National Lottery support saving at risk heritage



Bourn Mill. Image: Matthew Power Photography.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register. Over the past quarter of a century, Heritage Fund support has helped save some of the nation's most-loved heritage from the list.

The annual Heritage at Risk Register highlights England’s most valued heritage sites at risk of being lost due to neglect, decay or inappropriate development. 159 sites have been added to the Register this year.

However, there is a silver lining to the report’s publication – it also highlights the historic sites that have been saved. Thanks to the intervention of local communities, charities, owners and councils, an incredible 203 sites have been taken off the list.

> Saving heritage at risk so that it can be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future, is core to our purpose, and we’re incredibly proud to have been able to support the important work to make this fantastic news possible.
>
> *Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive at The National Lottery Heritage Fund*

A large group of people standing on steps in a garden watching a performance.

South Cliff Gardens. Image: Tony Bartholomew.

Saved thanks to National Lottery players

Our funding has been crucial in saving some of the historic sites removed from the 2023 register:

South Cliff Gardens, Scarborough

Overlooking the North Sea, Scarborough's 200-year-old South Cliff Gardens are made up of a series of coastal paths and ornate gardens, as well as architectural spectacles, including shelters, summerhouses and the Holbeck Clock Tower. The Friends of South Cliff Gardens and Scarborough Borough Council (now North Yorkshire Council)'s extensive restoration project saw the Garden reopen in May.

Sheerness Dockyard Church, Isle of Sheppey, Kent







Sheerness Dockyard: after. Image: Dirk Linder.

Bourn Windmill, Cambridgeshire

One of the oldest windmills in England – whose main post is made from a tree felled between 1513 and 1549 – was at risk of collapse. But thanks to the hard work of volunteers and local people, urgent repair and conservation works has saved this landmark. The restoration project has brought the mill back to life, and it is welcoming visitors once more.

Tolpuddle Old Chapel, Dorset

The Old Chapel, built in 1818, is famous as the place of worship for four of the six Tolpuddle Martyrs. The building was used as a chapel until at least 1843, before being converted for agricultural use. It was acquired in 2015 by the Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust, which has now secured its future.

Heritage for everyone, now and in the future

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “It is so heartening to see a number of significant heritage sites removed from the Heritage at Risk Register, and given a new lease of life as part of their local communities and places.

“Saving heritage at risk so that it can be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future, is core to our purpose, and we’re incredibly proud to have been able to support the important work to make this fantastic news possible.”

A restored building with a new-build on its left

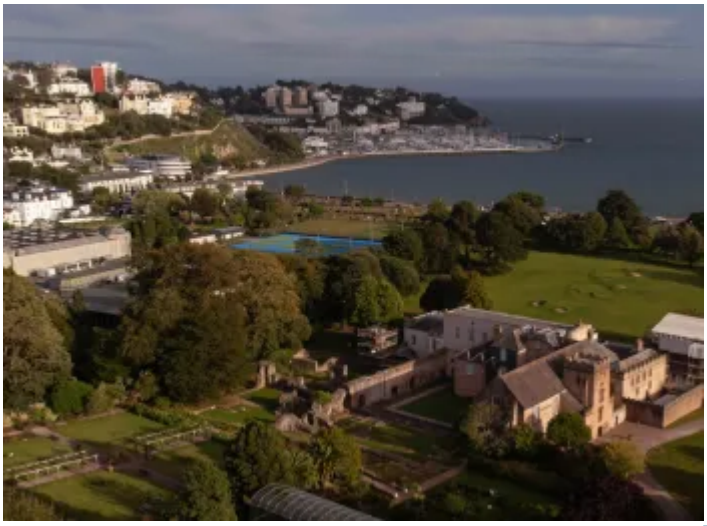
Tolpuddle Old Chapel. Image: Historic England Archive.

Our support for historic buildings and monuments

Thanks to National Lottery players, since 1994 we have awarded over £2.8billion to more than 6,800 historic building, monument and area projects across the UK. As well as safeguarding places for future generations, these projects support employment and economic growth and can foster a sense of pride in the community.



Roman Baths, Bath © 2017 aroundworld/Shutterstock.



Torquay on the South Devon coast, with Torre Abbey in the foreground.



boost local economies and pride in place

We've supported Norwich Castle's transformation with £13million in funding.

Areas, buildings and monuments