



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT RISK

2014

LONDON



# 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, and 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, Severndroog Castle, Greenwich.

**Nigel Barker**, Planning and Conservation Director, London

Our success stories this year reflect the variety of sites we deal with in London. From a K2 telephone box to a grand Georgian house, a total of 41 sites have been removed from the London Heritage at Risk Register. We are particularly pleased that Severndroog Castle has once again opened its doors to the public, ten years after it first appeared in the television series 'Restoration'. The impressive 60 foot tower dates from the late 18th century and has been carefully restored under the guidance of the Severndroog Castle Building Preservation Trust, with support from English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Another notable achievement is the repair of two monuments in Kensal Green Cemetery, with funding from English Heritage and the cemetery Friends Group, including a monument to French acrobat Emile Blondin.

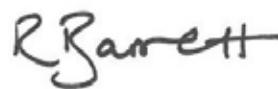
We have also seen progress on a number of our top ten priority sites. Now in the ownership of English Heritage, repairs to the magnificent Manor Farm Barn at Harmondsworth are well underway. The project has provided opportunities for training in traditional building skills and regular open days have enabled the public to better appreciate this grade I listed medieval barn. We are also delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded almost £9m to Ealing and Hounslow Councils to support the restoration of Gunnersbury Park and its many buildings and follies, as well as the museum currently housed in the Large Mansion. Both of these projects demonstrate the collaboration, perseverance and imagination so often needed to find sustainable solutions to heritage at risk.

Despite our successes, there are still considerable challenges. Most notable this year is the addition of 25 places of worship to the Register. This follows an extensive national project

which has provided us with an accurate and up to date picture of places of worship at risk in London. With this information we will continue to work closely with congregations and funding bodies in the year ahead.

A further 23 buildings or structures have been added to the Register, as well as 1 archaeological site and 5 conservation areas. Scadbury Manor, a newly designated scheduled monument in Bromley; Reliance Arcade, a 1920s covered market in Brixton; and the Mare Street conservation area in Hackney are just three examples. A number of churchyard and cemetery monuments have also been added and tackling these remains a priority for us in London.

Whilst we recognise that funding and resources are still stretched, we hope to build on our successes to secure the future of vulnerable heritage assets in London. To achieve this, the support and imagination of our partners will be as important as ever.



**Rebecca Barrett**,  
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

## SCADBURY MANOR MOATED SITE AND FISHPONDS, CHISLEHURST, BROMLEY

Scadbury Manor is an impressive site with the remains of a medieval moated manor house and well preserved fishponds. Having flourished during the 15th and 16th centuries, the fortunes of Scadbury turned in the early 18th century when the manor house was partially demolished. Today the site is in a deteriorating condition and needs further investigation and repair. Bromley Council is working closely with partners, including the Friends Group and English Heritage, to secure the long-term conservation and interpretation of this scheduled monument.

# 2014 LONDON REGISTER:

**41** SITES REMOVED FROM THE 2013 REGISTER

**£813k**  
**17 SITES**



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



**2.6%**

**60**  
CONSERVATION  
AREAS (6.3%)

**430** [GRADE II]  
BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

NATIONAL AVERAGE



**4.0%**



**6.0%**

LONDON



**4.2%**



**9.2%**

IN LONDON THERE ARE...

**69** [GRADE I & II\*]

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

**73**

PLACES OF WORSHIP



**15.2%** **19.9%**

**5.7%** **7.3%**

**11**  
PARKS & GARDENS  
...ON THE REGISTER



## KENSAL GREEN (ALL SOULS) CEMETERY, KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Kensal Green is a 77 acre cemetery situated in the heart of London. One of the so-called 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian cemeteries, Kensal Green certainly lives up to this name with its impressive Anglican Chapel, Entrance Lodge, Dissenters Chapel, North Colonnade, and many elaborately decorated monuments.

The cemetery opened in 1833 to the designs of John Griffith. It was the first commercial cemetery in London, providing much needed burial space in an ever-expanding city. Kensal Green was also the 'cemetery of choice' for the rich and famous and the impressive monuments and mausolea we see today reflect this status.

Kensal Green is owned and managed by the General Cemetery Company and is still actively used for burials. The Friends Group, set up in 1989, also play an important role in the maintenance and conservation of the cemetery.

### IS IT AT RISK?

The fortunes of Kensal Green Cemetery turned

in the latter part of the 20th century, with fewer resources available for its upkeep, a growing number of monuments and structures in need of attention, and the encroachment of self-seeded vegetation on the legibility of the historic landscape.

The cemetery was added to the Heritage at Risk Register in 2009. The Anglican Chapel, the North Colonnade, boundary wall and some 32 monuments are also at risk.

### WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Despite the overwhelming size of Kensal Green Cemetery and the variety of issues to be tackled, the General Cemetery Company and the Friends Group have made considerable progress in recent years.

Day-to-day maintenance of the cemetery is now informed by a robust Conservation Management Plan. A newly appointed project manager has also given fresh impetus to the project steering group and condition surveys of the Anglican Chapel and the most vulnerable monuments are helping to prioritise and guide repair works. Some works have already been carried out to the boundary wall, the North Colonnade and four mausolea, partly funded by English Heritage and the Friends Group.

The next challenge is to think imaginatively about the long-term management of the cemetery, as well as the repair and re-use of the Anglican Chapel which sits so prominently within the historic landscape. All partners will continue to work together over the coming year to secure the future of this magnificent cemetery for 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:

Rebecca Barrett  
English Heritage  
London  
1 Waterhouse Square  
138 – 142 Holborn  
London  
EC1N 2ST  
Telephone: 0207 973 3000

Email: [london@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:london@english-heritage.org.uk)



### SEVERNDROOG CASTLE, GREENWICH

#### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Severndroog Castle is a hidden gem situated amongst ancient woodland in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. It was commissioned by the grieving widow of Sir William James following the death of her husband in 1783. Sir William James was the Commander-in-Chief of the East India Company's marine forces and

achieved great success in 1755 when his fleet defeated pirates on the island fortress of Severndroog, off the west coast of India.

The castle is an impressive triangular tower, some 60 feet in height, with hexagonal turrets and battlements. It was designed in the Gothic style by architect Richard Jupp and included decorative interior rooms.

Throughout the course of its history, Severndroog Castle has changed hands numerous times. Its story has also been shaped by the sheer height of the tower - the rooftop provided a temporary home to the Ramsden Theodolite used by General William Roy and his team in the first Ordnance Survey of southern Britain, and the castle served as a strategic watch tower during the Second World War.

Towards the end of the 20th century Severndroog Castle fell into a state of disrepair. Its decorative plasterwork and joinery were damaged by water penetration and many features were damaged or stolen by vandals.

#### IS IT AT RISK?

The fortunes of Severndroog Castle have been turned around thanks to the perseverance and hard work of the Severndroog Castle Building Preservation Trust. Set up in 2003,

the trust now leases the building from the Royal Borough of Greenwich. It has successfully repaired and restored the castle, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and the Royal Borough of Greenwich amongst many others.

The castle was added to the Heritage at Risk Register in 1990, but has been removed this year following its successful restoration.

#### WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

In summer 2014, Severndroog Castle opened its doors to the public for the first time in 25 years. The castle has been carefully restored. The decorative plasterwork has been repaired and re-gilded, the windows painstakingly overhauled and graffiti cleaned from the outer walls.

The castle now provides a tearoom, much needed community space and a small exhibition area which tells the story of the castle and its owners. The building is available for both educational visits and private hire, and the rooftop gallery provides spectacular views of London and the surrounding countryside.

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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