



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT RISK

2012

WESLEYAN

SOUTH WEST

# HERITAGE AT RISK

Despite the challenges of recession, the number of sites on the Heritage at Risk Register continues to fall. Excluding listed places of worship, for which the survey is still incomplete, 1,150 assets have been removed for positive reasons since the Register was launched in 2008. The sites that remain at risk tend to be the more intractable ones where solutions are taking longer to implement.

While the overall number of buildings at risk has fallen, the average conservation deficit for each property has increased from £260k (1999) to £370k (2012). We are also seeing a steady increase in the proportion of buildings that are capable of beneficial re-use – those that have become redundant not because of any fundamental lack of potential, but simply as the temporary victims of the current economic climate.

The South West headlines for 2012 reveal a mixed picture. It is good news that 8 buildings at risk have been removed from the Register; less good that another 15 have had to be added. Similarly, while 2 conservation areas have been removed for positive reasons, 5 others have taken their place. There has been no net change in the number of scheduled monuments at risk – 45 have been secured but an equal number is now at risk. This year, every case solved has been replaced by at least one new future challenge.

In May, English Heritage set the target of removing 25% of the entries from the 2010 baseline Register for positive reasons by April 2015. This objective has since been embedded in the National Heritage Protection Plan so that resources can be focused on achieving this goal.

Partnerships will be crucial to success. An important new collaboration between English Heritage and the Architectural Heritage Fund is funding a number of Heritage at Risk Support Officers. Working on shared priorities, the South West Officer is now providing valuable advice to trusts who own buildings at risk. Funds have already been secured, for example, for the repair of Bridport Literary and Scientific Institute and Wolfeton Riding House, both in Dorset.

We need to nurture such relationships for the benefit of other asset types. Natural England's agri-environment schemes have long supported the conservation and enhancement of scheduled monuments – as well as designed landscapes and traditional farm buildings – in agricultural holdings. However, the programme ends in 2013, which means uncertainty about the future funding for such assets, most of which rely on public subsidy to remain in good condition.

We will continue to fund Monument Management Schemes which, with match-funding from local authorities, offer a cost-effective, locally led approach to tackling vulnerable scheduled monuments. But with 43% of England's scheduled monuments at risk lying in the South West, and with the 2015 target in mind, alternative and additional funding sources need to be identified as a priority.

Our cover story reminds us that places of worship in the South West are also facing many challenges, not least in small rural communities where repair costs can be a major financial burden or lead to proposals for closure. Seventeen churches and chapels have been added to this year's Register, but happily almost all have been offered Heritage Lottery Fund grants to help fund repairs.

We begin work towards meeting the 2015 target in testing times. With no immediate prospect of recovery in the South West's economy, developer-led solutions are unlikely to play a significant part in securing the future of threatened buildings in the short to medium term. However, English Heritage will foster links with the private sector wherever possible, and strengthen relationships with partners in the public and community and voluntary sectors to secure a sustainable future for our most vulnerable heritage assets.



**Andrew Vines**  
Planning and Conservation Director,  
South West

## LITTLE TRETHERY, CORNWALL

Cornwall's Nonconformist chapels are of national significance, but the number still being used for worship continues to decline. Built in 1868, this grade II\* Wesleyan wayside example is one of the most important of them all, but at risk of decay and eventual collapse without further help and funds. Rural chapels have experienced the highest levels of dereliction, loss and change, with small communities often struggling to maintain them. English Heritage, Cornwall Council and the Methodist Church have collaborated on the production of guidance to inform sensitive changes to these important buildings. © Eric Berry

## BUILDINGS AT RISK

- Nationally, 3.0% of grade I and II\* listed buildings are at risk. In the South West this falls to 2.2% (159 buildings).
- 8 buildings at risk were removed from the 2011 South West Register; but 15 have been added.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP AT RISK

- Of the 314 listed places of worship surveyed in the South West, 38 are at risk. 17 have been added this year.

## SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- 3,286 (16.6%) of England's 19,759 scheduled monuments are at risk, of which 1,412 are in the South West.
- In the South West, 45 scheduled monuments have been removed from the 2011 Register for positive reasons, and 45 have been added.
- 11% of scheduled monuments (156) on the South West's baseline 2009 Register have been removed for positive reasons, compared to the national figure of 15.8%.
- Nationally, damage from arable cultivation is the greatest risk factor for scheduled monuments, accounting for 44% of those at risk. In the South West the proportion is 37%.

## REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

- 99 (6.1%) of England's 1,617 registered parks and gardens are at risk, a decrease from 103 (6.4%) in 2011. In the South West, 18 (6.1%) of our 294 sites are at risk.
- Nationally, 5 sites were removed from the 2011 Register and 1 has been added. There has been no change in the South West.

## REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

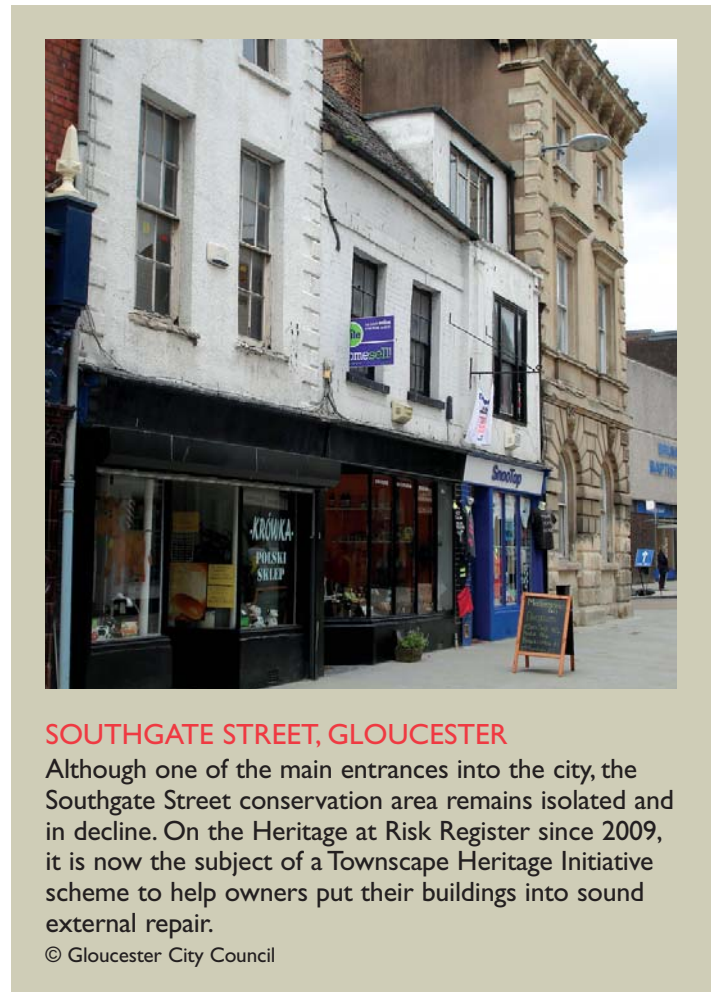
- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 are at risk, 2 fewer than the 2008 baseline. None of the 8 registered battlefields in the South West are at risk.

## PROTECTED WRECK SITES

- Of the 46 protected wreck sites off England's coast, 4 are at risk. Of the 10 sites on the 2008 baseline, 9 have been removed. None of the 23 protected wreck sites off the coast of the South West are at risk.

## CONSERVATION AREAS

- We now have information on the condition of 7,976 of England's 9,770 conservation areas; 524 (6.6%) are at risk. Of the 1,125 conservation areas surveyed in the South West, 83 (7.4%) are at risk.
- 2 conservation areas were removed from the 2011 South West Register for positive reasons, but 5 have been added.



### SOUTHGATE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Although one of the main entrances into the city, the Southgate Street conservation area remains isolated and in decline. On the Heritage at Risk Register since 2009, it is now the subject of a Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme to help owners put their buildings into sound external repair.

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**58%** OF  
BUILDINGS  
AT RISK ON THE 1999  
REGISTER HAVE BEEN  
**SAVED**

**83**  
CONSERVATION  
AREAS  
ARE AT RISK

**20.2%** OF  
SCHEDULED  
MONUMENTS  
ARE AT RISK

**£823k**  
IN GRANTS  
WAS OFFERED TO  
**47** SITES AT RISK

## PRIORITY HAR SITES

- Academy Theatre and Great Western Hotel (Palace Theatre), Union Street, Stonehouse, Plymouth
- Birnbeck Pier, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset
- Carriage Works, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol
- Cloth finishing works at Tone Mills, north range, Langford Budville, Somerset
- Former Saxon church to west of Priory House, Leonard Stanley, Stroud, Gloucestershire
- Grenville Battery 550yds (500m) SSW of Maker Farm, Maker-with-Rame, Cornwall
- Guns Mill Barn, Littledean, Gloucestershire
- Medieval moated site and Romano-British settlement at White Walls Wood, Easton Grey, Wiltshire
- The Mechanics Institute, Emlyn Square, Swindon
- Torbay Cinema, Torbay Road, Paignton, Torbay

## GRADE II PILOT PROJECTS

English Heritage is looking for people to take part in pilot projects that will explore options for expanding the Heritage at Risk programme to include all grade II listed buildings.

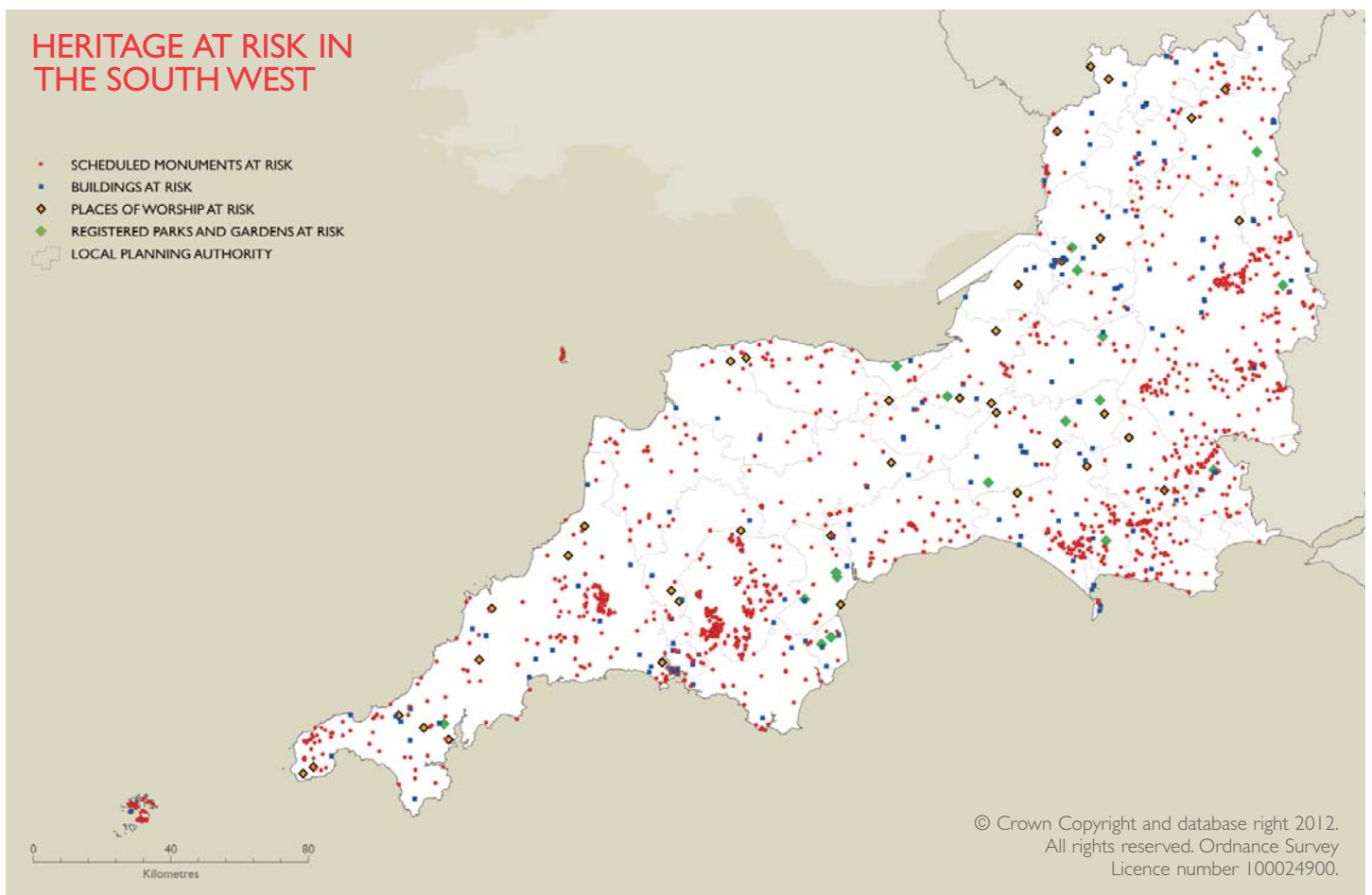
A maximum of 15 pilot projects are required to explore, cost and test various options for undertaking surveys of grade II listed buildings.

For more information and details on how to apply visit:

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Find out what's at risk by searching or downloading the online Heritage at Risk Register at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/har](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/har)

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