

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

South East 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 South East to the national Register shows that 39.7% of all coastal defence sites and 33.3% of all landscape parks are in our region. There are 527 entries on the South East 2015 Heritage at Risk Register, making up 9.6% 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 Clare Charlesworth, continues to work with owners, funders and other stakeholders to find the right solutions for sites on the Register.

Andy Brown
Planning Director, South East



We are delighted to be able to report that 2015 has been another successful year for heritage at risk in the South East. There have been significant forward steps taken at several challenging sites, and many removals from our Register.

many are at risk. In South Hampshire, however, several of the 'Palmerston' forts that ring Portsmouth Harbour are included in a joint project between Historic England and the local authorities in the area, the aim of which is to address economic regeneration and heritage at risk together, by finding new uses for these structures.

Landscapes at risk

As Andy mentions above, the South East is home to a third of England's landscape parks at risk. This is because the Home Counties are the birthplace of the English landscape garden. Unfortunately houses and parks on the scale of Downton Abbey are now beyond the financial reach of most of us, and this has meant that many of these important landscapes have become fragmented and their history put at risk of loss. It is a huge achievement, therefore, that this year Somerhill, in Kent, has seen its multiple owners work together so effectively that it has been removed from our Register.

We intend to continue on our upward trajectory as we move into 2016. We look forward to reporting on further reduction of risk to the South East's unique heritage next year.

Clare Charlesworth
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Extending our reach

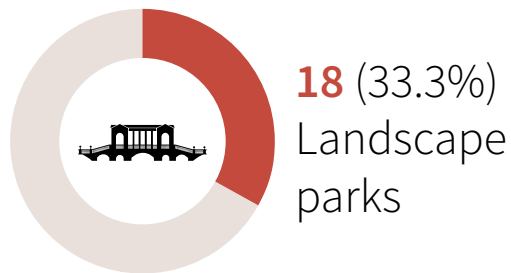
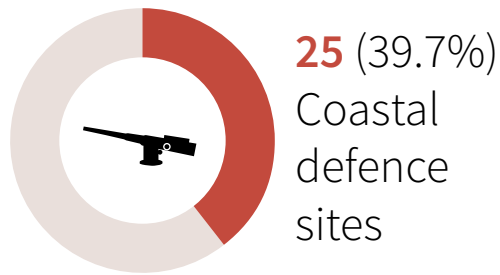
Despite these successes, there are only seven of us in the South East HAR team, and with over 500 assets on our Register, achieving everything we'd like is a substantial challenge. Because of this we have started to look at how we can 'extend our reach' in the region, and this will continue to be an area of focused effort for us in the forthcoming year. There are so many dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer organisations working with heritage in the South East, that we see collaboration with these groups as one of the very best ways of doing this. We are already working with volunteers in the Cotswolds on a monument survey and maintenance project and hope to develop many more similar projects in the next 12 months.

Coastal defences

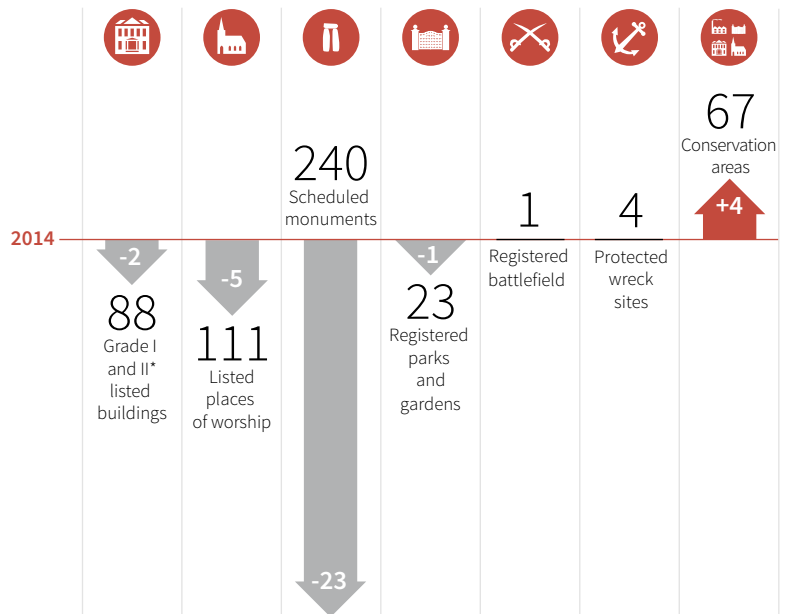
We have some distinctively South Eastern heritage that needs help. Coastal defence structures are difficult to maintain and even more tricky to re-use. As a result

Cover image: RAF Bicester is the most complete and best preserved RAF airbase surviving from the interwar period. The new owners have carried out extensive repairs to many buildings. The southern bomb stores and their ancillary buildings, of which the Fusing Hut is one, are yet to be tackled, but Historic England is working closely with the owners to develop an appropriate conservation strategy.

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



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



There are **534** assets on the **South East** Register, 27 fewer than 2014

Brookwood Cemetery **Woking, Surrey**



Background and history

Brookwood Cemetery is a Grade I registered park and garden (RPG). Although a burial ground, it was laid out as a park interspersed with buildings, and still has this character.

The cemetery was formed of heath land near Woking

by the 'London Necropolis Company' in 1852. It was created to accommodate the dead of London when cemeteries there were unable to cope with demand. It covers an area of 145 hectares, and houses a huge variety of tombs and monuments.

Is it at risk?

Woking Borough Council (WBC) has acquired a significant part of the site and is anxious to improve the situation.

A long period of neglect and poor management was arrested by the previous owner, but there is still a backlog of repairs needed. The problems are compounded by vandalism and the failure of the ground drainage systems. Brookwood has been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 2009.

What's the current situation?

The site as a whole is the South East's most challenging RPG at risk. Historic England is extremely pleased to now be working with WBC, advising them on how best to move forward with the site. We were able to assist with grant aid towards the production of a Conservation Management Plan in early 2015, and this is the first step towards creating a strategy for the restoration of this important designed landscape. It will provide information to achieve the best outcomes for the heritage of the site, balancing these aspects with continuing to provide bereavement services for the people of Woking.

Trinity Methodist Church **Southsea, Hampshire**

Background and history

Trinity Methodist Church is a 1901 building designed by local architect and builder RJ Winnicott. It stands on the main thoroughfare of Albert Road, in central Southsea, the 19th century 'resort' suburb of Portsmouth. It was built to replace a smaller timber framed, corrugated iron structure, and the main worship space (seen right) has a very fine interior.

Is it at risk?

There have been problems with maintenance, and elements of the fabric coming to the end of their useful life. This has resulted in water penetration through the roofs and masonry at the southern end of the building, causing damage to internal finishes. It was added to the Heritage at Risk Register this year.

What's the current situation?

A Heritage Lottery Fund grant has allowed the congregation and their professional team to develop a project plan that will address the water penetration



problems and rectify the damage which has already occurred. This development work is now nearly complete. A successful second round grant application would see works begin on site by early 2016. This should result in the church's removal from the Heritage at Risk Register.

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