



Historic England

Our First Year | Review and forward-look 2016

ROYAL VAUXHALL TAVERN



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Historic England | Our first year

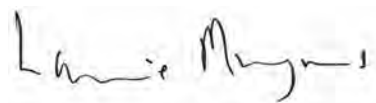
Our core purpose is to champion and protect England's historic environment.

It is an inspiring challenge in a world where historic structures are under constant threat. Destruction equivalent to the recent horrors in Palmyra may never happen in England, but our heritage is at risk from the pressures of population growth, changing lifestyles, new building requirements and a lack of appreciation or understanding.

During 2015-16, our first year under our new name, we have helped to raise the profile of England's extraordinary heritage, emphasising its importance as a great national capital asset providing a dynamic base for sustainable economic growth. We have highlighted its contribution to the beauty of our surroundings, providing a sense of local (and national) identity as well as the most vivid impressions of England throughout the world.

The English Heritage Trust, the new charity managing our 420 spectacular historic properties, has made an excellent start in its first year. We are committed to supporting achievement of its ultimate objective of financial sustainability.

We have exciting and ambitious plans for the future, emphasising Historic England's vital role in securing our national prosperity and wellbeing.

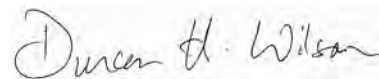


Sir Laurie Magnus – Chairman



Historic England has been given the important task of protecting England's historic environment and handing it on to future generations. We can only achieve it if our historic buildings and places mean something to people. We must continue to galvanise individuals and communities up and down the country because they are ultimately the protectors and champions of their own heritage. This means engaging with millions more people, and this is where our biggest challenge lies.

The next five years promise to be a period of rapid change and development for our country. We need homes and we need infrastructure. New development should be about creating high quality places, or it will not create lasting value. This means respecting local character, and understanding the built environment as the place from which local life and local culture spring. Bringing historic places that have been neglected or unused back to life needs to be a central aim in place-making. Whether buried in the ground or embodied in our great urban and rural buildings, our history is all around us. We are determined that the immense value of the historic environment will not be lost. Instead we need to cherish it and where necessary adapt it to make it part of our lives, so we can hand it on to generations to come.



Duncan Wilson – Chief Executive



A preview of our work in 2016/17

Breathing new life into old places – Heritage Action Zones

The character and individuality of historic places give a focus for community pride, a sense of shared history and a sense of belonging.

But some are under-valued and under-used. Historic places can become symbols of deprivation and dilapidation rather than regeneration and renewal. We want to unlock this potential.

Starting in June 2016 we will seek out places that have the potential to become focal points for sustainable economic development and community life. Working with local partners, we will focus our help and resources on these places to bring them back to life.

Enriching the List

The history of our land and its people is marked in the fabric of England's buildings and places. The most significant of these are listed, so they can be understood and protected for the future. The List has almost 400,000 entries. It is a unique record of the country's evolving history and character. In 2016, for the first time, we are opening it up to contributions from the public.

This crowdsourcing project will add the public's photographs and knowledge to The List, helping us chronicle the history and unlock the secrets of places across England. We are very excited at the prospect of engaging generations of people in recording England's history and handing it on for the future.

Looking back: 2015/16 at a glance

- We newly listed more than 800 buildings and places, and amended the listings of more than 6,000
- For the first time we listed places nominated by schoolchildren
- We advised on more than 22,000 planning cases
- We beat our target of removing 25% of sites from the nation's Heritage At Risk Register
- We funded more than 300 research projects
- We uncovered an internationally-important Bronze Age site that was dubbed by the media 'The Pompeii of the Fens'
- We identified what is believed to be Henry V's great ship, The Holigost, in the River Hamble
- Members of the public added more than 1,300 places to our interactive Pride of Place map, celebrating the heritage of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people
- Our exhibitions attracted almost 50,000 visitors
- We involved almost 100,000 pupils in our Heritage Schools programme
- We established that 99% of England's population now lives within one mile of a listed building or place
- More than 1.5 million people visited The List (National Heritage List for England) – an increase on the previous year's visits of more than a third

Understanding historic places

*Historic England's
Archive – a great place
to explore the history
of places*



Cup Final, Empire Stadium (later Wembley Stadium), Brent, London, 1935. © Historic England Archive.



Cecil Shadbolt (left in bowler hat) and his balloon pilot, Captain William Dale, 1880s. © Historic England Archive.

Using our research we identify what's special and make sure that England's history is recognised, respected and enjoyed. We share our knowledge through training and guidance, conservation advice and access to resources, including our Archive, the biggest national collection of records about the historic environment, which includes millions of images.

Must Farm

This year we co-funded an excavation of the 'Bronze Age Pompeii' at Must Farm in Cambridgeshire. The work revealed the exceptionally well-preserved remains of a Bronze Age settlement that was destroyed in a fire around 3,000 years ago. The survival of near-intact Bronze Age round houses and environmental evidence makes the site one of international importance. It has attracted attention from around the world, and promises to challenge and enhance our understanding of Bronze Age life.

The Staffordshire Hoard

The Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver objects, found in 2009, has been the subject of a Historic England-funded research project since 2012. Around half of the work to analyse 4,000 fragments is now complete.

Recently discovered – The Holigost

We are investigating a shipwreck recently discovered in a 'medieval breaker's yard' in Hampshire. We believe it is likely to be the remains of 600-year old warship, The Holigost, which was one of Henry V's great ships. The find has the potential to improve our understanding of medieval ships and naval warfare in the 15th century.



The gun carriage from the wreck of the London, shortly after being raised.

The wreck of The London

During the year we helped raise an incredibly rare and extremely well-preserved 350-year-old wooden gun carriage from the seabed off Southend Pier in Essex. It came from The London, one of England's most important 17th century shipwrecks. It was at risk from poor environmental conditions but now it is saved for public understanding and enjoyment.

Identifying and protecting

One of our key roles is looking after the National Heritage List for England on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. From its origins in 1882, The List has grown to include almost 400,000 entries across the country, ranging from prehistoric monuments to office blocks, battlefields and parks. They all benefit from legal protection. Ninety nine percent of England's population lives within one mile of a listed building or place. The List carries information about each one, and is available to everyone through our website.

War memorials

We added more than 450 war memorials to The List this year to mark the centenary of the First World War. The listings include the Fishponds War Memorial in Bristol, the first site to be added

following a nomination by children. We have had a great deal of help from the public with this project, including staff and pupils engaged in our Heritage Schools programme. We worked in partnership with the War Memorials Trust.

New listings

As part of a strategic review we listed 20 inter-war pubs. Our *Pride of Place* project led to the listing of the Royal Vauxhall Tavern in London – the first to be listed for its importance to the gay community.

Other popular listings this year included the iconic Gas Holder No.1 at the Oval Cricket Ground, The British Library, and four buildings we listed to celebrate their role in the history of the Women's Institute.

The List has grown to include almost 400,000 entries across the country, ranging from prehistoric monuments to office blocks, battlefields and parks



The War Memorial and St Mary's Church, Fishponds. © Robert Cutts.

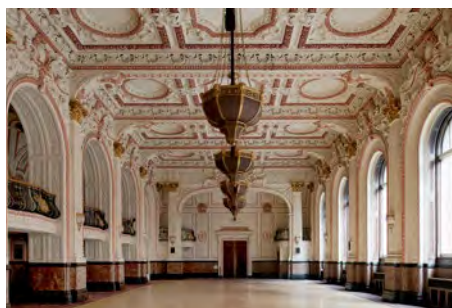


The Royal Oak public house, Hoxton, London.

Caring for historic places



Margate Old Town © Thanet DC.



The Grosvenor Suite in the Grand Hotel, Birmingham.



We are working with partners on a solution for The Rope Walk at John Gould's West of England Twine Works in Somerset, which was added to the HAR Register in 2015.

We work right across England, with private and public sector organisations, with individuals and communities, with volunteers and professionals. We advise on how developments can help rather than harm our precious historic places, and we work with owners and communities to save Heritage at Risk and champion historic places. This work is supported by specialist Planning and Conservation teams.

These are just a few examples of what they achieved in our first year as Historic England:

A creative sector for Margate

We played an important role in the regeneration of Margate, as part of a partnership to cultivate the town's creative sector. Our funding attracted a further £1.5 million to local heritage projects. We also offered advice and support throughout the project.

Birmingham's Grand Hotel

Our grant-aid of £200,000 allowed a second phase of repairs to the Grade II* listed Grand Hotel in Birmingham. The building has been on the Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register since 2005.

Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings – one of the world's most important historic buildings

Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings is the world's first iron-framed building, making it the 'grandfather of the skyscraper'. We are bringing it back to life. In the latest £2.3 million development phase we opened a new visitor centre. It tells the story of the mill's role in the industrial revolution, and in subsequent world architecture. It also tells stories of the people who created the mill and worked there. More than a third were children.



Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings.

Public engagement

Historic England has had an exciting first year with our new identity and focus on the historic places all around us. Over the year our work has captured many people's imaginations and we have forged new partnerships and found supporters everywhere.

You helped us:

Celebrate public art

Our campaign and exhibition on post-war public art captured attention and many people helped us in our search for lost works. On our recommendation 42 pieces were listed for protection, including Barbara Hepworth's *Winged Figure* on Oxford Street, London. We held a major exhibition at Somerset House in London called *Out There: Our Post-War Public Art*. It was very well-visited during its ten-week run and won a number of plaudits. Soon we will open *Out There North East*, opening up the topic to new audiences at Bessie Surtees House in Newcastle.

Find missing public art

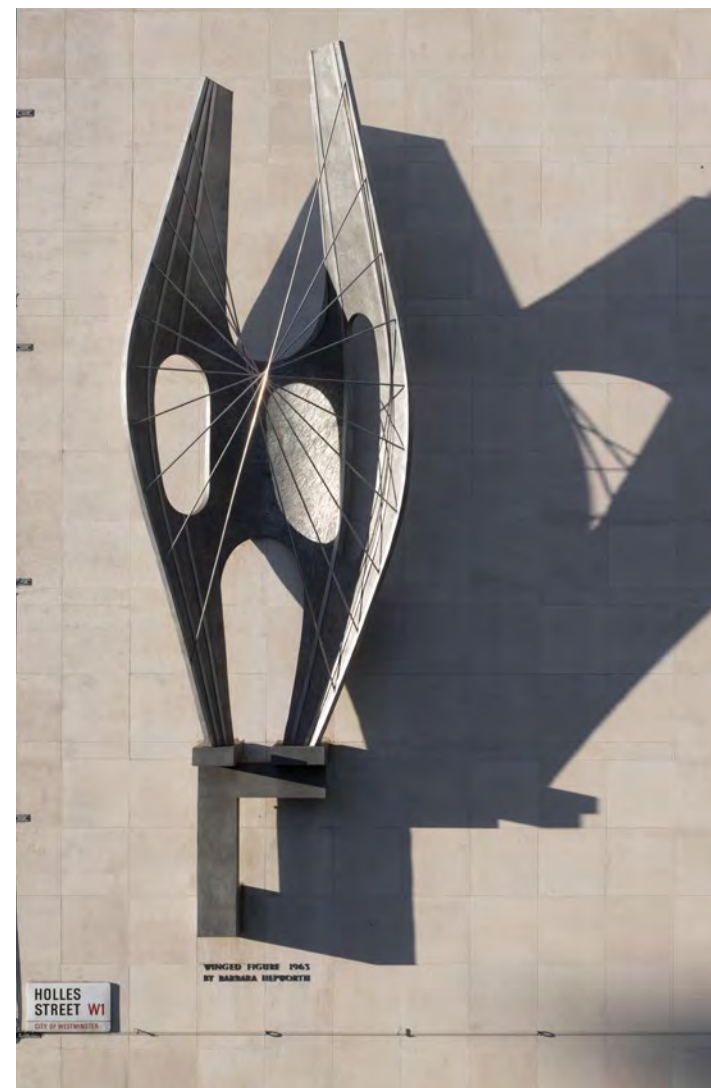
Our call to find lost public art inspired the public to get involved. Sadly, many of the pieces were confirmed to have been destroyed. One happy exception is *The Sunbathers*. This piece was created by Peter Laszlo Peri for the Festival of Britain. Missing since 1951, we found it intact after a tip-off from an exhibition visitor. Its owner has enthusiastically agreed to work with us to have it restored and returned to public view.

Teach children about their local heritage

Our Heritage Schools Programme goes from strength to strength. This year schools have focused on the commemoration of the First World War and its impact on their local communities. We have now trained 2,600 teachers and cultural educators to use local heritage in their lessons.

Plot an LGBTQ heritage map

We ran a crowdsourcing project, in partnership with Leeds Beckett University, to create an interactive map of places of historic significance to the LGBTQ community. The findings will inform future work to identify and protect LGBTQ heritage.



Barbara Hepworth's *Winged Figure* on the John Lewis building, Holles Street, London.

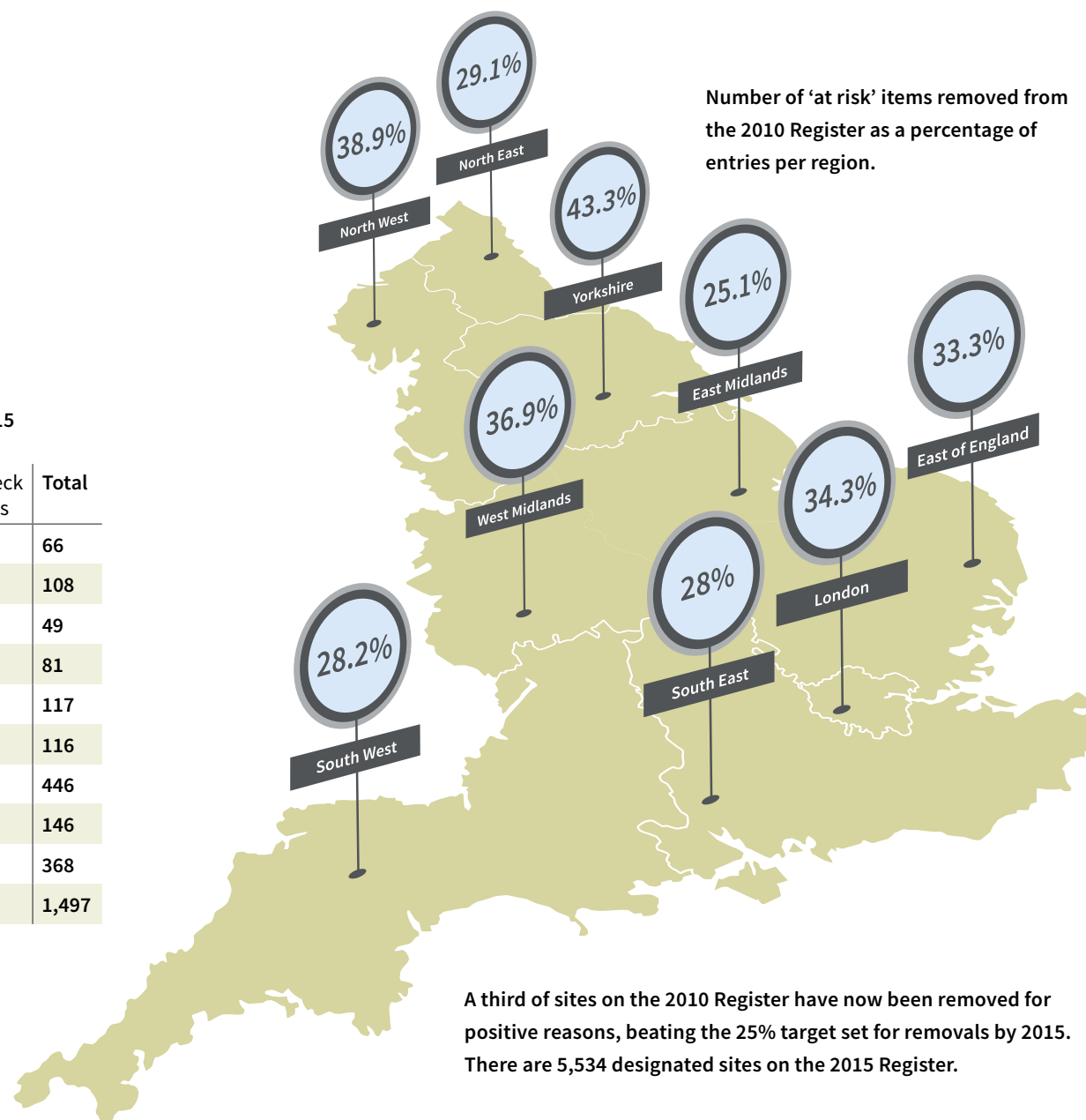
Heritage at Risk statistics

Our Heritage at Risk Programme (HAR) helps us understand the state of England's historic sites, identifying those that are most at risk of being lost from neglect, decay or inappropriate development.

Every year we update the HAR Register, giving us a dynamic overview of the sites most in need of safeguarding. It gives communities a picture of the condition of their neighbourhoods and encourages them to become actively involved in saving and restoring what is precious locally.

Number of entries removed from the 2010 Heritage at Risk Register by 2015

	Buildings or structures	Archaeology	Parks and gardens	Battlefields	Wreck sites	Total
East Midlands	41	24	1	0	0	66
East of England	41	63	4	0	0	108
London	35	10	4	0	0	49
North East	31	50	0	0	0	81
North West	34	83	0	0	0	117
South East	41	69	1	0	5	116
South West	35	406	4	0	1	446
West Midlands	56	87	3	0	0	146
Yorkshire	29	336	2	1	0	368
England	343	1,128	19	1	6	1,497



Planning and listing statistics

We want people to use and enjoy historic places in ways that reveal and reinforce their significance.
We give advice on more than 20,000 applications for planning or listed building consent each year.

Planning casework 2015–16



Listing casework 2015–16

Scheduling		Listing		Parks and gardens		Battlefields		Protected wrecks		War memorials	
New designations	40	New designations	804	New designations	6	New designations	0	New designations	0	New designations	448
Major amendments	22	Major amendments	226	Major amendments	8	Major amendments	2	Major amendments	0	Major amendments	25
Minor text amendments	23	Minor text amendments	2,306	Minor text amendments	13	Minor text amendments	44	Minor text amendments	0	Minor text amendments	0
Total	85	Total	3,336	Total	27	Total	46	Total	0	Total	473

Totals

New designations	850
Major amendments	258
Minor text amendments	2,386



Nicholas Monro, *King Kong* for the City Sculpture Project, 1972, the Bull Ring, Birmingham. © Arnolfini Archive.



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Cover images

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