

Built heritage in Lancashire 2022/23

www.lancashire.gov.uk



David Jenks, Research and intelligence officer

February 2023

For further information on the work of Business Intelligence, please contact us at:

Business Intelligence
Lancashire County Council
2nd floor Christ Church Precinct
County Hall
Fishergate Hill
Preston
PR1 8XJ

E: BusinessIntelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk

www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight

Follow us on Twitter [@lancsinsight](https://twitter.com/lancsinsight)

Contents

1	Overview	1
1.1	Key findings for the Lancashire-12 area in 2022/23.....	1
2	Analysis for the Lancashire-14 area	1
2.1	Lancashire Local List	1
2.2	Heritage at risk, and historic listings of buildings	1
2.3	Conservation and regeneration organisations, and lottery funding	4
	2.3.1 National Lottery Heritage Fund.....	5
2.4	Heritage lists	6
2.5	Lancashire museums, historic houses and art purchases	6
2.6	Heritage, identity and place results from the Royal Society of Arts.....	7

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 in 2022/23

These key findings are based on entries in the Lancashire Local List, lottery funding data from the Department for Culture Media and Sport, theatre buildings at risk courtesy of the Theatres Trust and heritage at risk plus listed buildings from Historic England,

- The 'Accrington Acre' heritage programme has been awarded £20 million from the Levelling Up Fund
- Over £2 million was allocated to heritage related projects from lottery funds in the Lancashire-12 area (January to December 2022)
- There are 12 buildings in the most at risk category 'A' in the Lancashire-12 area
- There are around 20 other buildings, and 25 other sites, on the at-risk register in the Lancashire-12 area
- There are 5,267 listed buildings in the Lancashire-12 area
- This includes 72 Grade I and 263 Grade II* listed buildings
- There are four theatre/former theatre buildings in the Lancashire-14 area on the 'theatre buildings at risk' list formulated by the Theatres Trust

2 Analysis for the Lancashire-14 area

2.1 Lancashire Local List

The [Lancashire Local List](#) was launched in January 2021 as one of 22 county area projects, is funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, is supported nationally by Historic England and is locally facilitated by [Growth Lancashire Ltd](#). It covers all 14 of the local authorities in the Lancashire-14 area, but currently there do not appear to be any entries in Lancaster, Ribble Valley, Pendle or Rossendale. It is intended to publicise and promote the benefits of conserving local heritage and to get local communities involved. At time of writing there are 1,399 entries on the list. Of these 1,098 are in the Lancashire-12 area. The website includes a [search facility](#) which has asset type and area filters plus an [interactive map](#).

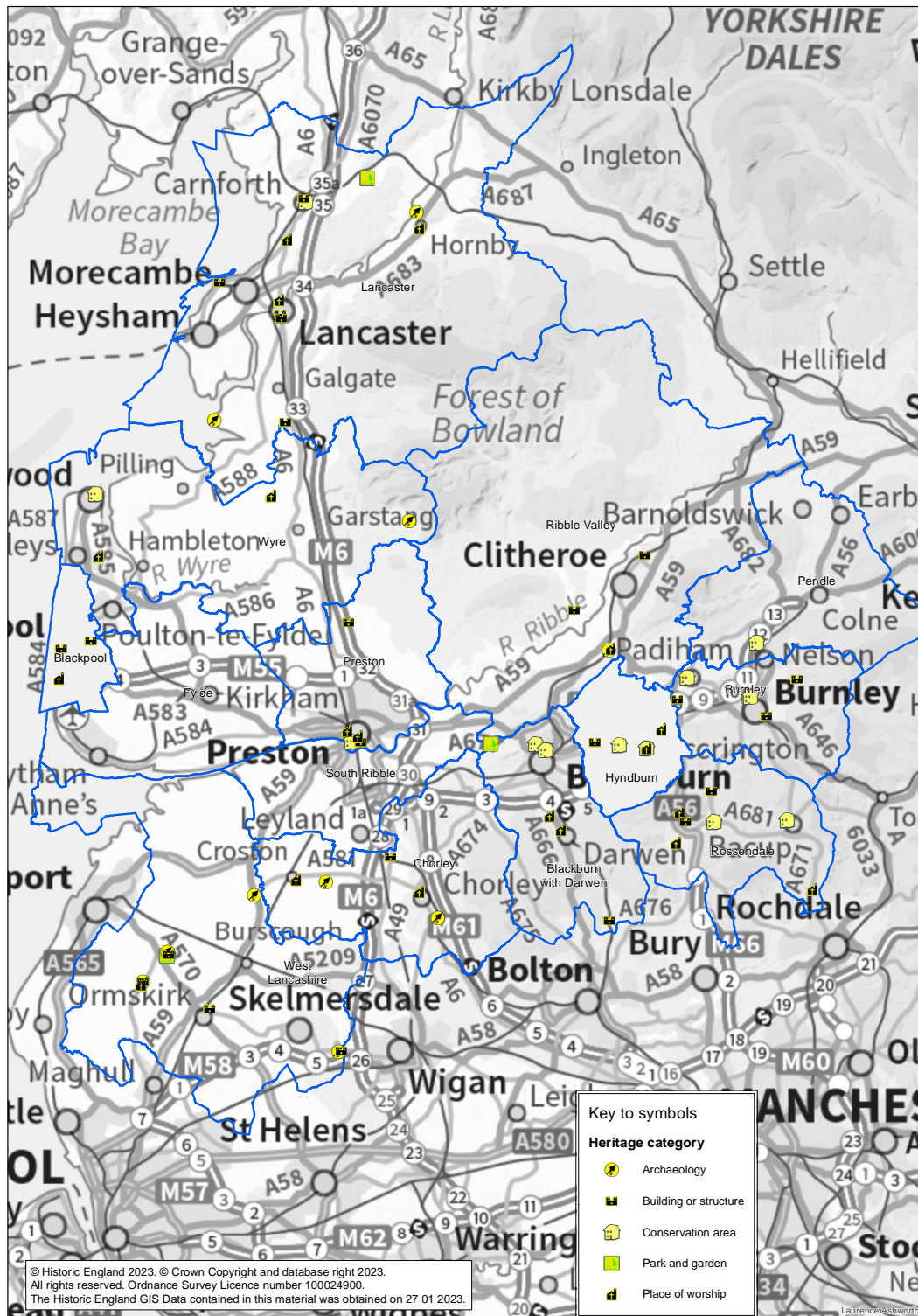
2.2 Heritage at risk, and historic listings of buildings

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.

Entries on the [Heritage at Risk Register](#) may include places of worship and other buildings, archeology (such as ruins), conservation areas, battlefields and shipwrecks. Some of these can be of the more important scheduled monument variety, which are generally older, and not occupied or in use. Entries may contain

more than one structure, especially if the entry is for a conservation area. 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 priority scales are not applied to most conservation areas or scheduled monuments, as there is less scope for further rapid deterioration.

Figure 1. Heritage sites at risk in Lancashire



The 2022 report revealed that in the Lancashire-12 area there are 33 buildings (including 16 places of worship) and which are not also scheduled monuments on

the register, 12 conservation areas, 13 scheduled monuments and three registered parks and gardens.

The 12 buildings in Lancashire that in 2022 were listed in the highest priority 'A' classification were Extwistle Hall, Briercliffe; Church of St. Michael, Croston; Parkers Farmhouse, Rishton; an engine running shed at Carnforth; the former Chapel of St. Mary in Ellel; Church of St John, North Road, Lancaster; Church of St. Walburge's, Preston; 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. These 12 remain unchanged from the previous year. There has been considerable work done to the roof of St. Walburge's, but it remained at risk category 'A'. In 2021, 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. Changes since 2021 are that the Holme, Cliviger in Burnley, Bank Hall in Chorley and Fooden Hall in Ribble Valley have left the register, the Winter Gardens in Morecambe has deteriorated from category 'F' to category 'C' while Scarisbrick Hall in West Lancashire has improved to the lowest risk category, from 'D' to 'F'.

Figure 2. St. Walburge's, R.C. Church, Preston. Risk category 'A' in 2022



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. Of note is the Preston Playhouse, built in 1847 as a Friend's Meeting House, and in consequence only used as a theatre from 1949 onwards, which is still very active today.

The Theatres Trust website highlights the theatre buildings at risk across the UK and ranks them for level of risk with

scores up to 9, although the scores are no longer shown on the list. In January 2023, the website listed 31 entries on its 'at risk' register with 25 of these in England.

These included four theatres in Lancashire: Morecambe Victoria Pavilion/Winter Gardens (risk rating=8, risk factor=2), the Blackpool Winter Gardens Pavilion (risk rating=7, risk factor=2), the Burnley Empire (risk rating=7, risk factor=3), and the Joe Longthorne Theatre, North Pier Pavilion in Blackpool (risk rating=6, risk factor=2).

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](#).

2.3 Conservation and regeneration organisations, and lottery funding

[Growth Lancashire Ltd](#) is a business support and economic development company. Although owned by several Lancashire local authorities, including Lancashire County Council, Growth Lancashire has a private sector led board of company directors that contribute a wide range of expertise to this public-private partnership. Its mission is to contribute towards growing productivity, prosperity and places across Lancashire. Activity includes specialist services and expertise relating to [heritage and conservation](#). As well as providing heritage consultancy and heritage statements, Growth Lancashire has been involved in some notable projects. These include

- [the Holmes Mill development in Clitheroe](#) in the Ribble Valley. The project was recently used in a Historic England video ([Mills of the North](#)) about saving industrial heritage.
- [The Landmark project in Burnley](#). Development of the former Grade II listed Burnley Grammar School building into office and event space for the digital community. Burnley was recently ranked an impressive second place for the highest digital jobs growth in Britain.
- [Aspen colliery and coke ovens](#), Oswaldtwistle, in Hyndburn. Growth Lancashire was approached by Historic England to assist in removing this rare piece of Industrial Heritage from the Heritage at Risk Register.
- [The Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk](#) in West Lancashire. West Lancashire Borough Council appointed Growth Lancashire to identify the income generation potential of the gallery, coinciding with Ormskirk town centre being selected as a Heritage Action Zone.
- [The Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative](#) in Rossendale. Growth Lancashire was asked to step in so that the initiative could continue when the authority lost key personnel who were involved in its delivery.

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 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 Foundation was formed in 2018 from the merger of four charities sponsored by the Prince of Wales including the Prince's Regeneration Trust, the remit of which was to ensure that historic buildings, facing decay or demolition, were rescued and reused. The Trust was tasked by Blackpool Borough Council with the project management of Blackpool Pavilion Theatre's conversion into a heritage museum, namely the Museum of Fun and Entertainment, using Heritage Lottery funding. It is also working with Fleetwood Trust to bring part of Fleetwood Hospital back to life as a mixed-use community centre.

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.

In May 2019, Historic England launched the High Streets Heritage Action Zones scheme. The initiative is funded from the Future High Streets Fund (£52 million), the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (£40 million) and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (£3 million). 68 high streets across England have been selected to receive a share of the £95 million fund. These include Burnley, Lancaster, Ormskirk (West Lancashire), Bacup (Rossendale), Blackpool, Fleetwood (Wyre) and Kirkham (Fylde). A Cultural Programme was set to take place on each of the 68 high streets in conjunction with the High Streets Heritage Action Zones scheme. Fleetwood and Kirkham each benefit from around £1.8 million while Burnley, Lancaster and Bacup benefit by over £1 million.

Accrington's town centre, half of which is in a conservation area, including the historic market hall and which is known as the 'Accrington Acre' was successful in being awarded £20 million in the second round of the Levelling Up Fund, announced in January 2023.

2.3.1 National Lottery Heritage Fund

There were 20 projects that were awarded Heritage Lottery fund support in 2022. The Chamber at St. John's project is bringing life and purpose back to the church building in Lancaster, which is one of the category 'A' risk buildings mentioned above. This was awarded nearly £400,000 in October. Around £250,000 was

awarded to the [Gawthorpe Textile Collection](#), held at Gawthorpe Hall in Burnley. Similar amounts were awarded to the [Great Harwood Memorial Park](#) in Hyndburn, to Lancaster Priory Church for the slavery themed [Facing the Past II](#) exhibition and to [Harwes Farm CIC](#) in Colne, Pendle for another 'Recovering with trees' project. The Forest of Bowland AONB and Pendle Hill Partnership were awarded over £200,000 for their '[Connecting People and Nature..](#)' project. Other bids were granted less than £100,000, such as to Accrington Heritage Trust for the '[Wheels and Water](#)' heritage bus and transport history project, Burnley Youth Theatre's '[Reflections and Revelations](#)' creative programme and the '[Hinge of Fate..](#)' exhibition involving the [King's Own Royal Regiment Museum](#), Lancaster. A bid in Lancaster for funding of [LitFest 2023](#) received £10,000.

2.4 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 February 2023, the database had 5,267 records of listed buildings in the Lancashire-12 area and 5,284 records in the wider Lancashire-14 area. They are not necessarily buildings in the usual sense, but may be shrines, chimneys, slabs or memorial stones. 72 (73) were Grade I, and 263 (266) were Grade II* listed buildings (Lancashire-14 records are shown in brackets). Please also see the [Heritage Gateway website](#) that has information on the architectural and archaeological heritage of England. Use the [advanced search](#) for the Administrative location finder. The website mentions the [Lancashire Historic Environment Record](#), and provides contact details, but unlike some local authorities does not allow direct access to the database.

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 2021 generated a list of over 5,000 records.

2.5 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.

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.

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

In 2020, the Royal Society of Arts updated the heritage index figures for 316 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.