

## Local Listing and the Historic Environment

### (Supplementary information)

Local listing offers an opportunity for the public and local authorities to identify heritage assets that are not currently protected but which make a positive contribution to the historic environment and the identity of a place. Here we outline the frameworks and guidance used to inform how assets should be identified, managed and how these fit with the local listing project.

#### **How Assets are Identified:**

The NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework), updated in 2021, is the over-arching document outlining what heritage assets are and how they must be considered in the planning process. The PPG 2019 (Planning Policy Guidance) guides how heritage assets are identified and designation of them. Numerous Historic England Advice Notes (HEAN) provide further guidance on the principles of selection of heritage assets.

Within the glossary of the NPPF, heritage assets are defined as:

*A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).*

Planning Policy Guidance paragraph 039 defines non-designated heritage assets as:

*Non-designated heritage assets are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets.*

*A substantial majority of buildings have little or no heritage significance and thus do not constitute heritage assets. Only a minority have enough heritage significance to merit identification as non-designated heritage assets.*

#### **Heritage Assets in Planning**

The NPPF guides Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to how heritage assets should be considered within planning functions.

Paragraph 20 (d) requires the LPA to make sufficient provision for the historic environment in their strategic and non-strategic policies:

Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, and make sufficient provisions for:

conservation and enhancement of the natural, built, and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Chapter 16 of the NPPF is wholly dedicated to 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'. Planning applicants are required to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including any contribution made by its setting, that may be affected by development proposals. Ensuring information about where locally listed assets are and the significance factors of them and making this publicly available through this website and via the Historic Environment Record (HER) is important for clarity and transparency in the system.

Although Non-Designated Heritage Assets, including those locally listed, are not afforded the same weight of protection in planning decisions as designated assets, they are to be considered by the LPA.

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

(NPPF 2021 para. 203)

Planning Policy Guidance 040 requires:

Plan-making bodies should make clear and up to date information on non-designated heritage assets accessible to the public to provide greater clarity and certainty for developers and decision-makers. This includes information on the criteria used to select non-designated heritage assets and information about the location of existing assets.

It is important that all non-designated heritage assets are clearly identified as such. In this context, it can be helpful if local planning authorities keep a local list of non-designated heritage assets, incorporating any such assets which are identified by neighbourhood planning bodies. (Advice on local lists can be found on Historic England's website.) They should also ensure that up to date information about non-designated heritage assets is included in the local historic environment record.

### **Historic England Advice**

As the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's historic environment, the local listing project has been guided by Historic England's Advice Note 7 - Local Heritage Listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage ( [HEAN7](#) )

Management of the historic environment is informed by [Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance](#) (2008) which identifies four values associated with heritage assets:

- Evidential - derived from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity

- Historical - derived from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative.
- Aesthetic - derived from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place
- Communal - derived from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values but tend to have additional and specific aspects.

These values are embedded within the Merseyside Selection Criteria.

To help the public and planning departments understand and assess significance with regards to heritage assets guidance has been produced by Historic England ([HEAN12](#)).

Where local heritage assets are identified as having potential to be nationally significant, the public are encouraged to apply for statutory listing for the asset. Guidance on applying for a building to go on the national list can be found [here](#). Alternatively, the public are encouraged to 'Enrich the List' by adding more information about known heritage assets to the National Heritage List for England ([NHLE](#)).