

## Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register 2019 highlights in a Case Study, Sutton Walls Camp.

### HEREFORDSHIRE'S HERITAGE AT RISK REVEALED

- 60 sites at risk in the county
- However, a success story with the progress on the Iron Age hilltop, Sutton Walls near Hereford, which is undergoing conservation work

Historic England today (Thursday 17 October, 2019) reveals the historic sites most at risk of being lost through decay, neglect or development by publishing the annual Heritage at Risk Register 2019. The register provides an annual snapshot of the critical health of England's most valued historic places, and those most at risk of being lost.

In Herefordshire 60 sites are at risk, from farmhouses to churches and castles. Many have been on the register for a number of years, however, one of the most positive themes to come out of a report that shines a light on sites at risk is that many of these buildings, places of worship and monuments have teams of dedicated volunteers and local support to assist with the protection and care that will bring them back to life.

This is certainly true for the Sutton Walls Camp, near Hereford, where volunteers responded to a call out by Historic England to form the Sutton Walls Conservation Group.

Louise Brennan, regional director Midlands for Historic England, said: "The message is clear – heritage needs to be saved and investing in heritage pays. It helps to transform the places where we live, work and visit, creating successful and distinctive places in the county for us and for future generations to enjoy.

"But there's more work to do. There are buildings still on the Heritage at Risk Register that are ideal for rescue and capable of being brought back in to meaningful use and generating an income, contributing to the local community and economy. These are the homes, shops, offices and cultural venues of the future.

"Historic England's experience shows that with the right partners, imaginative thinking and robust business planning, we can be confident in finding creative solutions for often complex sites."

## Heritage At Risk Case Study

### IN PROGRESS

#### Sutton Walls Camp, near Hereford

This large Iron Age hilltop enclosure is regarded by many as being the location of the palace of Offa of Mercia, a kingdom of Anglo-Saxon England. King Offa ruled from 757 until his death in July 796. The Sutton Walls Conservation Group formed in 2017 and have taken over the management of the scheduled monument under lease, and are commissioning a conservation management plan to guide their approach to further investigating, actively conserving and promoting the Camp. Volunteers have restarted woodland management, coppicing and paths clearance.

Anna Toon, the group's chair, said:

“Trying to assemble a group of volunteers with time on their hands is challenging in itself but without the help of Historic England we wouldn't have known where to start. Its expert knowledge, advice, and funding, on how to manage an archaeological and ecological at risk ancient monument was invaluable. To take on a project of this importance makes you feel like you're turning into Indiana Jones.”

Headline Statistics for the Midlands 2019: Across the region, stretching from the Welsh boarder to the coastal shores of Grimsby, there are 889 sites on the Register, these are broken down into buildings and structures, places of worship, conservation areas, parks and gardens and archeological sites.

- There are 254 buildings and structures on the list, nine less than in 2018.
- £2.3 million in grant was spent on 59 entries on the Midlands Register during 2018/19.

Of the 302 registered parks and gardens in the Midlands, 16 (5.3%) are on the Register.