

< heritageatrisk1@somerset.gov.uk >

Mon, 07 Sep 2026 15:15:54 +0100

To "Heritage at Risk"<heritageatrisk1@somerset.gov.uk>

Dear Clerk,

RE: Consultation and Review of Draft Somerset Heritage at Risk Register

I am writing to invite your Town/Parish Council to review and contribute to the local draft Somerset Heritage at Risk Register for your area.

The Conservation Team at Somerset Council have been compiling a draft Heritage Risk Register for Somerset for the first time, in order to gain a fuller more detailed picture of the scale of the problem as part of the update of the Local Plan which has a central role in establishing a positive and proactive strategy for the historic environment. This draft register will include all listed heritage assets (Grade I, II* and II), Registered Parks and Gardens as well as Scheduled Monuments.

Local heritage assets contribute significantly to the identity, culture, and economy of our communities. However, many historic buildings, structures, monuments, and conservation areas face ongoing threats from neglect, decay, or inappropriate development. To better manage and protect these vulnerable sites, we are updating our comprehensive Heritage at Risk Register.

Because your council holds vital, on-the-ground knowledge of your local area, we would like your assistance to ensure this register is as accurate as possible.

What we would like from you:

We kindly ask that your council reviews the enclosed/attached draft register for your parish and provides feedback on the following:

- **Accuracy Check:** Are the current entries accurately described, located, and mapped?
- **Status Updates:** Has the condition of any listed asset changed recently (e.g., has a building been repaired, or has its condition deteriorated)?
- **Omissions:** Are there any locally or nationally important heritage assets currently at risk in your area that have been missed?
- **Removed Risks:** Should any asset be removed from the register because it is no longer under threat?

How to submit amendments:

Please use the email address heritageatrisk1@somerset.gov.uk to detail any changes, corrections, or new suggestions. Where possible, please include:

1. The asset name and precise location.
2. Clear details regarding its current condition and specific threats.
3. Recent photographic evidence supporting the amendment.

Using CIL for Heritage Restoration:

If your council collects the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), we would encourage you to consider allocating some of these funds to your local "at-risk" assets. Under national planning guidelines, CIL can legally be used to fund the provision,

improvement, replacement, operation, or maintenance of infrastructure—which directly includes historic environment assets and public realm heritage improvements.

How Your Funding Can Make a Difference:

Financial contributions, even if modest, from your council—whether through CIL, section 137 funds, or general reserves—can be pooled with other available resources to deliver:

- **Emergency Repairs:** Urgent weatherproofing or structural stabilization to prevent the immediate collapse of a local monument.
- **Grant Matching:** Providing the local "match funding" required to unlock larger national grants (such as from the National Lottery Heritage Fund or Historic England).
- **Feasibility Studies:** Funding specialist structural surveys or viability assessments to find new, sustainable uses for empty historic buildings.
- **Public Realm Enhancements:** Improving the signage, pathways, and accessibility around heritage assets within your parish boundary.

Community Volunteers and Local Heritage Champions:

Alongside financial support, local volunteers can play a vital role in helping to safeguard Somerset's historic environment. We would encourage councils to share this project with any organisations and interested residents who may be willing to assist. Volunteers can help by identifying heritage assets at risk, monitoring their condition, providing photographs and historical information, researching ownership and significance, and raising awareness within the community. Local knowledge is often invaluable in helping us build an accurate and up-to-date picture of heritage at risk, and we welcome expressions of interest from individuals who would like to support this important work. Anyone interested in becoming a local Heritage at Risk volunteer can contact us via heritageatrisk1@somerset.gov.uk for further information (please note an automated reply is sent from this inbox but we will respond to your offer in due course).

Next Steps:

If your council is interested in co-funding a specific heritage rescue project in your area, please indicate this when returning your register amendments. We are eager to arrange a brief virtual meeting with your council representatives to discuss potential match-funding schemes and how we can maximize the impact of your local investment.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to preserve the distinct character of your community.

Deadline for responses:

Please ensure all council feedback and amendments are returned to us by **Friday, 30th October 2026**. This timeline will allow us to finalise the document ahead of the upcoming planning policy reviews.

If your council requires an extension due to your meeting schedule, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your time and dedication to preserving our shared local history.

Yours sincerely,

Somerset Council Conservation Team

Somerset Council Disclaimer: somerset.gov.uk/disclaimer

2 Attachment(s)

Somerset Heritage at Risk Reg...

886.5 KB

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73.2 KB

