

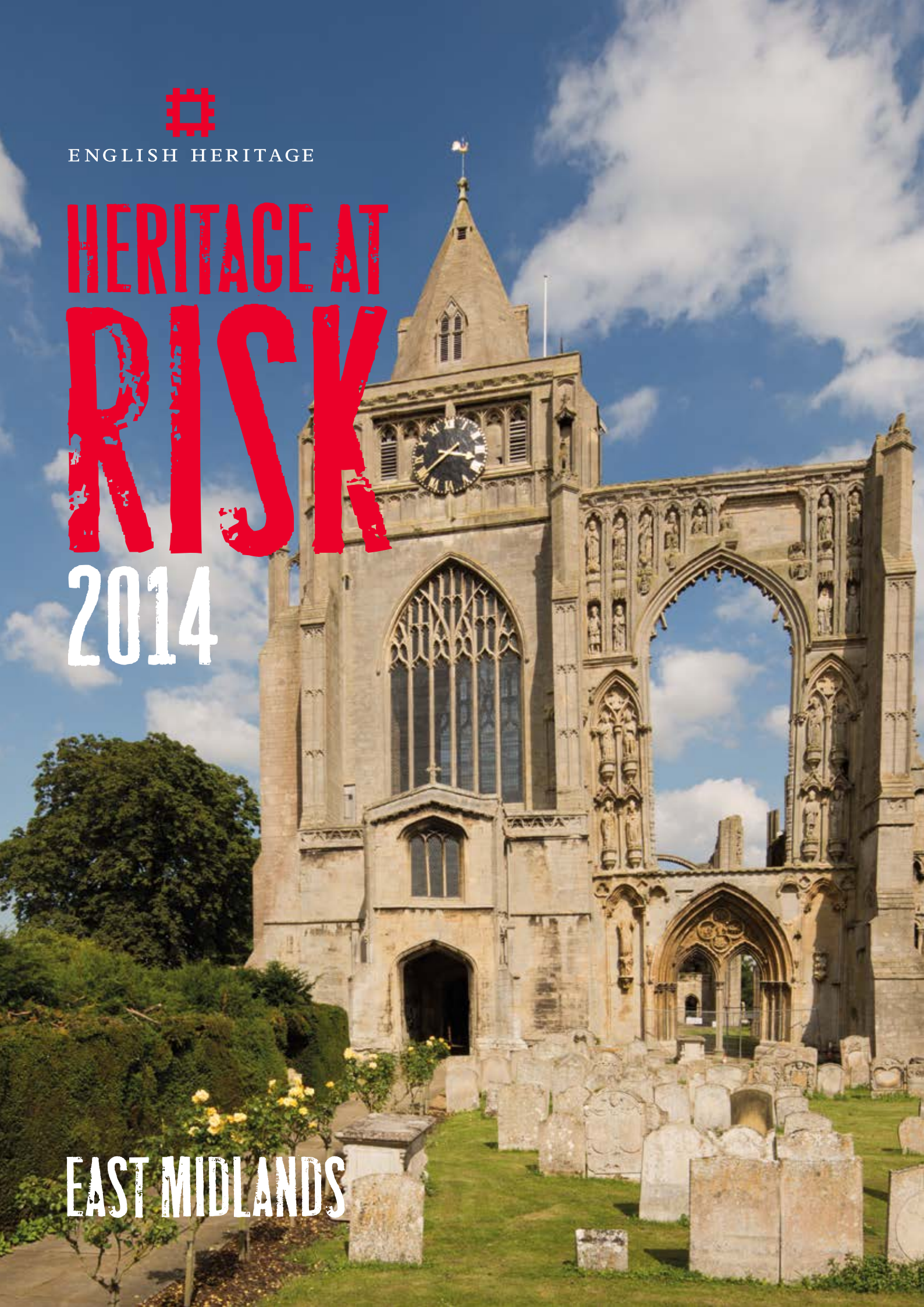


ENGLISH HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT RISK

2014

EAST MIDLANDS



# HERITAGE AT RISK

Heritage at Risk is our campaign to save listed buildings and important historic sites, places and landmarks from neglect or decay. At its heart is the Heritage at Risk Register, an online database containing details of each site known to be at risk. It is analysed and updated annually and this leaflet summarises the results.

Over the past year we have focused much of our effort on assessing listed Places of Worship; visiting those considered to be in poor or very bad condition as a result of local reports. We now know that of the 14,775 listed places of worship in England, 6% (887) are at risk and as such are included on this year's Register. These additions mean the overall number of sites on the Register has increased to 5,753. However, 575 sites have been removed from the 2013 Register, which includes one of our biggest achievements this year, the repair of the 16th century Banqueting House at Barlborough Hall, Derbyshire.

**Anthony Streeten**, Planning and Conservation Director, East Midlands

Congregations are sometimes dismayed to find that their treasured historic church, chapel, temple or synagogue has entered the Heritage at Risk Register. However, we view the Register as a positive tool to help define priorities for all those who may be able to offer help.

Three years ago The Diocese of Lincoln set the benchmark for the type of condition survey carried out nationally this year. One of the important outcomes of the work in Lincolnshire was to highlight the valuable assistance that Historic Churches Support Officers can offer parishes. This year English Heritage is delighted to be able to provide grants both for the Lincoln post for a further term and a similar new post for the Diocese of Peterborough.

The task of reducing the number of places of worship at risk was greatly helped by the former Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme, administered by English Heritage and jointly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has been replaced by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW). The importance of the GPOW programme in addressing repair needs cannot be overstated. English Heritage is very happy to provide technical advice to assist the Heritage Lottery Fund in its management of GPOW grants.

However, it is the work of priests, parishioners and wider communities, who often face severe and complex repair problems, that must be particularly applauded, both for preventing places of worship from becoming 'at risk' and for tackling those that have slipped into a precarious state.

Understanding, inspiration, creativity, and resourcefulness, are also necessary to rescue cherished secular historic buildings. We are pleased to report again this year that there has been

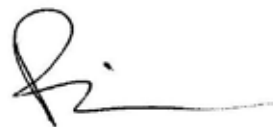
good progress in the East Midlands towards the national target of removing 25% of entries on the 2010 Heritage at Risk Register by 2015.

The repair of the famous Roman gateway in Lincoln, Newport Arch, was completed this year with funding from Lincoln City Council and the WREN Heritage Fund. However, many of the heritage assets on the Register are in private, not institutional, hands, and solutions depend upon individual owners and developers. Stanwick Hall and Barton Seagrave Hall are two wonderful Northamptonshire historic houses that now have a new lease of life thanks to their owners.

All too often the condition of buildings and monuments deteriorates slowly over the years until it becomes critical. Watchfulness and timely action are the keys to reversing decline.

Nobody, however, can prevent occasional unforeseen disasters. The Church of St George at Goltho in Lincolnshire, a delightful brick building dating to the 16th century enters the Register this year after being gutted by fire.

However risk arises, your local English Heritage team endeavours to work with its many partners to find solutions.



**Ben Robinson**,  
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

## CROWLAND ABBEY, SOUTH HOLLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

The glorious Crowland Abbey has been a place of worship and pilgrimage since the 8th century AD. It has withstood the ravages of fire, war and politics, to serve today's community and now greets visitors to the Fens with one of the most enigmatically beautiful examples of medieval architecture in the country. First appearances can be deceptive, however, and a closer look reveals serious threats to its delicate stonework.



# 2014 EAST MIDLANDS REGISTER: EAST MIDLANDS

**39** SITES REMOVED FROM THE **2013** REGISTER

**£883k**  
**21 SITES**



## WHAT'S ON THE HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER?



**61**  
**CONSERVATION AREAS** (6.7%)

NATIONAL AVERAGE

EAST MIDLANDS

IN THE EAST MIDLANDS THERE ARE...



4.0%



7.1%

**118**  
**BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES**



6.0%



5.8%

**105**  
**PLACES OF WORSHIP**



15.2%

8.3%

**127**  
**SCHEDULED MONUMENTS**



5.7%



4.3%

**6**  
**PARKS & GARDENS**

...ON THE REGISTER



## CROWLAND ABBEY, SOUTH HOLLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Crowland Abbey is one of the glories of the Fenland region. Its founding father, St Guthlac, famously confronted foul fen-dwelling demons to set up his hermitage here around the year 700 AD. The abbey, established after Guthlac's death, thrived after the Norman Conquest, recovering from fires and earthquakes, to become one of the most important monastic centres in the land. Worship in its church has survived Henry VIII's destruction of the monasteries and siege during the Civil War. Latterly, however, Crowland Abbey has begun to succumb to far more persistent enemies – time and the weather.

The present parish church of St Mary, St Bartholomew & St Guthlac, occupies only the north aisle of the former abbey church. The ruins of the nave, with its splendid west front, indicate the scale and grandeur of the medieval abbey.

The church and adjoining ruins are designated as a grade I listed building. Standing ruins and buried remains of the abbey are also designated as a scheduled monument.

### IS IT AT RISK?

Crowland Abbey entered the Heritage at Risk Register in 2011. Rainwater goods, roofs and high level masonry of the west tower of the parish church have recently been repaired, but the ruined west front remains in poor condition and 'at risk'.

### WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Repair works to the parish church were assisted by the Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme, formerly administered and jointly funded by English Heritage. The successful completion of this crucial work has allowed the parish to turn its attention to the ruined nave and west front. Rainwater dispersal, vegetation growth and crumbling masonry are among the issues now confronting the monument. Falling stonework has required temporary fencing and closure of the west entrance to the nave. Parish plans to make greater use of the nave for events and worship have been put on hold.

The delicate decorative detailing and statues of the west front, depicting saints and figures relevant to the history of the abbey, are a particular concern. Widely acknowledged to be among the finest examples of medieval church sculpture to be seen in the country, the survival of the statues into modern times has been almost miraculous. Action is required now to ensure that the wonderful west front at Crowland survives to inspire future generations.

## HELP HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic buildings are irreplaceable; they give us our sense of place and contribute to our quality of life. These precious buildings need to be looked after for future generations, but how do we know what needs our help the most? English Heritage is encouraging community groups, volunteers, building owners and local authorities across the country to come together to record the condition of grade II listed buildings in their area. Volunteers will visit a selection of grade II buildings local to them and answer questions, in the form of a survey, about the condition of the building. This information will be collected together and shared with local planning authorities to help identify those grade II buildings most at risk. Visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk/help/historicbuildings](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/help/historicbuildings) to find out more.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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### BARTON SEAGRAVE HALL AND ORANGERY, KETTERING, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

#### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Barton Seagrave Hall, built for the prominent Bridges family of Northamptonshire, is a fine 18th century former country house. Its sad decline in recent years has now been totally reversed by a new owner, who has given the place a new life, creating prestige facilities and a new business for the area.

The Hall is grade II\* listed and its grounds incorporate a splendid grade I listed orangery dating to the later 18th century. When the Wicksteed



Trust acquired the buildings over ten years ago they were in poor condition and required significant investment. The Trust was established in 1916 by a local industrialist to 'provide facilities and recreation in the interests of social welfare'. Repairs to the orangery were instigated with English Heritage grant aid, but the Trust then decided to sell the Barton Seagrave property to focus its efforts and resources on other priorities in the area.

#### IS IT AT RISK?

The orangery was added to the Buildings at Risk Register in 1998, and the Hall in 2002. The orangery was repaired and removed from the Heritage at Risk Register in 2013. The Hall was removed in 2014.

### WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

The property was marketed in 2010 with both the Hall and orangery vacant, suffering vandalism, and still firmly 'at risk'. Local developer Tom Hazelton began negotiating a purchase and at the same time entered into pre-application discussions with the planners regarding a leisure conversion.

Engagement with the Local Planning Authority was hampered by their inability to draw on internal specialist conservation advice. Less committed developers might simply have walked away from the project, but English Heritage advisers were able to provide support and planning and Listed Building Consent applications were granted in 2012.

Barton Hall Hotel opened in 2013, offering fine facilities for weddings, conferences, dining and other events. The orangery makes a wonderfully picturesque function room.

Tom Hazelton has gone to considerable lengths to respect the heritage significance of the buildings. Rather than thinking about short term returns, he has taken the long view, focusing on retaining the special character of the place for the true long-term benefits that this will bring.

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)

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)