and save Heritage at Risk

Most of the work that we carry out would not happen if it weren't for the owners and volunteers involved with the individual sites. At the ruins of Bix Old Church, team members worked very hard with the local church community to foster their enthusiasm about the former parish church building. As a result, a successful application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the building has been preserved and is open to the public.

Growing capacity to deliver solutions for Heritage at Risk

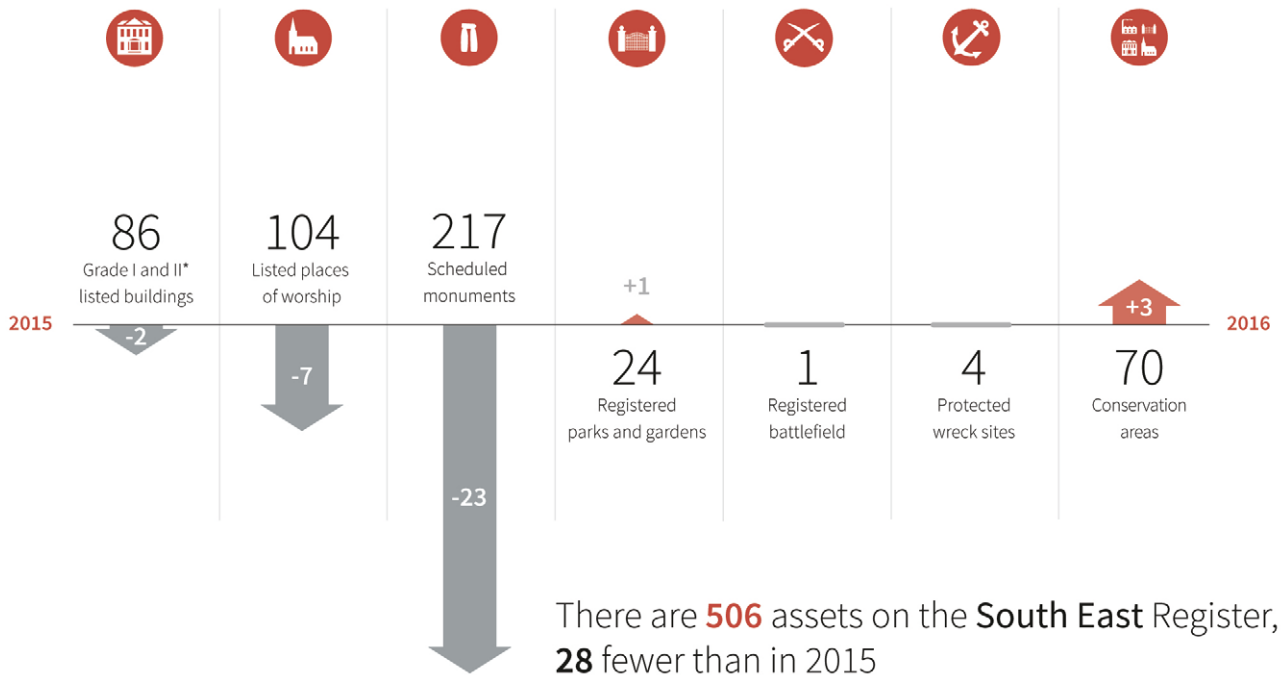
Partnership with our colleagues in Local Authorities is a vital part of our work. The conservation areas on our Register have been assessed as 'at risk' by them, and we work closely with them and local communities to provide the necessary tools to reduce this risk. This year, four conservation areas are being removed from our Register.

All of our partners are Heritage at Risk heroes and we look forward to another year of working with them to reduce risk to heritage in the South East.

Clare Charlesworth Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Cover image: Norris Castle, East Cowes, Isle of Wight. Built by James Wyatt in 1799. The house has been on the Register since 2011, but this year we have added the Estate's Registered Park and Garden and ornamental farm. The site is at risk because of a backlog of maintenance and the deterioration of significant historic fabric. Our cover photograph shows the green light cast by a tarpaulin protecting the leaking roof light above a stairwell. Historic England is working with new owners and the local authority to ensure that current development proposals address all the causes of risk.

Designated assets on the 2016 **South East Register**



Saltdean Lido **Brighton & Hove**



Saltdean Lido, Brighton & Hove, was built in 1938. The progress made in reducing risk to the Lido, this year, is a testament to the tremendous work put into reviving this iconic temple to healthy living, by the Community Interest Company (CIC) which was set up to save it. Saltdean Lido CIC was formed in 2014, born from the ‘Save

Saltdean Lido Campaign’ which had successfully stopped the lido building and pool being demolished to make way for residential development. The members of the CIC are a small, voluntary team of local residents developing a business plan to safeguard the site for future generations.

They have already been tremendously successful in their fundraising efforts to secure a pot of money to allow the building to be repaired. The reinforced concrete of the buildings has suffered from a lack of maintenance and the effects of a marine climate, whilst the two pools

had been altered so much that their original design was all but lost, and changes in the holiday market had rendered them almost redundant. However, in early 2015 the CIC secured a £2.3million grant from the Coastal Communities Fund to restore the pools to their former glory, and within weeks a further £4.7million was pledged by the Heritage Lottery Fund to bring the Lido buildings back into beneficial use.

The works to reform the pools are now on site, and despite some set-backs, the project continues apace. Historic England is delighted to be working closely with the CIC to both help them as they test ideas for their business plan, and to seek out the further sources of funding which will enable the project to continue and see Saltdean Lido removed from our Heritage at Risk Register.

Gothic Temple **Shotover Park, Oxfordshire**

The Gothic Temple at Shotover Park in Oxfordshire was built in 1740 as an open loggia with a plain tiled roof and plaster vaults with Gothick detailing. We are delighted to be able to remove it from the South East Heritage at Risk Register this year. This follows a comprehensive programme of repairs to the folly, which sits in a landscape garden. The repairs were funded by Natural England, through their Environmental Stewardship Scheme (now superseded by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme), and the owner's professional team were advised by architects and surveyors from Historic England. Work was completed in late 2015 and is an excellent example of partnership working between both bodies.

The folly had fallen into a state of disrepair through a lack of maintenance over a number of years, but when ownership arrangements changed, the Estate Trustees sought funding to improve the condition. The folly has particularly fine stuccowork which has now been restored through the work of skilled craftspeople, using traditional plasterwork repair techniques and historically



correct materials. The roof has also been repaired, and the surrounding vegetation controlled. Always designed to face the house at Shotover along the length of an ornamental pool, it is now reflected in all its glory in the waters again.

50th Anniversary of Conservation Areas

In 2017, Historic England will celebrate the 50th anniversary of conservation areas. These precious historic areas, from urban and industrial to rural and remote, create a strong sense of place and are likely to be what you think of when you think of special local character.

We'll carry out research into people's attitudes towards conservation areas and the challenges they

face in protecting them. We also plan to analyse local authorities' conservation area survey data to better understand what puts conservation areas up and down the country at risk. Finally, at a time when local authority resources are under pressure, we'll ask how local civic groups and organisations can become more involved to help safeguard conservation areas.

For more information contact:

Clare Charlesworth, Historic England South East
Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street,
Guildford, GU1 3EH
Telephone: 01483 252 020
Email: southeast@HistoricEngland.org.uk
Twitter: @HE_SouthEast

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