

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

North West Summary 2015



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 site 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. Comparing the North West to the national Register shows that 24.7% of all fortified houses and 21.8% of all commercial conservation areas are in our region. There are 463 entries on the North West 2015 Heritage at Risk Register, making up 8.5% 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. Our local HAR team, led by Charles Smith, continues to work with owners, funders and other stakeholders to find the right solutions for sites on the Register.

Catherine Dewar
Planning Director, North West



Historic England grants are an extremely valuable tool for saving heritage at risk. We've contributed £1.6 million to 18 sites in the North West this past year. We fund repairs, detailed surveys and options appraisals, as well as projects that promote

heritage understanding, management and conservation.

Our grants, together with our specialist advice, are a major reason why we're able to celebrate removing over 50 sites from the 2015 Register. We've had particular success across our regional priorities: **industrial heritage**, the cities of **Manchester** and **Liverpool**, **heritage and tourism in Cumbria** and our **historic towns**.

After a decade of campaigning and investment, we're delighted to announce the removal of Whitefield Conservation Area from our Register. Whitefield in Nelson is one of our best preserved **industrial heritage** townscapes. Through collaboration with Pendle Council and others, its future now looks much brighter. We, together with the Heritage Lottery Fund, have also helped transform one of the world's last historic open-pan salt making sites. Lion Salt Works, Cheshire, has been sympathetically reinvented as a museum of the salt industry. Our £300k grant provided crucial gap funding in this multi-million pound scheme.

Partnership working is key to delivering successful grants. In the region's two largest urban centres, our shared heritage strategies with the local authorities are having a real impact. In **Manchester**, we've spent £200k on urgent repairs to the Grade I listed Heaton Hall. In **Liverpool**, we're match funding the Council's three year investment of £250k to make St Luke's 'Bombed Out' Church fit for the future.

Sometimes a little can go a long way. In **Cumbria**, we continue to fund a Lake District project co-ordinating volunteer 'bracken bashers'. In the past year alone, 20 bracken-infested archaeological sites have been rescued and revealed. Our **historic towns** programme seeks to maximise the contribution of heritage to local economies. A current priority is Appleby Castle, whose future is central to the prosperity of the Cumbrian market town of Appleby.

Although we're delighted there's been an overall reduction in the number of sites 'at risk', important parts of our fragile heritage remain under threat. One example is fortified houses, such as bastles, which are common buildings in disputed borderlands. A quarter of those 'at risk' are in our region. With such challenges in mind, our locally delivered grant aid and expert advice are as important as ever. We're keen to hear from potential partners so that we can continue to broker solutions.

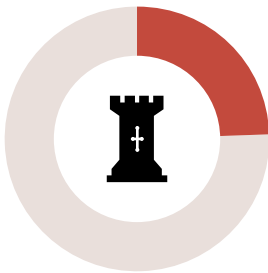
Charles Smith
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Cover image: St Luke's Church is in the heart of Liverpool. Built in the early 19th century and burned out in the Second World War, the 'Bombed Out Church' now functions as a cultural venue and unofficial war memorial. Unfortunately, its exposure to the elements is resulting in major decay of the stonework. Historic England is providing grant aid to Liverpool City Council to carry out essential works to make this much loved Grade II* listed building safe for continued use.

Entries on the 2015 national Register in the **North West**

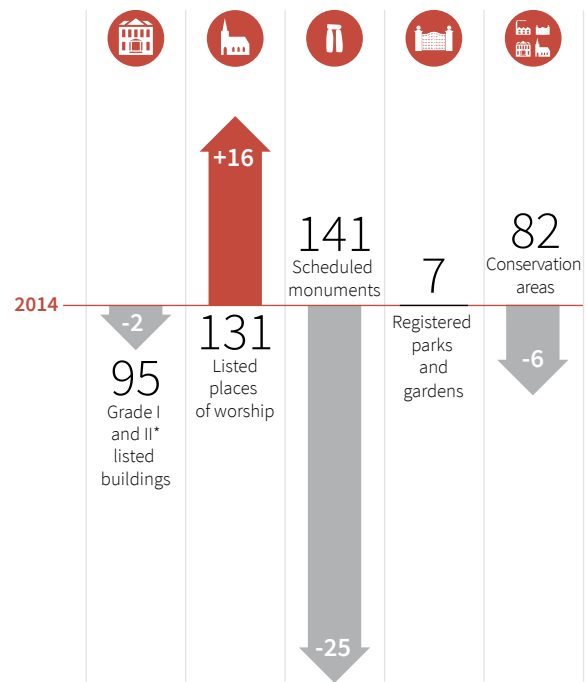


17 (21.8%)
Commercial areas



24 (24.7%)
Fortified houses

Designated assets on the 2015 **North West** Register



There are **439** assets on the **North West** Register, 17 fewer than 2014

Whitefield Conservation Area **Nelson, Lancashire**



Background and history

Nelson in Lancashire is a 19th century industrial 'new town', growing from a population of 3,500 in 1864 to almost 39,500 by 1911. Whitefield is a planned textile manufacturing community, Nelson's earliest and best preserved townscape. It is

remarkably intact with textile mills, church, school and terraced housing.

More recently Whitefield had become one of Britain's most deprived wards. At a public inquiry in 2002, Historic England worked with residents and campaigners to successfully challenge Pendle Borough Council's decision to compulsorily purchase and demolish hundreds of properties, arguing that repair and reuse would be in the local community's best interest.

Is it at risk?

Whitefield Conservation Area has come off the Heritage at Risk Register this year. This follows the success of Historic England and other heritage agencies working collaboratively with the council in implementing alternative heritage-led plans to regenerate the area.

What's the current situation?

Hundreds of terraced houses have been group repaired, with sash windows, panelled doors, traditional railings and chimney pots being reinstated. The Heritage Trust for the North West has acquired and restored some notable buildings, and a new £7 million primary school has been built. Confidence in the neighbourhood has returned and house prices have risen.

One notable building saved is Spring Cottage, thought to be Nelson's only surviving textile mill owner's house. The derelict site was acquired by the UK Islamic Mission charity in 2009 to house a new mosque and community centre. Historic England has invested over £250,000 to save this listed building by restoring its external envelope and roof.

The Keep Appleby Castle, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria

Background and history

Appleby Castle stands on a hill overlooking the town of Appleby and the surrounding Eden Valley. A spectacular motte and bailey castle, the site consists of a keep, a mansion house and a curtain wall, all set in beautiful landscaped grounds.

The keep, also known as Caesar's Tower, is a square stone-built structure dating from c 1170. One of the country's few remaining intact Norman keeps, its significance is recognised in its status as both a Grade I listed building and a scheduled monument.

Is it at risk?

The Keep has been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 2008. It has long been unoccupied and structural cracking is causing serious concern. Whilst propping and ties have been installed, deterioration continues.

What's the current situation?

Historic England has been working collaboratively with the owner to understand the problems with the structure.



We have granted money to fund minor emergency repairs, structural monitoring and investigation, geo-technical investigation and research. Whilst significant investment will be required to secure the future of this historically fascinating structure, the work being undertaken is a crucial step towards providing a longer-term solution.

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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Find out what's at risk by searching or downloading the online Heritage at Risk Register at:
HistoricEngland.org.uk/har