

Heritage at Risk



Historic England

North West Summary 2017



Our **Heritage at Risk campaign** focuses on transforming the fortunes of the nation's most important and threatened historic sites. Led by our local Heritage at Risk team, we provide expert technical and planning advice, as well as funding, to deliver sustainable solutions. With 409 heritage assets on the 2017 North West Register – ranging from bracken-infested prehistoric settlements through to abandoned monumental mills – the challenge is vast and varied. However, we're pleased to announce that we've already met our target of removing 15% of entries on our 2015 Register by 2018. Much of this success has resulted from close partnership with others, such as Natural England, whose agri-environment schemes have benefitted many scheduled monuments. Collaboration has also been instrumental in addressing our current regional priorities – **Industrial Heritage, Northern Powerhouse, Heritage and Tourism** and **Helping the High Street** – which will continue to shape our work in the future.

Catherine Dewar Planning Director, North West



We're delighted that 30 entries have been removed from our North West Register this past year. The rescue of these fragile historic sites is important. Caring for our heritage promotes a sense of belonging and civic pride. It's also a huge driver for

economic growth, stimulating regeneration and tourism.

Creative reuse of our historic buildings is often at the heart of regeneration of towns and cities. **Industrial Heritage** is synonymous with the North West and our textile mills, such as the magnificent Leigh Spinners Mill, present a huge economic opportunity for renewal and growth. The powerhouse behind the industrial revolution, they are woven into the landscapes of Greater Manchester, Pennine Lancashire and Cheshire.

Sadly, our research has revealed that a staggering number of mills have been demolished in recent years. Many more are left empty or underused. Yet imaginative conversions prove that they are capable of housing the homes and businesses of the future. Over the next year we'll be actively promoting the untapped economic potential of mills to owners, developers and decision makers.

The new, devolved approach to governance, infrastructure and investment under the **Northern Powerhouse** agenda

presents a fresh opportunity to solve heritage at risk. Working with the City Councils, we're investing over £1 million of our grant aid to regenerate several long standing at risk sites in the Manchester and Liverpool City Regions. We're particularly excited that St Luke's 'Bombed Out' Church, a major landmark and community resource in central Liverpool, is now fit for the future following major repairs funded by Historic England and the local authority.

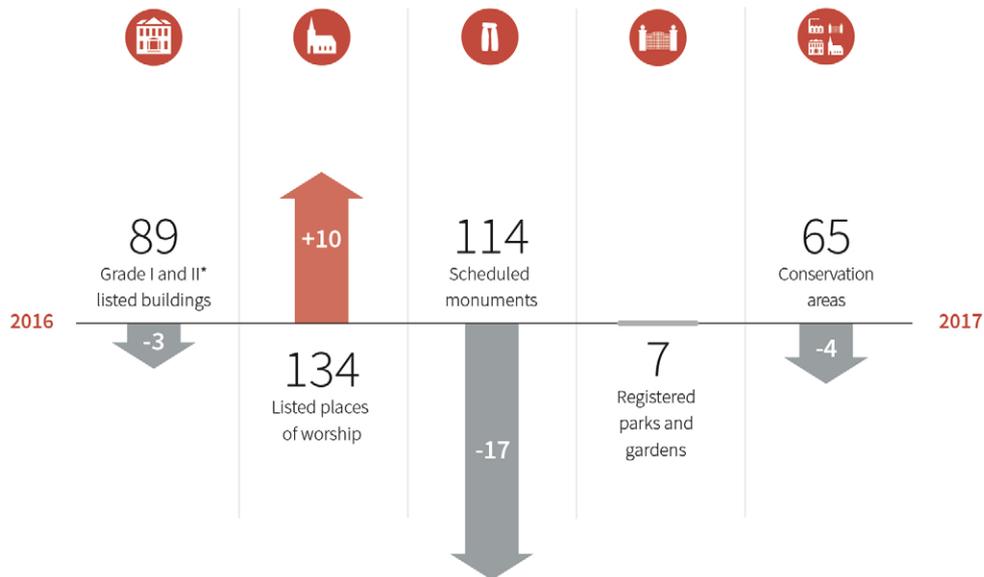
Heritage-led tourism generates billions of pounds each year for the national economy. That's why we've identified Appleby as our first Heritage Action Zone. As part of our **Heritage and Tourism** and **Helping the High Street** themes, we're helping to reinvigorate the beautiful Cumbrian market town as a visitor destination following the catastrophic winter floods two years ago. As well as providing grant aid for building repairs and a project manager, we're focusing our expertise – listing, planning and research – to deliver a five-year investment programme with Eden District Council and other partners.

With 25 new entries on the Register this year, including 17 places of worship, we continue to face new challenges. A collaborative approach, as modelled at Appleby and in the resolution of threats to Ashnott Lead Mines, will be essential to allow future generations to value and enjoy the most vulnerable parts of our built heritage.

Charles Smith Principal Adviser, Heritage at Risk

Cover image: Leigh Spinners Mill in Greater Manchester was built as one of England's last great cotton complexes. Constructed between 1913 and 1923, it is one of the dominant features of the Leigh's skyline. Many floors are now disused and the fabric requires major investment. Historic England is supporting Leigh Spinners Trust to develop a sustainable future for this much loved grade II* listed building. The Engine House, housing original machinery, has already been restored, helped by a Historic England grant. Attention is now focusing on attracting new occupiers by repairing the roof of one of the two enormous spinning blocks.

Designated assets on the 2017 **North West** Register



There are **409** assets on the **North West** Register, **14** fewer than in 2016

Appleby Conservation Area **Appleby, Cumbria**



Appleby is a Cumbrian market town steeped in history. Both the Castle and St Lawrence's Church were in existence by 1120, and the town was granted its first royal charter in 1176. The annual Appleby Horse Fair, a major cultural gathering which attracts thousands of people every June, was founded in 1685.

The local economy was seriously harmed by the major winter floods of 2015/16. People's homes and businesses – many in historic buildings – suffered significant damage. Tourism, which was already on the decline, initially suffered further, especially when resultant landslides caused the year-long closure of the Settle to Carlisle railway line northwards.

Following the flooding, we identified Appleby as a conservation area at risk to help focus resources on supporting its recovery. In April this year we were

delighted to announce that it had become the North West's first Heritage Action Zone. This new initiative is a partnership between Historic England and Eden District Council to restore and revive Appleby as a tourist attraction. It will benefit the local economy and the people who live and work there.

The Heritage Action Zone will be delivered by improving the appearance of the historic environment and supporting private owners in repairing several key listed buildings. Further work will boost tourism through projects to showcase the town's rich past, including celebrating Appleby's most famous historical figure, Lady Anne Clifford. Local people will have a chance to get involved by diversifying the Heritage Open Days programme and surveying the town's grade II listed buildings.

Appleby is one of ten Heritage Action Zones across the country that are bringing together Historic England's advice, expertise and funding to harness the potential of heritage to create economic growth and improve quality of life.

Ashnott Lead Mine and Lime Kiln

Newton, Lancashire

Ashnott Lead Mine and Lime Kiln, in the Forest of Bowland, is a remarkable survival of small-scale industrial remains. Lead was mined here from medieval times until the 1830s. Workers followed veins of ore, producing a network of shafts, adits and spoil heaps, leaving the characteristic pock-marked appearance still seen on the ground today. A limekiln was built with the extracted stone, and crushed limestone burned to produce quicklime for fertiliser, limewash and mortar.

Ashnott had been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 2009. Erosion from cattle hooves was damaging the mining remains, while the limekiln was losing stability due to damaging vegetation growth and wind movement from heavy loads of ivy in a nearby tree.

Cross-team and partnership working has solved these problems. A [drone survey](#) by Historic England's Research Team compared landscape evidence to historic maps and underground exploration. When important workings were discovered beyond the scheduled monument boundary,



our Listing Team extended the scheduling to protect the whole site. Meanwhile, a Countryside Stewardship agreement worked up with Natural England funded a fence to exclude cattle. Finally, a Historic England Management Agreement tackled repair and maintenance of the limekiln. Thanks to the farmer and land agent's willingness, this rare industrial site is no longer at risk.

Caring for Conservation Areas

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of conservation areas. These come in all forms, from the quintessential English village to the urban heartland. They are united by a common theme – they are special places full of character and history, much loved by those who live and work in them. Because of their unique character they are also engines for economic regeneration and this is the key to tackling risk in many conservation areas.

This year we have added more conservation areas to the Register than have been removed. But it's also the year we launched Heritage Action Zones, many of which include conservation areas at risk where we will unlock economic potential with our partners over the coming years.

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