

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

Yorkshire Summary 2017



This has been another good year, with grants of £1.38 million offered for repairs to 18 sites. It is great to record progress on two of Yorkshire's most famous places. After putting Wentworth Woodhouse back on the Register last year we are now working with new owners to administer a major government grant which is beginning to secure the fabric of the building. At Stamford Bridge, advice rather than grant has removed the risk of damaging development around the 1066 battlefield which is now protected by the East Riding's Local Plan. We have continued our successful mills campaign with the completion of repairs at Waterloo Mill and developers taking on buildings highlighted in our study 'Engines of Prosperity'. The mighty Hunslet Mill has a new owner and works are already underway to create new homes there, meeting government objectives for housing and saving our heritage.

Trevor Mitchell Planning Director, Yorkshire



We have made great progress in our work to resolve some long-standing problems. Perhaps the most impressive case, the barn at Watton Abbey, on the Heritage at Risk Register since 1999, has now been consolidated

and our grant has put back a roof to create what will in future be an eminently usable building rather than a crumbling ruin. As a result of positive engagement with landowners and work with Natural England, we continue to safeguard many archaeological sites. In all, 58.1% (421) of archaeological sites at risk have been removed from the 2009 Yorkshire Register to date.

Our work on **South Yorkshire Metal Trades** sites continues. Repairs at Green Lane Works are now finished. Located in the iconic Kelham Island Conservation Area, it is now a mix of homes and business space. New residents moved in as soon as units were available, demonstrating the keen interest from home owners in this former industrial area. Nearby, the long-vacant Wharnccliffe Works has changed hands, bringing the prospect of new investment and reuse.

In the **Ancient Landscapes of the Wolds**, in addition to the significant grant at Watton and our engagement

with archaeological sites, we have been working to find solutions to the issues at Londesborough Park. Our grant aid will support the repair of the impressive main entrance gateway. The Park remains at risk and we will be exploring opportunities to work with the owners to reverse the decline of this historic landscape.

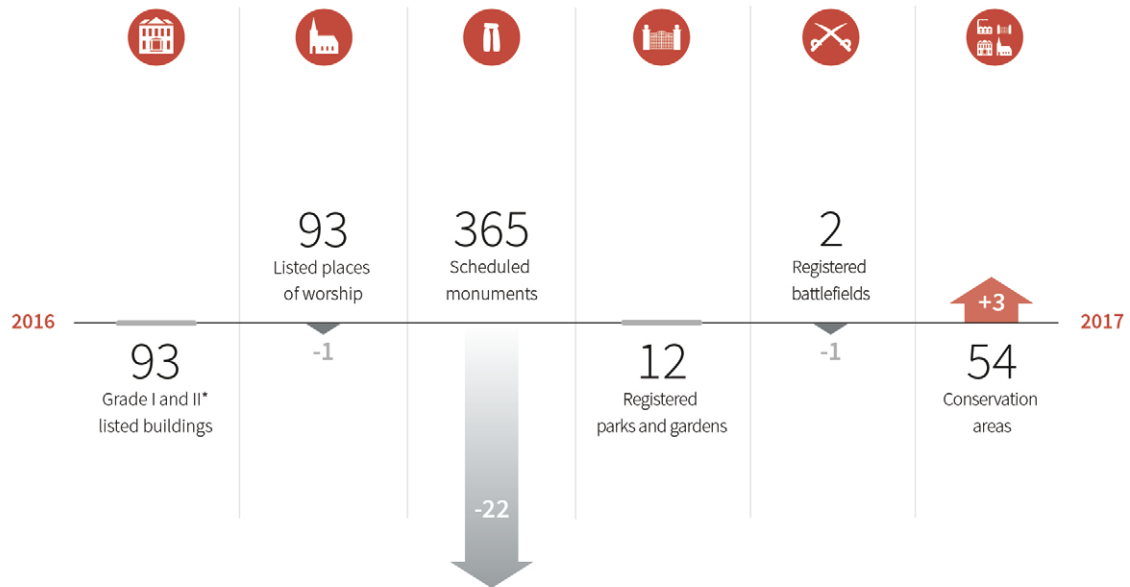
Textile Industry of the West Riding is one of our regional priorities and the 'Engines of Prosperity' campaign continues to promote the legacy of this industry, highlighting the opportunities that former mills create for both commercial and residential use. Repairs to the engine house at Waterloo Mill will allow visitors to savour the oily majesty of this unique survivor from the glory days of the woollen industry. In Leeds we are working with the Council and a new owner on the repair and reuse of the derelict First White Cloth Hall. We inch closer to the restoration which this pivotal building deserves.

Last year we were able to remove 62 sites from the Register, their risks reduced and their futures secured. Major works are currently underway at important castle sites such as Harsley and Pontefract, while Mowbray Castle is now safe and work should soon begin at Flamborough. I am delighted to have joined the team at this exciting time and look forward to more successes next year.

Jane Jackson Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Cover image: The soaring new roof of **Watton Abbey barn** is a striking addition to the grade II* building. It is the result of close working between agencies. Natural England grant has supported the repair of the remaining building whilst Historic England has reinstated the missing roof to support the gable ends of the building and protect the brick walls which have a core of chalk rubble. The barn is restricted to agricultural purposes for 10 years. After this time we will encourage an economically viable end use. The building has been on the Heritage at Risk Register since its inception in 1999.

Designated assets on the 2017 Yorkshire Register



There are **619** assets on the Yorkshire Register, **21** fewer than in 2016

Green Lane Works Sheffield, South Yorkshire



For many years the imposing grade II* listed gateway to Green Lane Works has been hidden behind hoardings and the elegant clock tower has been obscured by a complex mesh of scaffolding that was put in place to prevent its collapse. Luckily, Leeds-based developer CITU recognised the potential

of the site in Sheffield's Kelham Island Conservation Area, a conservation area at risk, and with grant from Historic England this once derelict building has been brought back into mixed residential and commercial use and recently welcomed its first occupants.

Once described by Pevsner as 'the most spectacular survival of factory architecture at Sheffield', the clock tower and gateway fell into disrepair when the site closed in the late 20th century. Concerns about the stability

of the clock tower, which exhibited a pronounced lean where the timbers had rotted, led to the building being shrouded in scaffolding.

Now, after months of painstaking repair and conservation work, the scaffolding has been removed and the ornate clock tower, with its unusual cast iron scrolls and gilded weather vane, is once again a landmark on the city's skyline.

The clock has now been fully repaired with grant so that it not only displays the correct time, but will chime the hour for the residents of Kelham. The gilded triumphal arch with its bronze relief panels depicting Art and Industry will once again be the main point of entry to a thriving, vibrant site where characterful historic buildings now sit comfortably alongside innovative new dwellings. Grant has also been used to repair masonry and replace windows and rainwater goods.

This site is an excellent example of how historic buildings can be successfully integrated into new developments to create attractive and sustainable places.

Pontefract Castle Wakefield, West Yorkshire

Pontefract Castle is one of the last great monuments on the Yorkshire Heritage at Risk Register. The Norman motte and bailey castle is closely associated with royalty, and Charles I paid for significant repairs early in his reign. The Royalist garrison survived three prolonged sieges before finally surrendering in 1649 when parts of the building were dismantled by the ruling Parliamentarians.

Historic England is now in the final year of more than a decade of repairs. Working with the owners – Wakefield Council – we have provided significant funding to secure the consolidation of the structure. The initial proposal to make the structure safe and more accessible has become the multi-million pound Heritage Lottery Fund backed ‘Key to the North’ project, improving visitor experiences with new paths, interpretation and a purpose-built visitor centre. There has already been a big increase in visits to the castle through major events, volunteer programmes and a number of community-based archaeology projects.



One of the most unexpected and exciting finds during the project has been the discovery of the inner bailey gatehouse and drawbridge pit. We are currently funding excavation and repairs to the Sally Port that will allow further access for visitors to the site.

The castle will be removed from the Register next year.

Caring for Conservation Areas

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of conservation areas. These come in all forms, from the quintessential English village to the urban heartland. They are united by a common theme – they are special places full of character and history, much loved by those who live and work in them. Because of their unique character they are also engines for economic regeneration and this is the key to tackling risk in many conservation areas.

This year we have added more conservation areas to the Register than have been removed. But it’s also the year we launched Heritage Action Zones, many of which include conservation areas at risk where we will unlock economic potential with our partners over the coming years.

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