

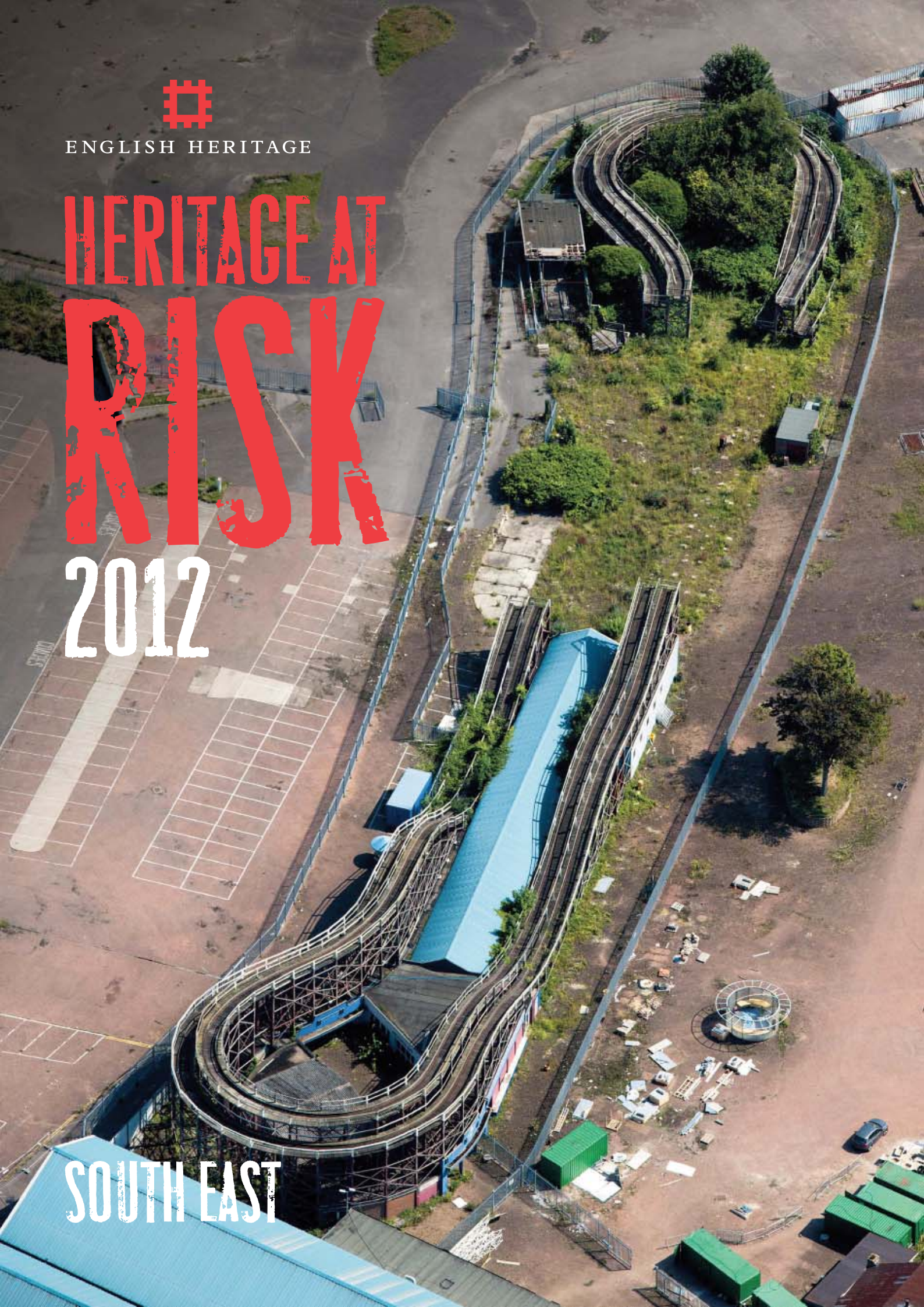


ENGLISH HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT RISK

2012

SOUTH EAST



# HERITAGE AT RISK

Despite the challenges of recession, the number of sites on the Heritage at Risk Register continues to fall. Excluding listed places of worship, for which the survey is still incomplete, 1,150 assets have been removed for positive reasons since the Register was launched in 2008. The sites that remain at risk tend to be the more intractable ones where solutions are taking longer to implement.

While the overall number of buildings at risk has fallen, the average conservation deficit for each property has increased from £260k (1999) to £370k (2012). We are also seeing a steady increase in the proportion of buildings that are capable of beneficial re-use – those that have become redundant not because of any fundamental lack of potential, but simply as the temporary victims of the current economic climate.

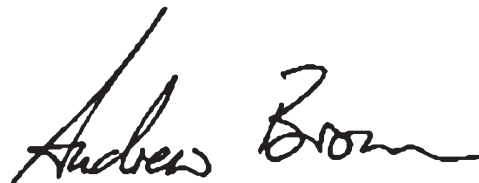
In the last year we have been able to remove 50 sites from the Heritage at Risk Register; although this success has been tempered by the addition of a further 52. This reminds us that the challenge of addressing heritage at risk is here to stay – that for every asset we save, another awaits a solution.

The new additions to the Register are overwhelmingly churches and chapels, as a result of the expansion of our survey of listed places of worship – a trend likely to continue for some years yet. We can nevertheless celebrate the removal of the first two places of worship from the Register following successful repair works this year. We have also grant-aided our second Places of Worship Support Officer, to support congregations in the Canterbury Diocese in tackling their maintenance issues and adapting their buildings to ensure vibrant community use.

We achieved a net reduction of 14 scheduled monuments at risk this year. Of the 237 scheduled monuments that remain on the Register, the overwhelming cause of concern (67%) is arable cultivation. Our new Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation (COSMIC) programme will help to address this by providing a detailed assessment of the amount of damage being caused by continued ploughing. As well as improving our understanding of the buried remains it will identify how they can be better managed and subsequently removed from the Register; later this year we will be encouraging landowners to work with us to undertake COSMIC surveys of the monuments in their stewardship.

In 2011 we published for the first time a list of our top ten Heritage at Risk priorities and it is pleasing to report that good progress is being made at several of these sites. For example, at Stowe in Buckinghamshire, the restoration of the New Inn as a visitor centre will help to generate income that can be directed towards tackling listed garden features that remain at risk. Meanwhile, at Sheerness Dockyard repairs to the residential quarter are nearing completion. At other sites, however, the picture remains very challenging and we will be continuing our efforts to broker solutions for them during the coming years.

As the challenges of the current economic climate persist, so too do the challenges of Heritage at Risk. Only 28% of buildings at risk on the South East Register are capable of beneficial use and even fewer are economic to repair. Our limited grants budget will continue to be targeted on Heritage at Risk next year and we will at the same time be supporting local communities and councils to save heritage through their own powers. In this respect we were particularly pleased to hear of Thanet District Council's successful bid to compulsorily purchase the Scenic Railway at Margate, which will now allow its repair to proceed. Looking to the future, we are creating a dedicated local team to sharpen our own focus on addressing Heritage at Risk in the South East.



**Andrew Brown**  
Planning and Conservation Director,  
South East

## SCENIC RAILWAY, MARGATE, KENT

Built in 1919–20 as the main attraction of the Dreamland amusement park, the grade II\* Scenic Railway is Britain's oldest surviving roller coaster. Badly damaged by fire in 2008, it has become a sad reminder of Margate's heyday as the south of England's pre-eminent seaside resort. Its restoration is crucial to the cultural and economic regeneration of the town, which is why English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund are supporting Thanet District Council's plan for the Dreamland Trust to breathe life back into the amusement park with the Scenic Railway at its beating heart. © English Heritage

## BUILDINGS AT RISK

- Nationally, 3.0% of grade I and II\* listed buildings are at risk. In the South East this falls to 1.7% (97 buildings).
- 11 buildings at risk were removed from the 2011 South East Register, and 5 have been added.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP AT RISK

- Of the 272 listed places of worship surveyed in the South East, 62 are at risk. 28 have been added this year.

## SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- 3,286 (16.6%) of England's 19,759 scheduled monuments are at risk, of which 237 are in the South East.
- In the South East, 30 scheduled monuments have been removed from the 2011 Register for positive reasons, and 16 have been added.
- 6.3% of scheduled monuments (64) on the South East's baseline 2009 Register have been removed for positive reasons, compared to the national figure of 15.8%.
- Nationally, damage from arable cultivation is the greatest risk factor for scheduled monuments, accounting for 44% of those at risk. In the South East the proportion is 67%.

## REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

- 99 (6.1%) of England's 1,617 registered parks and gardens are at risk, a decrease from 103 (6.4%) in 2011. In the South East, 24 (6.5%) of our 368 sites are at risk.
- Nationally, 5 sites were removed from the 2011 Register and 1 has been added. There has been no change in the South East.

## REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS

- Of the 43 registered battlefields in England, 6 are at risk, 2 fewer than the 2008 baseline. Of the 6 registered battlefields in the South East, 1 is at risk.

## PROTECTED WRECK SITES

- Of the 46 protected wreck sites off England's coast, 4 are at risk. Of the 10 sites on the 2008 baseline, 9 have been removed. Of the 20 protected wreck sites in the South East, 4 are at risk.

## CONSERVATION AREAS

- We now have information on the condition of 7,976 of England's 9,770 conservation areas; 524 (6.6%) are at risk. Of the 1,553 conservation areas surveyed in the South East, 62 (4%) are at risk.
- 3 conservation areas were removed from the 2011 South East Register for positive reasons, and 2 have been added.



### DOCKYARD CHURCH, SHEERNESS, KENT

Built to serve the new Sheerness Dockyard and now a grade II\* listed building at risk, the former St Paul's church has lain empty since 1970. English Heritage is supporting Swale Borough Council's plan to compulsorily purchase the church so that a building preservation trust can restore it to beneficial use.

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**55%** OF  
BUILDINGS  
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THE 1999  
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**SAVED**

**62**  
CONSERVATION  
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AT RISK

**9%**  
OF  
SCHEDULED  
MONUMENTS  
ARE  
AT RISK

**£607k**  
IN GRANTS  
WAS OFFERED TO  
**18** SITES AT RISK

## PRIORITY HAR SITES

- Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey
- Castle Goring, Arundel Road, Worthing, West Sussex
- Hammerhead Crane, Thetis Road, West Cowes, Cowes, Isle of Wight
- RAF Bicester: World War II airfield, Laughton, Cherwell, Oxfordshire
- Roman Catholic Church of St Augustine of England with Cloisters attached, St Augustine's Road, Ramsgate, Thanet, Kent
- Sheerness Dockyard (incl. The Boat Store (No. 78), Former Medway Ports Authority Offices (Dockyard House), Coach Houses (Naval Terrace), I-15 (consec.) Regency Close, Former Royal Dockyard Church and attached wall and railings, Former Working Mast House, 26 Jetty Road), Sheerness, Kent
- Stowe Landscape Garden (incl. The Palladian Bridge, Temple of Friendship, The East Boycott Pavilion and The Queens Temple), Stowe, Buckinghamshire
- The Belvedere, Waldershare Park, Shepherdswell with Coldred, Dover, Kent
- The chapel at the former King Edward VII Hospital, Easebourne, Chichester, West Sussex
- The Western Heights fortifications, Castle Hill, Dover, Kent

## GRADE II PILOT PROJECTS

English Heritage is looking for people to take part in pilot projects that will explore options for expanding the Heritage at Risk programme to include all grade II listed buildings.

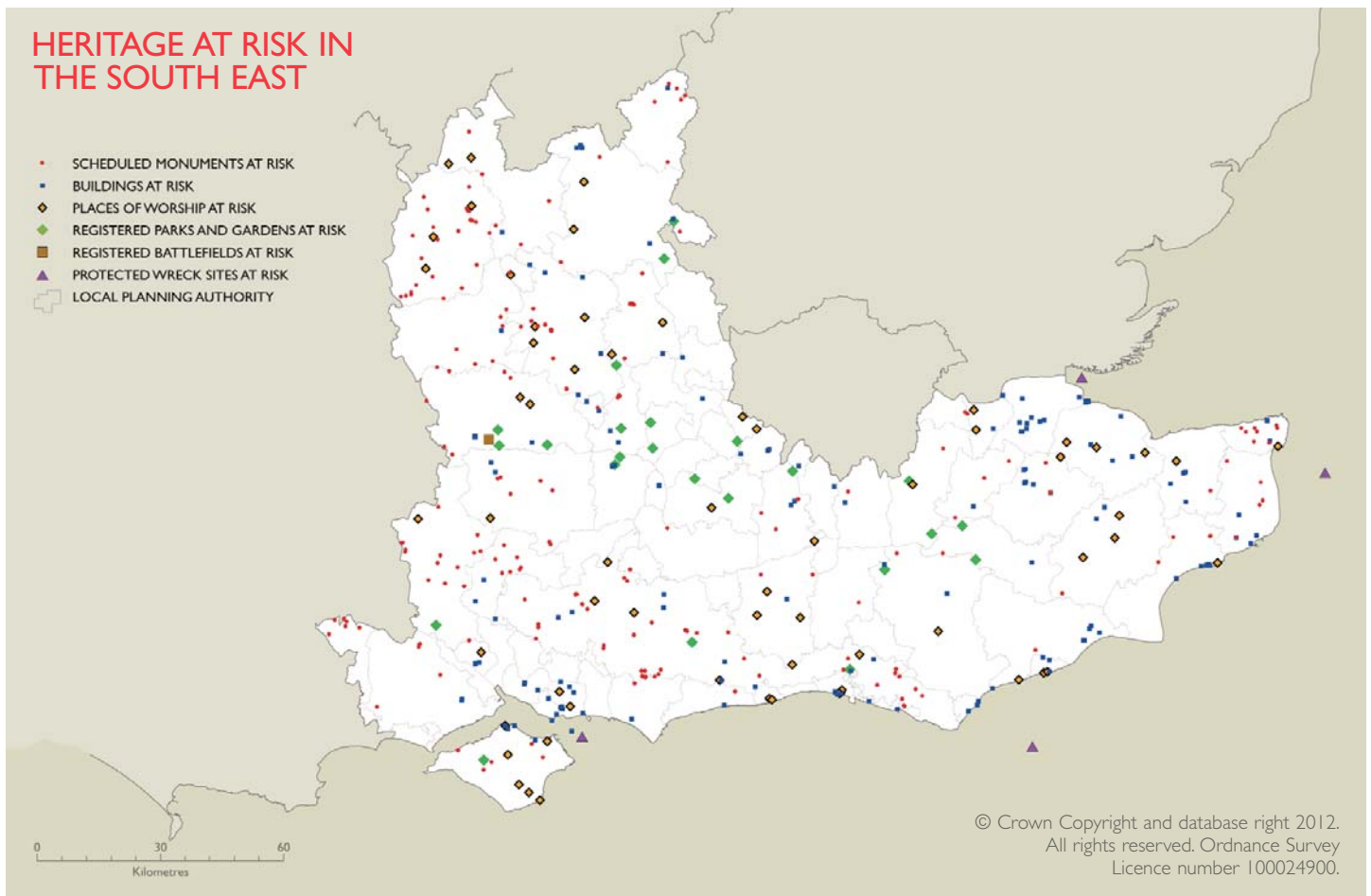
A maximum of 15 pilot projects are required to explore, cost and test various options for undertaking surveys of grade II listed buildings.

For more information and details on how to apply visit:

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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