

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION ON THE HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER

The Heritage at Risk Register includes the following heritage assets at risk:

- Buildings at Risk:
 - grade I and II* listed buildings nationally, and grade II listed buildings in London
 - structural scheduled monuments
 - places of worship (grade I, II* and II listed)
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered parks and gardens
- Registered battlefields
- Protected wreck sites
- Conservation areas

LISTED BUILDINGS

Definition

A listed building is a building (or structure) that has been designated as being of 'special architectural or historic interest'. The older and rarer a building is, the more likely it is to be listed. Buildings less than 30 years old are listed only if they are of outstanding quality and under threat.

Listed buildings are graded I, II* and II. Grade I and II* are particularly important buildings of outstanding interest; together they amount to 8% of all listed buildings. The remaining 92% are of special interest and are listed grade II.

Entries on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest may comprise a number of separate buildings. Formal residential terraces are the most obvious example. Entries on the Register reflect how buildings are grouped and recorded on the statutory list.

Structures can occasionally be both listed as buildings and scheduled as monuments.

Criteria for inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register

Buildings (not in use as a public place of worship) considered for inclusion on the Register must be listed grade I or II*, (or grade II in London) or be a structural scheduled monument.

Buildings are assessed for inclusion on the basis of condition and, where applicable, occupancy (or use). The condition of buildings on the Register ranges from 'very bad' to 'poor', 'fair' and (occasionally) 'good'.

The Register also includes buildings that are vulnerable to becoming at risk because they are empty, under-used or face redundancy without a new use to secure their future.

Occupancy (or use) is noted as 'vacant', 'part occupied', 'occupied', or occasionally, 'unknown'; for many structural monuments, occupancy is not applicable.

Assessing vulnerability in the case of a building in fair condition necessarily involves judgement and discretion. A few buildings on the Register are in good condition, having been repaired or mothballed, but a new use or owner is still to be secured.

Buildings are removed from the Register when they are fully repaired/consolidated, their future secured, and where appropriate, occupied or in use.

Listed places of worship

Places of worship are the largest single group of non-domestic historic buildings still in use primarily for the purpose for which they were built. Their complex development over centuries is a testament to the changes in social, political and liturgical attitudes over time. This reflects the developing mission of congregations and means that they protect a wide range of fittings and furnishings of national and international importance. Their architectural, archaeological, aesthetic and historic significance is outstanding but so too is their value as the record of the endeavours and experiences of individuals and communities.

To date English Heritage has assessed only a small proportion of the 14,500 listed places of worship so the number identified so far as 'at risk' and included on this year's Register is small. In the coming years an increasing number of places of worship will be assessed to identify those that are at risk. Future registers will provide stronger evidence and build up our understanding of the challenges.

Criteria for inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register

Places of worship considered for inclusion on the Register must be listed grade I, II* or II and be used as a public place of worship at least six times a year.

Places of worship are assessed on the basis of condition only. If the place of worship is in 'very bad' or 'poor' condition it is added to the Register. Places of worship previously included on the Register may be in any condition category.

Once on the Register, all places of worship can move through the condition categories (e.g. from very bad to poor, to fair, even good) as repairs are implemented and the condition improves, until they are fully repaired and can be removed from the Register.

Priority for action

Once a building is identified as at risk or vulnerable and included on the Register, priority for action is assessed on a scale of A to F, where 'A' is the highest priority for a building which is deteriorating rapidly with no solution to secure its future, and 'F' is the lowest priority where a repair scheme is in progress and an end use has been secured.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Definition

Scheduled monuments include archaeological sites and landscapes, and 19,731 examples have been designated because of their national importance. Scheduled monuments are not graded, and most have limited potential for beneficial use. They cover human activity from the prehistoric era, such as burial mounds, to 20th century

military and industrial remains. For the millennia before written history, archaeology is the only testament to innumerable generations of people of whom there is no other record.

The later 20th century saw unprecedented changes to the landscape. As a result, types of historic site that once were commonplace began to become rare. Those that survive often represent just small islands of what once characterised broad sweeps of our towns and countryside. Although protected by law, scheduled monuments are still at risk from a wide range of processes. In particular, they can frequently be exposed to intense pressures beyond the reach of the planning system. These include damage from cultivation, forestry and – often most seriously of all – wholly natural processes such as scrub growth, animal burrowing and erosion.

Criteria for inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register

Scheduled monuments included on the Register have been identified as being at risk because of their condition and vulnerability, the trend in their condition, and their likely future vulnerability. A site's condition is expressed in terms of the scale and severity of adverse effects on it, ranging from those with 'extensive significant problems' to others that have only 'minor localised problems'.

Monuments are removed from the Register once sufficient progress has been made to address identified issues, demonstrating a significant reduction in the level of risk.

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

Definition

There are 1,610 designed landscapes on the current English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. These registered landscapes are graded I, II* or II, and include private gardens, public parks and other green spaces, country estates and cemeteries. They are valued for their design, diversity and historical importance and in contrast to the number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens is a very small group of assets.

Inclusion on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens brings no additional statutory controls, but there is a presumption in favour of conservation of the designated site. Local authorities are required to consult English Heritage on applications affecting sites registered as grade I or II* and the Garden History Society on sites of all grades.

Criteria for inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register

The identification of registered parks and gardens at risk begins with an appraisal of the condition and vulnerability of each registered landscape. Steps being taken by owners to address problems are also taken into consideration.

Landscapes assessed as being at risk are typically affected by development and neglect. They have frequently been altered by development or are faced with major change. The original function of these landscapes has often changed; and divided ownership often results in the loss of the cohesive conservation of the historic designs.

Landscapes are removed from the Register once plans are put in place to address issues and positive progress is being made.

REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

Definition

English Heritage's Register of Historic Battlefields has identified 43 nationally significant sites ranging in date from 991 to 1685. These are places where people risked their lives fighting for a cause and where history was made. The outcome of these battles was influenced by where they were fought and traces of the events will have been left across the landscape. Battlefields are cherished for many reasons, as a commemoration of the event and those who died, as a resource for understanding the course of the battle, and for the light they can shed on the times in which the battle was fought. They are vulnerable to insensitive development and to poorly managed investigation such as large-scale metal-detecting. While this designation introduces no additional statutory controls, one of its primary objectives is to encourage policies and other mechanisms that ensure that change and development affecting battlefields is sensitive and appropriate.

Criteria for inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register

Battlefields deemed to be at risk of loss of historic significance are included on the Register. The identified risks and threats come from development pressure – for example, because they lie on urban fringes or are subject to development pressures within the site; arable cultivation, and unregulated metal-detecting. One major impact or a combination of several factors can be enough to raise the risk at a particular site. Battlefields are removed from the Register when either actual damaging activities are reversed or managed, or threats recede due to effective management planning.

PROTECTED WRECK SITES

Definition

England's 46 protected wreck sites represent a tiny proportion of the 32,476 pre-1945 wrecks and recorded casualties that are known to lie in the territorial sea. Wreck sites can be of importance for different reasons: the distinctive design or construction of a ship, the story it can tell about its past, its association with notable people or events, its cargo, flora and fauna or its role as a focus for the local community. The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 empowers the appropriate Secretary of State to designate a restricted area around a vessel to protect it or its contents from unauthorised interference.

Local authorities are able to react to foreshore infrastructure projects through the planning process, thereby securing the preservation of important remains in this intertidal zone.

Criteria for inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register

English Heritage has audited all designated wreck sites to identify those most at risk based on their current condition, vulnerability and the way they are being managed. Wrecks are vulnerable to both environmental and human impacts. Risks that

contribute to the inclusion on the Register range from unauthorised access to erosion and fishing damage.

The monitoring process ensures that the significance of the site is identified and maintained.

In spite of the inherent difficulties in caring for this type of site, careful management must be maintained.

Protected wreck sites are removed from the Register once an appropriate management and monitoring regime is operational.

CONSERVATION AREAS

Definition

Conservation areas are designated by local authorities and are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. For more than 40 years conservation areas have proved a highly effective mechanism for managing change on an area-wide basis. There are currently some 9,300 conservation areas in England including town and city centres, suburbs, industrial areas, rural landscapes, cemeteries and residential areas. They form the historic backcloth to national and local life and are a crucial component of local identity and community cohesion.

Criteria for inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register

English Heritage has asked every local authority in England to complete (and update as appropriate) a survey of its conservation areas, highlighting current condition, threats and trends, identifying those that are deteriorating, or are in very bad or poor condition and are not expected to change significantly in the next three years, as being defined as at risk.

The methodology for assessing conservation areas at risk has been refined since the first survey in 2008/2009. The information collated provides a detailed assessment of each conservation area and an overall category for condition, vulnerability and trend is included for each conservation area on the Register. Conservation areas identified as at risk in 2009, but not reassessed since using the revised methodology, are included on the Register but with more limited information.

Conservation areas are removed from the Register once plans have been put in place to address the issues that led to the conservation area being at risk, and once positive progress is being made.

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