



ENGLISH HERITAGE

HERITAGE AT RISK

2014



NORTH WEST

HERITAGE AT RISK

Heritage at Risk is our campaign to save listed buildings and important historic sites, places and landmarks from neglect or decay. At its heart is the Heritage at Risk Register, an online database containing details of each site known to be at risk. It is analysed and updated annually and this leaflet summarises the results.

Over the past year we have focused much of our efforts on assessing listed Places of Worship, completing a comprehensive survey. We now know that of the 14,775 listed places of worship in England, 6% (887) are at risk and as such are included on this year's Register. These additions mean the overall number of sites on the Register has increased to 5,753. However, 575 sites have been removed from last year's Register, which includes one of our region's major projects, Mrs Gaskell's House, Manchester.

Trevor Mitchell, Planning and Conservation Director, North West

The hard work of local people is one of the main reasons why we are able to celebrate saving 50 sites in the North West over the past year. Community-led activity can be the driving force for rescuing historic sites and creates a grass-roots network to spread appreciation of heritage so that less of it becomes at risk in the first place.

Many of the success stories have been in **Cumbria, Manchester and Liverpool**, three of our strategic engagement priorities. We will continue to work in these places, but will also focus our efforts on the region's rich **industrial heritage** and its many **historic towns**, which we have also identified as priorities.

In **Cumbria**, much has been achieved in the Lake District National Park thanks to the guided input of an enthusiastic volunteer group of 'bracken bashers'. We are particularly pleased that the archaeological remains at Scale Beck, one of our top ten priority sites, have been rescued following the completion of bracken clearance. We are replacing it on the priority list with another Cumbrian monument: Birkkrigg Stone Circle. The challenge here is addressing both bracken infestation and vandalism to the prehistoric upright stones. Across the county, over 60 sites remain at risk due to unrestricted plant growth. We intend to continue and expand our work with volunteers to deal with this threat.

Progress has been made in our urban areas too. In **Manchester**, the home of Victorian novelist, Elizabeth Gaskell, has been brought back to life following a lengthy local campaign. In **Liverpool**, four long standing cases have been resolved. Here, we supported the conversion of the

grand grade II* listed Royal Insurance Building into a hotel by providing constructive advice and a grant of £300k for essential repairs. We will continue to provide support in these two great cities, which continue to face many challenges. One priority is Anfield Cemetery where, once again, the community will be at the heart of the solution.

Places of worship is the building type cared for by the largest body of volunteers. 48 churches have been added to the Register this year, following the completion of our survey which gives us a comprehensive picture of their condition. Our architects and Diocesan Support Officers will be liaising with congregations and the Heritage Lottery Fund to support their repair, allowing these much-valued buildings to continue to play an important role in local life.

Community action succeeds best in collaboration with other parties. That's why this autumn we are holding a conference in Lancaster, 'Saving your Heritage', to link together community groups, local authorities and other key stakeholders. We will reflect on what's been achieved and explore new ways to work together so that more of our treasured heritage is saved for the future.



Charles Smith,
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

SHIELING SETTLEMENT CLOSE TO THE MOUTH OF SCALE BECK, LOWESWATER, CUMBRIA

Scale Beck is one of a number of sites in Cumbria that have experienced conservation improvements thanks to regular bracken clearance by dedicated local archaeological volunteers. Bracken has entirely covered many upland monuments in recent years, making these important parts of our heritage difficult to appreciate and understand. The plant's destructive underground network of roots and rhizomes can also cause damage to significant below-ground archaeological remains. The bracken clearance project, which has proved a great success, has been co-ordinated by the Lake District National Park through a post part-funded by English Heritage.

2014 REGISTER: NORTH WEST

50 SITES REMOVED FROM THE **2013** REGISTER

£881k
10 SITES



WHAT'S ON THE HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER?

88
CONSERVATION
AREAS (10.8%)



NATIONAL AVERAGE

NORTH WEST

IN THE NORTH WEST THERE ARE...



4%



6%

96
BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES



6%



8.9%

115
PLACES OF WORSHIP



15.2%

12.5%

166
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS



5.7%



5.2%

7
PARKS & GARDENS
...ON THE REGISTER



MRS GASKELL'S HOUSE, 84 PLYMOUTH GROVE, CHORLTON ON MEDLOCK, MANCHESTER

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

This fine Regency villa of 1830-40 is of considerable historical importance as the 19th century home of the renowned novelist, Elizabeth Gaskell, and the place where she wrote her most famous novels. Following a period of dereliction, the building had fallen into a serious state of disrepair. The Manchester Historic Buildings Trust took ownership of the building in 2004, after a long campaign.

The first phase of external repairs was completed in 2010 with grant support from English Heritage. This work removed all of the impervious cement render that was trapping moisture behind it and replaced it with breathable lime based stucco. It conserved the intricate cornice window surrounds, repaired all the sash windows and their internal shutters, stabilized damaged brickwork and replaced the roof and gutters. English

Heritage also grant aided the extensive second phase, addressing repairs to the basement and tackling dry rot. Wider funding was secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund for provision of community and teaching facilities, together with a museum about the Gaskell family's life in the house.

IS IT AT RISK?

The house has come off the Heritage at Risk Register this year following the completion of this £2.5 million project. It is due to open to the public as a museum and educational resource in October 2014. It will also provide spaces for use by the community and several commercially available offices.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Gaskell House is expected to attract visitors from around the world because of the literary interest in the life and work of Elizabeth Gaskell and her various contemporary visitors.

All the repair works have now been completed, as have the fit-out works for use as a museum and educational facility. The interior now reflects its likely appearance of the 1860s, with the reinstatement of original paint colours and the sourcing of appropriate furniture of the period.

The project demonstrates how a much loved historic building can be saved through a local campaign. It is an excellent example of 'constructive conservation' in action. The Manchester Historic Buildings Trust worked closely and constructively with all interested parties – local authority, funding bodies and volunteers. Together, they have brought this important building back into use for the wider benefit of the community.

HELP HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic buildings are irreplaceable; they give us our sense of place and contribute to our quality of life. These precious buildings need to be looked after for future generations, but how do we know what needs our help the most? English Heritage is encouraging community groups, volunteers, building owners and local authorities across the country to come together to record the condition of grade II listed buildings in their area. Volunteers will visit a selection of grade II buildings local to them and answer questions, in the form of a survey, about the condition of the building. This information will be collected together and shared with local planning authorities to help identify those grade II buildings most at risk. Visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/help/historicbuildings to find out more.

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ANFIELD CEMETERY, LIVERPOOL

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Anfield Cemetery (originally known as Liverpool Cemetery) was designed by Edward Kemp and laid out in 1856-63. It contains buildings by important local architects, Lucy and Littler. Edward Kemp has become well-known as a designer of public landscapes. His work includes the later Flaybrick Cemetery (his final resting place) in Wirral and, with Joseph Paxton, Birkenhead Park, which is the precursor to Central Park, New York.

Anfield Cemetery is one of a number of public green spaces established around the fringe of the then burgeoning city of Liverpool in the second half of the 19th century to provide recreational, educational and sanitary conditions for the population. The cemetery pre-dated

the adjoining and complementary Stanley Park, which was the original home of Everton and Liverpool football clubs, and also designed by Edward Kemp.

Anfield Cemetery has a dominant east-west axis originating from the two principal entrances. A sunken rectangular central area contains many fine monuments. Interlocking circular paths provide access to the resultant quarters of the site. Originally the layout focused on a large central Anglican chapel, with a Roman Catholic chapel to the north and Nonconformist chapel to the south; only the latter remains. Two, now ruinous, catacomb buildings flanked the Anglican chapel.

The site continues to operate as popular burial ground and is of considerable cultural importance to the people of Liverpool.

IS IT AT RISK?

The site has been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 2012.

Of the three original chapels, only one (listed grade II and now disused) remains. There are also two catacomb buildings (also listed grade II), both roofless, in very poor condition and fenced off from the remainder of the site. Many early monuments are now showing signs

of decay and deterioration. The eastern entrance onto Cherry Lane is formed by an elaborate bridge carrying a railway line and is in need of positive management. Elsewhere, cast iron gates are deteriorating and street signs and clutter are having a negative visual effect on the once prominent main western entrance.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Positive steps are being made as the site is now included within the boundary of the Anfield Strategic Regeneration Framework and has attracted the interest of an active 'friends group'. A meeting has taken place with the local planning authority to discuss principles of conserving the significance of the site. The need for a conservation management plan to help inform an overarching strategy for conservation and attract funding has been discussed and acknowledged. The 'friends group' is interested in using the remaining Nonconformist chapel as a genealogy and local history centre. It is understood that initial discussions have taken place with the Heritage Lottery Fund which has expressed the need for the whole site, not just the buildings, to be brought into positive conservation management.

Find out what's at risk by searching or downloading the online Heritage at Risk Register at www.english-heritage.org.uk/har

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our customer services department on telephone: 0870 333 1181 fax: 01793 414926 textphone: 01793 414878 email: customers@english-heritage.org.uk