

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

East Midlands Summary 2015



There are 402 entries on the East Midlands 2015 Heritage at Risk Register, making up 7.3% of the national total of 5,478 entries. The Register provides an annual snapshot of historic sites known to be at risk from neglect, decay or inappropriate development. For the first time, we've compared all sites on the Heritage at Risk Register – from houses to hillforts – to help us better understand which types of sites are most commonly at risk. There are things that make each region special and once lost will mean a sense of our region's character is lost too. Our local HAR team, led by Ben Robinson, continues to work with owners, funders and other stakeholders to find the right solutions for sites on the Register.

Anthony Streeten Planning Director, East Midlands



Last year I reported that many places of worship had been added to the Register as a result of our extensive condition survey. Others have entered the Register for the first time this year. Nevertheless, we are greatly encouraged that our commitment

has paid dividends. Engagement with Natural England's stewardship schemes is proving particularly important. Similar focus can be brought to bear on other rural site types.

Park and garden buildings, so essential to our finest designed landscapes, are notably threatened in the East Midlands. The issues associated with neglected and at risk ornamental garden buildings, though worrying, are often relatively easy to understand.

to Diocesan Historic Church Support Officer posts and our work with the Heritage Lottery Fund is leading to repair projects. Fourteen churches that were on the 2014 Register are no longer at risk.

The problems facing some of the region's country houses, historic homes and industrial buildings are often very much more complex. Too many buildings that should be capable of regeneration remain long term entries on the Register. Thankfully there are success stories. Great progress has been made at places such as Stydd Hall and Cromford Mill this year.

We also work in partnership to address threats to historic places. The Conservation Areas Survey is an important component of this work, helping to identify emerging problems and priority areas. Following highly successful grant-aided projects in Derby we are now providing grants for conservation areas at risk in Boston, Grantham and Sleaford.

Historic England is often uniquely placed to assist with technical advice and grants for repairs, particularly when this will facilitate larger projects, providing leverage to attract substantial investment from others. Solutions, however, depend on the total commitment of owners.

We have fewer scheduled monuments at risk in the East Midlands than the national average. However, the poor condition of many 'barrows' (burial mounds) illustrates typical threats facing other rural archaeological monuments. Most retain priceless information about people and places without written histories. Having survived for millennia it is distressing that they are so vulnerable today.

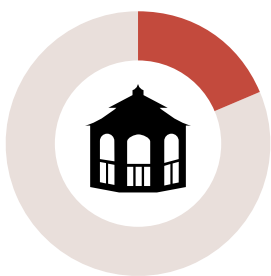
Sadly, a few owners are reluctant to accept responsibility for the condition of their buildings. In these cases, Historic England can assist local planning authorities in exercising their statutory powers to prompt action. The East Midlands team will be supporting both 'carrot' and 'stick' approaches to tackle heritage at risk over the next year.

There are solutions. Our work to better understand the effects of ploughing and to encourage good management

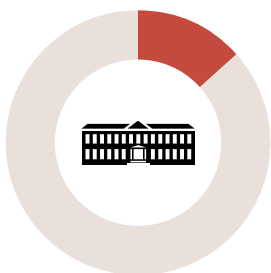
Ben Robinson
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Cover image: The Averys took on **Stydd Hall**, a Grade II* listed building in Derbyshire, knowing that it was a building at risk. In fact, it had entered the very first national Buildings at Risk Register in 1998 and had remained an apparently immovable entry since then. But thanks to its new owners and grant support from Historic England a programme of repairs is now nearing completion and Stydd Hall is enjoying a new lease of life.

Entries on the 2015 national Register in the **East Midlands**

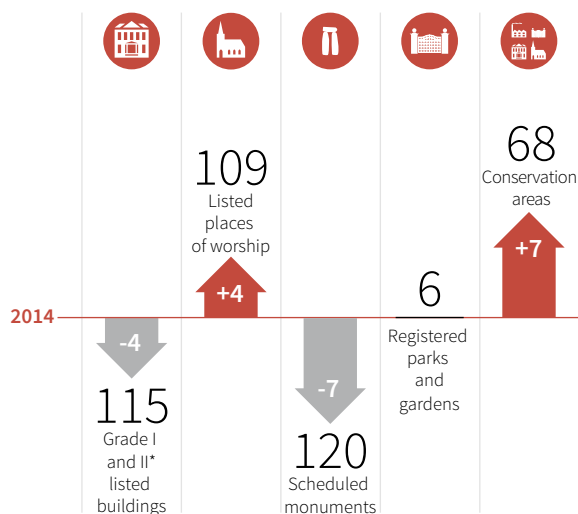


15 (18.8%)
Garden buildings



18 (13.4%)
Country houses

Designated assets on the 2015 **East Midlands** Register



There are **418** assets on the **East Midlands** Register, the same as in 2014

Stydd Hall **Yeaveley, Derbyshire**



Background and history

The 17th century Stydd Hall was built on the ruins of a medieval Knights Hospitaller preceptory. Preceptories were the home bases of this crusading order and generated funds for missions overseas. Stydd preceptory was closed by

Henry VIII and the site was acquired by landed gentry.

The present hall incorporates the remnants of one of the preceptory buildings. The ruins of the preceptory chapel stand close by and buried archaeological remains surround the buildings.

Stydd Hall became a farmhouse, but its condition gradually became so bad that it was placed on the first national Buildings at Risk Register in 1998.

Is it at risk?

Historic England worked with the previous owners to address the condition of the hall and the surrounding scheduled monument. But with much work still to do the owners decided to sell.

Tenant farmers, Mr and Mrs Avery, had to make a quick decision; buy Stydd Hall or abandon their home. They knew that it was 'at risk' and that much work would be required to bring it to a good state of repair.

What is the current situation?

Historic England has provided grant aid and technical support to the Averys. The leaking roof has now been re-slatted. Structural timbers have been repaired and rainwater dispersal has been improved. All are critical concerns for the well-being of a building and its occupants!

Further repairs began in the summer of 2015. More will be required, but we are confident that Stydd Hall will soon be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register, its future secure.

Squires Monument **Burton Lazars, Leicestershire**

Background and history

Squires' Monument is one of the most prominent churchyard monuments in Leicestershire. Surprisingly, it doesn't commemorate a member of highest Georgian society, but a local weaver.

When William Squires passed away in 1781, he had amassed a personal fortune of £600. Part of this sum was to be used to build an elaborate pedestal tomb. The remainder was intended to educate the poor and provide for his family. Sadly, when his monument was completed there was little left to fulfil these wishes.

Is it at risk?

Squires' Monument entered the Buildings at Risk Register in 1998. Stonework was decaying and architectural detail was being lost. It has now been repaired and has been removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.

What's the current situation?

Research established that the Squires family had no surviving members. Responsibility for the repair of



the monument therefore passed to the District Church Council. Repairs commenced in 2014 with grants from Historic England and Melton Borough Council.

William Squires' desire to be remembered created an important and picturesque local landmark. Its conservation has ensured that it will survive long into the future.

Historic England Angel Awards

The Historic England Angel Awards were founded in 2011, co-funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. They celebrate local people's extraordinary efforts to save historic buildings and places. Over the past five years, the Angel Awards have showcased inspirational friends groups, communities, worshippers, owners and craftspeople.

From 2016, we'll be looking for projects that champion the historic environment in many ways. These could include:

- community action projects
- heritage research, survey or education projects
- heritage professionals
- lifetime achievements
- and of course, rescues of heritage sites

Shortlisted Angels will continue to be put to the vote in the ever-popular People's Favourite Award.

Look out for news at www.HistoricEngland.org.uk/AngelAwards

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HistoricEngland.org.uk/har