Built heritage in Lancashire 2018
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1 Overview

This article uses details from a number of websites that highlight various aspects of Lancashire's heritage. It includes links to a range of organisations that provide local details regarding buildings at risk, locations of archaeological finds, plus regeneration and conservation activities.

1.1 Key findings for the Lancashire-12 area

These key findings are based on 2018 data for heritage at risk and listed buildings from Historic England and on theatre buildings at risk from the Theatres Trust.

- There are ten buildings in the most at risk category 'A' in the Lancashire-12 area
- There are around 23 other buildings, and 36 other sites, on the at-risk register in the Lancashire-12 area
- There are 5,248 listed buildings in the Lancashire-12 area
- This included 72 Grade I and 263 Grade II* listed buildings
- There are two theatre/former theatre buildings in the Lancashire-12 area on the 'theatre buildings at risk' list formulated by the Theatres Trust
- Of these the Morecambe Winter Gardens is listed as equal 2nd most at risk theatre building in Britain

1.2 Key findings for the wider Lancashire-14 area

- There are six buildings (including three places of worship) and two conservation areas on the at-risk register in the two Lancashire unitary authority areas
- There are 274 listed buildings in the two Lancashire unitary authority areas
- This includes 3 Grade I and 22 Grade II*
- There are two theatre/former theatre buildings in Blackpool on the 'theatre buildings at risk’ list formulated by the Theatres Trust
- Blackpool will benefit from £8.4 million funding towards the Blackpool Museum Project

2 Analysis for the Lancashire-12 area

2.1 Heritage at risk, and historic listings of buildings

Lancashire's built heritage includes historic buildings of many sizes, periods and types, ranging from the humblest barn to the grandest mansion. This remarkable richness and variety reflects the distinctive aspects of the county’s history and contributes to the economic life of the county, and the quality of life enjoyed today by residents and visitors alike.

The 2018 Heritage at Risk Register revealed that in the Lancashire-12 area there are 33 buildings (including 14 places of worship) and which are not also scheduled monuments on the register, 12 conservation areas, 19 scheduled monuments and three registered parks and gardens.
Figure 1. Heritage sites at risk in Lancashire

Key to symbols
Heritage at risk sites
Category
- Archaeology (13)
- Building or structure (28)
- Conservation area (14)
- Park and garden (3)
- Place of worship (17)
- Building or structure (risk priority 'A')
- Place of worship (risk priority 'A')
The level of risk and priority for action for listed buildings, places of worship and monuments is assessed on a scale of A to F, where 'A' is the highest priority for a building which is deteriorating rapidly with no solution to secure its future. The ten buildings in Lancashire that in 2018 were listed in the highest priority 'A' classification were Extwistle Hall, Briercliffe; Parkers Farmhouse, Rishton; an engine running shed at Carnforth; the former Chapel of St. Mary in Ellel; Church of St John, North Road, Lancaster; Whalley Abbey (west range); Church of St. John the Evangelist, Crawshawbooth; Grane Mill in Haslingden; the ruins of Halsall Rectory and Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Thornton Cleveleys. Of these, St. John's Church in Lancaster was the one whose risk category was increased to 'A', while the Bellmanpark lime kilns at Clitheroe had improved a category to 'B' since 2017. In 2018, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool together had eight sites on the at-risk register, but none of these was in risk category 'A'. See Figure 1 and the Microsoft Power BI slide on the summary page of this article. There were three buildings removed from this year's list following improvement works. All of these were places of worship: Brierfield Methodist Church, Preston Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Church of St. Michael, Croston.

The Theatres Trust works with a range of organisations to secure a sustainable future for theatre buildings. The trust’s website has a theatres database and by typing Lancashire in the search facility, you can obtain a list of sites in the county. Of those still extant, some, but not all, are still used as theatres, whilst a few others are largely redundant. The Victoria Pavilion (Morecambe Winter Gardens) is one that also appears on the Heritage at Risk list. Please note that the Lancashire results include a few sites that are outside the boundary of the Lancashire-14 area.

The Theatres Trust website highlights the theatre buildings at risk across the UK and ranks them by country for level of risk with scores up to 9. In November 2018, the website listed 35 entries on its 'at risk' register with 29 of these in England. These included four theatres in Lancashire: Morecambe Winter Gardens (equal 2nd most at risk, value: 8), the Blackpool Winter Gardens Pavilion (equal 5th most at risk, value: 8), the Burnley Empire (equal 14th most at risk, value: 7), and the Blackpool North Pier (equal 19th most at risk, value: 6). The North Pier site was damaged by strong winds in December 2013. Both the Morecambe and Blackpool Winter Gardens are grade II* listed buildings, the others are grade II.

The National Piers Society website has details of past and present piers, and the Lancashire results are in the section for the North West.

The Children's Homes website considers the history of the many and varied institutions that became home for thousands of children and young people in Britain. They include a wide variety of establishments ranging from orphanages, homes for those in poverty, and children with special needs, through to reformatories, industrial and approved schools, training ships, and hostels. The results for Lancashire include sites in the county and other areas of the North West. A website that considers the history of workhouses mentions that part of Lancaster Royal Grammar School formed part of a local workhouse. The site also reveals locations in Blackburn, Clitheroe and Preston.
2.2 Conservation and regeneration organisations, and lottery funding

The Heritage Trust for the North West is a registered Building Preservation Trust that is actively involved in a number of projects in Lancashire. The trust is one of a modest selection of Lancashire organisations listed on the locality website.

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk. The website allows sites to be searched by county and the list for Lancashire reveals a selection of churches in the Lancashire area.

The Railway Heritage Trust helps preserve historic railway buildings and structures. Between 2007/08 and 2014/15 the trust has supported schemes at Ormskirk, Bamber Bridge, Lancaster and Blackburn stations. It also helped finance work on Colne viaduct that is on the approach to Colne station. In 2016/17 more work on an additional café at Lancaster Station was funded.

The Prince’s Regeneration Trust works with communities to ensure that historic buildings, facing decay or demolition, are rescued and reused. The website describes how the Trust has been tasked by Blackpool Borough Council with the project management of Blackpool Pavilion Theatre’s conversion into a heritage museum, using Heritage Lottery funding.

The Landmark Trust is a building preservation society that was formed to rescue historic buildings and give them a new lease of life as place to experience for holidays. Of over 190 historic places in Britain and beyond, there is only one site in Lancashire, the Music Room in Lancaster.

The War Memorials Trust is the charity that works for the protection and conservation of war memorials across the UK. The website has information on war memorials in parts of Lancashire. The site also has the search grants showcase facility, which is a database of grants for war memorial repair and conservation projects. The search facility allows a list of grants to be viewed for the Lancashire area.

Details of grants awarded from the Big Lottery can be downloaded from their web page: https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/research/open-data. This includes a table for grants during 2017 to 2018, and a table for grants in the current financial year. The field in the data tables named ‘Recipient Org:Location:1:Name’ gives the local authority name.

Blackpool is to benefit from £8.4 million funding towards the Blackpool Museum Project. The new museum, scheduled to open in 2020, will display artefacts, music and performances from within Blackpool. £4.4 million of the funding is from the Heritage Lottery Fund and another £4 million is from the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund.
2.3 Heritage lists

The National Heritage List for England is an online database of the country's 400,000 listed buildings, registered parks, gardens and battlefields, protected shipwrecks and scheduled monuments. It is possible to search for heritage by a wide variety of criteria including geographic area. In November 2018, the database had 5,248 records of listed buildings in the Lancashire-12 area. They are not necessarily buildings in the usual sense, but may be shrines, chimneys, slabs or memorial stones. 72 were Grade I, and 263 Grade II* listed buildings. Out of the total 5,248 buildings, 1,337 were in Lancaster district. In Blackburn with Darwen there were 227 records, of which 2 were Grade I and 17 Grade II*. Blackpool had just 47 listed buildings, of which 5 were Grade II* and there was just one Grade I, the Tower Buildings. Please also see the PastScape website that has information on the architectural and archaeological heritage of England. Choosing the 'Lancashire' option gives details for the 12-district Lancashire County Council area. In November 2018 7,119 items could be found on the website. Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool can be selected in the same 'county' field, yielding a further 287 and 274 results respectively. The available options allow users to interrogate the records by various themes and also by chronological order. The oldest Lancashire records cover the early prehistoric period from 500,000 to 4,000 BC.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund provides financial assistance towards the acquisition, preservation and maintenance of a wide range of heritage treasures. The fund's website contains a database of project records, and users can type in Lancashire in the 'search for' box for a list of local projects.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport supports the portable antiquities scheme website that encourages members of the public to report archaeological finds. Most of these have been made by metal detector users but anyone can report their finds and any type of object can be reported, such as stone tools and early pottery as well as metal objects. Reporting finds under the scheme usually satisfies the reporting requirements of the 1996 Treasure Act, as well as being an important source for understanding our past. Typing Lancashire into the PAS website database in December 2017 generated a list of over 4,400 records.

2.4 Lancashire museums, historic houses and art purchases

A wide range of historic properties and gardens in the county are open to the public and appeal to a growing number of visitors, e.g. Samlesbury Hall, Hoghton Tower, Towneley Hall Museum, art gallery and gardens, etc. Many benefit from local ownership and control, often by the historic family owners, independent trusts, or local authorities, but there is a corresponding lack of sites operated by national organisations. This could present a false impression, especially to non-residents, of the range of historic properties in the county open to visitors. For example, the National Trust and English Heritage have high profiles, very large numbers of members and effective marketing strategies, yet their perceived impact in the county is minor. The National Trust website confirms that it is responsible for hundreds of historic houses, gardens, ancient monuments, nature reserves and coastline etc. Entering 'Lancashire' into the find place to visit option highlights only three that are
fully in the county: Gawthorpe Hall, Heysham Coast and Rufford Old Hall. Silverdale and the Pepperpot monument at Eaves Wood are also mentioned. In addition, English Heritage has over 400 sites open to the public, but their website mentions only four in Lancashire: Goodshaw Chapel, Sawley Abbey, Warton Old Rectory and the Whalley Abbey Gatehouse.

The Lancashire Museums website details a number of the historic properties in the county that are open to the general public. Lancashire museums have a wide range of sites and objects on display, with appropriate interpretative material. Many of these are of international importance, such as Lancaster Castle, artefacts including the remains of a Palaeolithic elk with some of the weapons as used by its hunters (Harris Museum, Preston) and the recovered tombstone of a Roman cavalry soldier in Lancaster City Museum.

**Lancashire Museums Service budget review**

In November 2015, the county council published details of budget proposals for a wide range of services. These included cultural services museums (number 043). Five of the Lancashire museums were closed from 1st April 2016. These are Queen Street Mill, Helmshore Mills, Museum of Lancashire, Judges Lodgings and Fleetwood. Fleetwood Museum is now operated by Fleetwood Museum Trust and is open 5 days a week, Helmshore Mills reopened in July 2018 and opened 3 days a week until the end of October, the reopening of the Judges Lodgings was delayed by staffing issues, the Queen Street Mill has structural issues and only opens on certain days while the Museum of Lancashire is only open for pre-arranged school visits.

The Haworth Art Gallery in Accrington is one of a number of museums in East Lancashire having remarkable collections handed down by wealthy industrialists who made their fortunes in the county and beyond. It houses a world famous collection of ‘Favrile’ (‘hand-made’) vases, tiles and mosaics and related material, from the New York Studios of Louis Comfort Tiffany. Also the Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery has one of the finest collections of Christian icons outside the British Museum, whilst Edward Hart, the son of a local manufacturer, left the town his personal collection of 500 fine books and manuscripts and more than 6,000 rare coins.

Lancaster University is home to the Ruskin Library. Described as one of the finest modern buildings in Britain, the Library houses the world’s foremost collection of art, manuscripts, books and diaries relating to the Victorian art critic and social commentator John Ruskin.

The Arts Council for England’s accreditation scheme is the UK standard for museums and galleries. It defines good practice and identifies agreed standards, thereby encouraging development. It is a baseline quality standard that helps guide museums to be the best they can be, for current and future users. The list of accredited museums in the UK contains a number of sites in Lancashire that form part of those listed under the North West heading.

The Art Fund is a national charity that helps museums and galleries to buy and show great works of art. The website has ‘art we’ve helped to buy facility’ and the items in
Lancashire are listed among the other results for the North West.

2.5 Heritage, identity and place results from the Royal Society of Arts

In November 2016, the Royal Society of Arts updated the heritage index figures for 325 local authorities in England. The results used over 100 data sets to produce a heritage index, and show which areas are making best use of their heritage assets. The full results may be seen here as an interactive map and data explorer download.