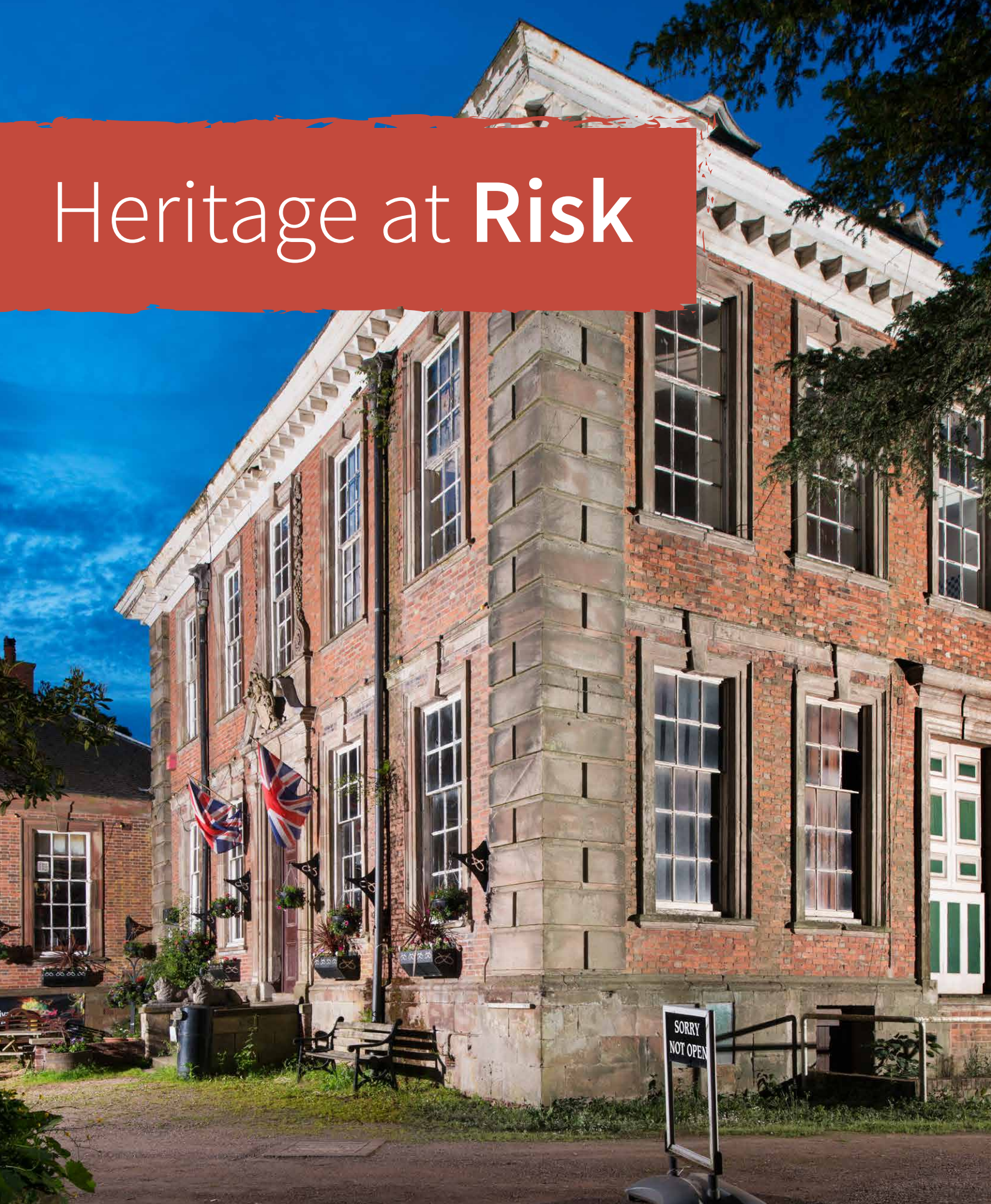


Heritage at Risk



Historic England

West Midlands Summary 2015



For the first time, we've compared all sites on the Heritage at Risk Register – from domestic 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 West Midlands to the national Register shows that 34.5% of all castles and 16.1% of all enclosures are in our region. There are 450 entries on the West Midlands 2015 Heritage at Risk Register, making up 8.2% 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 Sarah Lewis, continues to work with owners, funders and other stakeholders to find the right solutions for sites on the Register.

Veryan Heal
Planning Director, West Midlands



In 2014 the West Midlands followed national trends with an overall decrease in scheduled monuments and secular listed buildings on the Heritage at Risk Register but an increase in listed places of worship, registered

parcs and gardens and conservation areas.

Analysis of the type of heritage which is most at risk in the West Midlands shows that the **castles** which punctuate the Marches on our border with Wales are particularly vulnerable. Like much of the archaeology and many of the buildings and structures on the Register, few castles are capable of economic use and some have been at risk for many years. Imaginative solutions as well as grant aid are needed to tackle their condition. We are exploring potential for a new charitable trust model working with volunteers to deliver repair and management of Marcher castles.

Our Heritage at Risk team develops and implements solutions for heritage at risk with funding from **Historic England grants**. Management Agreements help owners with the cost of achieving step-changes in the management of archaeology. We also fund condition assessments, options appraisals, feasibility studies and major repairs.

Partnerships continue to be central to our strategy. Local authorities are key partners, we work with them to identify **conservation areas at risk** and now have an almost complete set of conservation area assessments. We continue to fund Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas with a new scheme approved this year in Stoke Town. We are currently delivering training and advice to encourage local authorities to use their enforcement powers.

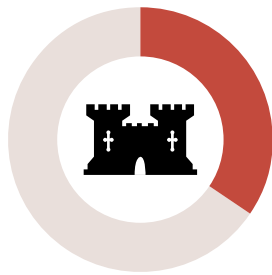
Partnerships with **other funders** such as The Prince's Regeneration Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund, National Trust and Natural England have seen the development of numerous projects. These include a major scheme for the Wedgwood Institute in Burslem, a new use for the Master's House in Ledbury, the repair of the packhorse bridge at Todenham in Warwickshire and of lead mining remains in Shropshire.

93 of our 1,466 **listed places of worship** are at risk. The majority face repair costs of over £125k. To help tackle the challenge this presents for congregations, we continue to fund Support Officers in the Dioceses of Hereford, Worcester and Lichfield. The Support Officers help parishes manage their buildings, plan for the future and apply for grant aid from the main provider, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the new Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund.

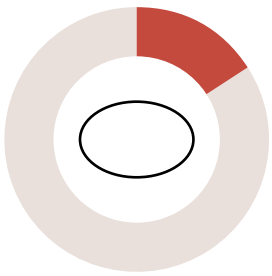
Sarah Lewis
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Cover image: After centuries of residential use this small, attractive, Queen Anne country house now lies neglected and falling into a state of significant disrepair. **Hales Hall near Cheadle, Staffordshire** was last used as a social club for the caravan site which occupies part of the grounds, but is now empty and at risk. The property, including former stables and outbuildings, is for sale and badly needs a new owner prepared to take on the challenge of repairing and finding a new use for it.

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

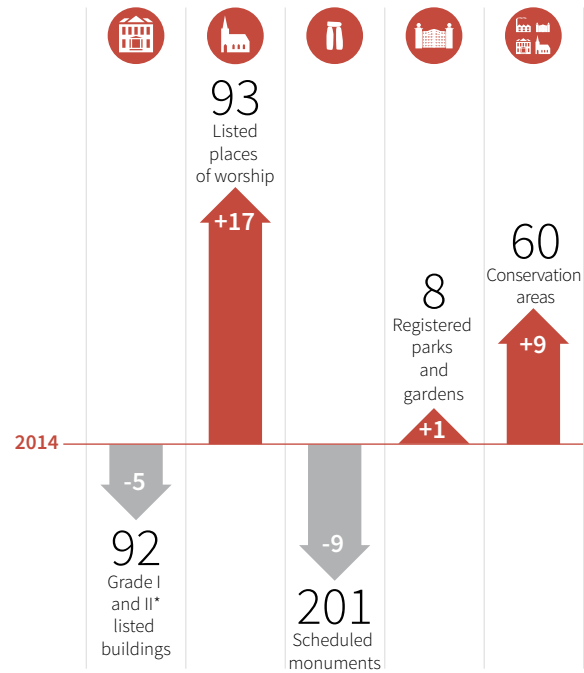


40 (34.5%)
Castles



27 (16.1%)
Enclosures

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



There are **454** assets on the **West Midlands** Register, 13 fewer than 2014

The Conservatory **Hilton Park, Hilton, Staffordshire**



Background and history

The conservatory is part of the surviving nucleus of the 18th century Hilton Park Estate. The hall and stables are now occupied by assorted businesses. Tracts of the surrounding land are given over to the M54 and M6 motorways and a service station. This garden building lies a short distance from



the hall and was built c 1825. Its plan is circular with a glazed hemispherical roof, with one half constructed in cast iron and the other in timber. The supporting walls are rendered masonry. The building was originally heated by an external furnace: heat was dissipated through underfloor ducts and the smoke discharged via a central stack disguised as a fluted column.

The conservatory has not been used or maintained in any meaningful way for several decades. As a consequence of this neglect, it was practically at the point of collapse. Its state of disrepair was such that even conservative repair required the complete dismantling and rebuilding of what survived. The masonry walls, arches and central column remained in place but all of the cast iron components were dismantled and repaired off site.

Is it at risk?

Following a successful grant application, Historic England awarded money for repairs. Work started on site in 2013 and was completed in March 2015. The conservatory was then removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.

What's the current situation?

The Hilton Park Company who manages the estate on behalf of its owners intends to use the conservatory for corporate events and weddings. The cost of the project was over £375,000.

Stoke Town Conservation Area

Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Background and history

This is a compact conservation area of mainly Edwardian or late Victorian commercial buildings. Municipal and industrial buildings, the church, and other key landmarks are still in place. Surviving historic fabric reflects the economic and social history of the last hundred years in Stoke Town. The historic significance of the town is high with the former Spode pottery works having an international reputation.

Is it at risk?

The conservation area is at risk. Poor property maintenance and vacant upper floors are a result of low property values and a low-value trading environment. Some 72% of the buildings are 'at risk' or vulnerable.

What's the current situation?

The City of Stoke on Trent Council and Historic England are jointly funding a Partnership Scheme (PSiCA) which



sets out to address this. Repairs will be focussed on buildings around the Spode Factory, the regeneration of which is critical to the improvement of the conservation area. Further 'gateway' locations and clusters of historic buildings have also been identified for funding in order to maximise the scheme's impact on regeneration and to act as exemplars to encourage future investment.

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

For more information contact:

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For a different format of this document contact our customer services department on:
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Product code: 52015

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