

# The National Monuments Record

## News and events

The National Monuments Record (NMR) is the public archive of English Heritage. It includes more than 7 million archive items (photographs, drawings, reports and digital data) relating to England's historic environment. The following information gives details of web resources, new collections (catalogues are available in the NMR search room in Swindon) and outreach programmes. Contact the NMR at: NMR Enquiry & Research Services, National Monuments Record, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ; tel: 01793 414600; fax: 01793 414606; email: [nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk); web: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr)

### Online resources from the NMR

#### *Images of England*

*Images of England* ([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk)) is an online 'point in time' photographic record of the buildings across England listed at the turn of the millennium. The site currently contains

more than 270,000 images all captured by volunteer photographers working around the country. The website is a significant accomplishment and is a real credit to the hundreds of volunteers who have taken part since the project began back in 1999. The project is still in full swing and further images will be uploaded in 2007.

A competition was recently held among the volunteer photographers, with the winning photograph being the one that best reflected the goal of the project to achieve a single defining image of each of the 370,000 listed structures. From the thousands of images that qualified for the competition, Mark Sunderland's shot of the East Pier Lighthouse in Whitby was named as the winner.

Sky Photographic UK (Ltd) sponsored and judged the competition. Managing Director Mike Sherry was impressed with Mark's composition and use of light and shadow; he described it as 'an engaging perspective'. Mark won a 'state of the art' digital camera, Photoshop training and Sky Photographic vouchers, all



This photograph by Mark Sunderland of East Pier Lighthouse, Whitby, was the winning entry in the *Images of England* volunteers' competition.

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Gravestones in West Norwood Cemetery, London, with the Tate Mausoleum in the background. This is just one of the nationally important Victorian cemeteries in the *PastScape* enhancement programme. Eric de Maré, c. 1970. AA98/06437

kindly donated by Sky Photographic UK (Ltd).

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### *PastScape*

*PastScape* ([www.pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk)) is the publicly accessible online version of the national database of monuments held at the NMR. It is a dynamic resource, directly accessible to the public, which is regularly updated with new data.

These records are not confined to the great houses or famous iconic structures from the distant past with which one often associates the term 'monument'. They include information about buildings and sites that played a part in

the working lives, entertainment and ways of death of ordinary people. Thematic enhancement projects on lidos, Victorian cemeteries and textile mills in the industrial heartland of Keighley have added or enhanced 126 records of lidos, 286 of outdoor swimming pools and tidal swimming pools, 180 Victorian cemeteries and 130 relating to mills.

A further strand in this theme has been the creation or enhancement of 133 records for popular music venues in London from the jazz age to the end of the 1960s, taking in clubs, coffee bars, pub venues and dancehalls. These were places that directly or indirectly shaped the lives of millions, revolutionised youth culture and acted as melting pots for musicians and music fans across racial divides and cultures.



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In this hand-tinted postcard from the Nigel Temple Collection, which dates from the early years of the 20th century, people listen to a band concert in the Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. PC09738

The Odeon Cinema in Claremont Road, Surbiton, London, was photographed by John Maltby on an April evening in 1934. The 2.75-m freestanding lettering over the canopy was unusual for an Odeon.  
BB87/02795

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Neither are *PastScape* records confined to terra firma, as ongoing work to improve the records of thousands of known maritime wreck sites with new data will show. Other recent maritime developments have been work to enhance the dataset for medieval wrecks using reports transcribed from state papers, bringing the total for that period to 129 records, and for post-medieval wrecks by studying the earliest extant newspapers.

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### *ViewFinder*

*ViewFinder* ([www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder)) is an online picture resource drawing on the NMR's national photographic collections. It contains more than 35,000 images with a programme to add new ones each year. The following important collections of historic photographs have recently been added to *ViewFinder*.

### **Nigel Temple Collection**

Nigel Temple (1926–2003) was a painter who was also a national authority on garden history. Before his death the NMR acquired his collection of around 5,000 postcards illustrating public parks and gardens. Coverage is national, and seaside resorts are well represented. The bulk of the postcards date between 1900 and 1910, and in many cases hand-tinting adds to their interest and charm.

### **John Maltby (Odeon Cinemas) Collection**

Oscar Deutsch first trademarked the name Odeon for a cinema in Perry Bar, Birmingham, in 1929. By 1939 136 new Odeons had been opened in addition to cinemas that were taken over. The distinct 'Odeon style' was influential as it embraced the Modern Movement and Art Deco. In 1935 Deutsch commissioned John Maltby (1910–80) to photograph all his cinemas, and the NMR has acquired this important collection of some 1,200 images of more than 280 buildings.

### **NMR cataloguing**

#### **Col R W Phipps Album**

Razor-sharp photographs chosen for their display of architectural brilliance by Col R W Phipps make this newly catalogued album worthy of note. By collecting examples of ecclesiastical works by a range of photographers, including the likes of Francis Frith and W A Mansell, Phipps created a fascinating window into the practice of 19th-century photography as well as providing a record of England's finest religious architecture. Phipps's abilities as a draughtsman and his enthusiasm for architecture are evident in his choice of photographs for the album, which includes many of England's cathedrals as well as some European examples.

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