

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

South West Summary 2015



For the first time, we've compared all sites on the Heritage at Risk Register – from 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 South West to the national Register shows that 62.2% of all hillforts and 58.7% of all types of cairns are in our region. There are 1,562 assets on the South West 2015 Heritage at Risk Register, making up 28.2% of the national total of 5,534 assets. 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 Ruth Garner, continues to work with owners, funders and other stakeholders to find the right solutions for sites on the Register.

Andrew Vines
Planning Director, South West



The South West has now removed 28% (446) of the entries that were on the 2010 Register, exceeding the national target of 25%. In the last year we have made particularly good progress by removing 213 assets from the 2014 Register.

from their Environmental Stewardship scheme removed 93 scheduled monuments from the Register in 2014, which is a major achievement.

Despite the significant reduction of archaeology entries this year, additions to the Register outnumber removals for buildings and structures, places of worship, and parks and gardens. The continuing expansion of our understanding of the condition of listed places of worship has contributed 34 additions to the Register this year. As a result many church groups have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Grants for Places of Worship scheme, for which our architects provide technical advice.

During this very successful year, there are many more notable cases than can be described in this brief overview. Historic England shares news like this on our website and on Twitter (@HE_SouthWest). However, we rely on inspirational owners, like those at St Giles House, winners of an Historic England Angel Award in 2015, and close partnerships with a wide range of bodies such as NE, HLF, Architectural Heritage Fund, local authorities, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Building Preservation Trusts and local communities, to continue to reduce the risks to the rich and varied historic environment of the South West.

Ruth Garner
Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

The South West contains some of England's most important prehistoric sites and landscapes. This is reflected in the fact that there are 1,163 scheduled monuments on our Register, which represents 43% of the national total.

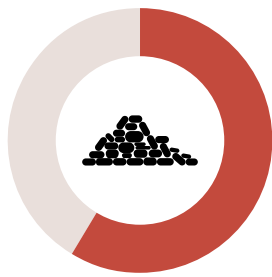
Whilst the South West has well over half the national total of hillforts and cairns at risk, by far the most numerous type of scheduled monument on our Register is barrows. There are 454 of these ancient burial mounds at risk in the South West, 53% of the national total on the Register.

Many of the archaeological sites and standing remains on the Register are not capable of economic use. Some have been at risk for many years. Grant funding often helps to reduce the risks. In the South West, we provided £829k in grants to 34 sites in 2014. This helped remove 21 sites from the Register, including Remains of the Old Church of St Mary Magdalene shown on the cover.

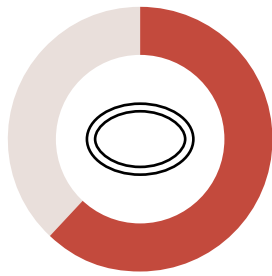
Our relationship with Natural England (NE) is vital in reducing risk in the rural historic environment. Funding

Cover image: The west tower is all that remains of the late 14th century parish **Church of St Mary Magdalene, North Wootton, Sherborne, Dorset**. The tower stood ruinous, roofless and covered in ivy for decades. Historic England worked with the owner, Sherborne Castle Estates, offering advice and partial funding towards the cost of substantial wall repairs and re-roofing of the tower. The assembled project team shows the owners, land agent, architect and contractors. The preservation of much of England's heritage relies on dedicated teams like this.

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

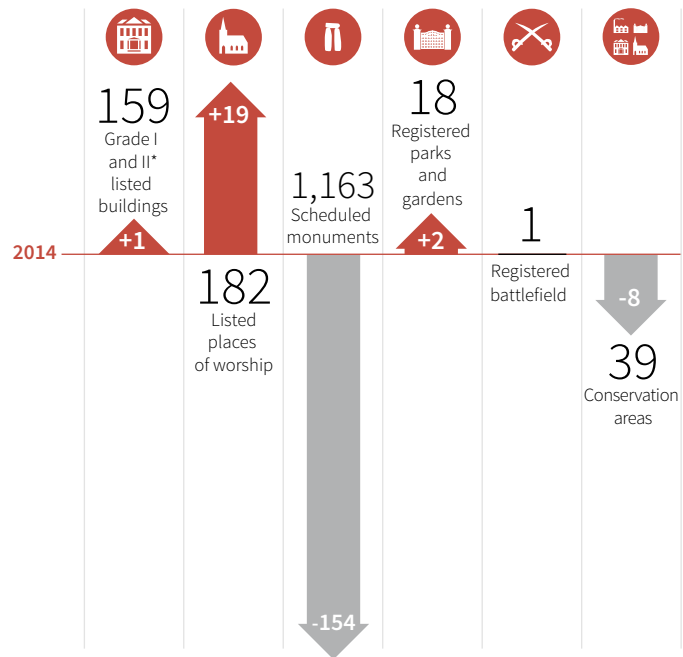


61 (58.7%)
Cairns



69 (62.2%)
Hillforts

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



There are **1,562** assets on the **South West** Register, 140 fewer than 2014

St Giles House **Wimborne St Giles, Dorset**



Background and history

The brick built St Giles House has been the seat of the Earls of Shaftesbury since it was begun by the first Earl in 1651. The house is of considerable architectural interest and has cultural significance through its association with the Shaftesburys as politicians, social

reformers and philosophers. Extensive remodelling took place 1740-4 by Henry Flitcroft, incorporating a superb saloon. It was further aggrandised by P C Hardwick in 1854 to give more comfort and expand servant accommodation. The house was abandoned in the 1970s as a family home, and became partly derelict.

Is it at risk?

The house had been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 1998. After the 12th Earl inherited the estate in

2005 the decision was taken to re-inhabit the house, which has led to its repair. The enthusiasm and vision of the present Earl, supported by Historic England, has resulted in a rescue and a restoration that is a model of informed conservation. St Giles House was removed from the Register this year.

What's the current situation?

The house is now weather tight under a new roof. It is once again a comfortable family home with a grand suite of reception rooms available for events. Some of the house remains to be fully restored, notably the second floor and attics, and the stair between the two. The final phase of restoration has seen the remaining empty quarters conserved in a sound state.

This restoration demonstrates how owners of heritage assets play a pivotal role in saving much loved historic buildings.

The Rope Walk **Job Gould's West of England Twine Works,** **West Coker, Somerset**

Background and history

Built around 1880 by Job Gould, the rope walk is still owned by his family. The structure is extremely long at 97 metres, the maximum length of twine spun there. A single continuous tiled roof spans the building, with open sides for twine drying at ground floor level. The first floor is enclosed by lightweight planks and glazing. The building was deliberately sited to slope upwards into the hillside, allowing water to run down through the twine finishing area. This structure is a rare survival of this type of building and of Somerset's industrial past.

Is it at risk?

It was added to the Heritage at Risk Register this year because the listing was upgraded from Grade II to Grade II*. Ageing and weakness of joints, the collapse of surrounding banks and water running through the building have made it a very fragile structure.



What is the current situation?

Historic England, South Somerset District Council and one of the owners are working on a temporary solution involving propping and tying to support the structure. This should allow time for permanent repair and reuse solutions to be developed.

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:

Ruth Garner, Historic England South West
29 Queen Square,
Bristol, BS1 4ND
Telephone: 0117 975 1308
Email: southwest@HistoricEngland.org.uk
Twitter: @HE_SouthWest

For a different format of this document contact our customer services department on:
Telephone: 0370 333 0608 Textphone: 0800 015 0516
Email: customers@HistoricEngland.org.uk
Product code: 52013

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