

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS

To be included on the list the asset must have some heritage interest and value and be able to meet the definition of a heritage asset.

What is it?

- a **building or group of buildings**
- a **monument or site** (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)
- a **place** (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)
- an **area or landscape** (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a town centre, village, suburb or field system)

Why is it locally valued?

The heritage asset may be of interest and valued locally for some or all of the following:

HISTORIC: It is important to understanding an association with a person, event, episode of history, local industry, or social, economic, cultural or religious development of the area. This might be an ***illustrative interest*** (it illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character), and/or an ***associative interest*** (it connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area).

EVIDENCE: It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history, enhanced by a significant contemporary or historic record (written, drawn or oral). This might include ***archaeological interest*** (it will be the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of the area and the people and culture that made it).

AESTHETIC: It makes an important contribution to the area because of its design (planned or fortuitous), construction, craftsmanship or decoration. This might be ***architectural interest*** (it is a high quality representation of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, the use of materials, or be the works of a particularly important architect or company), and/or ***artistic interest*** (it includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including quality landscape design) to enhance appearance).

COMMUNITY: It is perceived as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and cohesion, contributing to the 'collective memory' of a place. This might include ***commemorative or symbolic interest***, that reflect meanings of a place for the people who relate to it. It is important to all or part of the community. It has a social value and may be a source of civic pride.

What makes it local significance special?

Once the interest and value of the asset has been identified its specialness is assessed. The specialness is what makes the heritage significance of the asset stand out from the surrounding environment. The following will be considered:

- **AGE:** Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area? This should take into account local characteristics distinctive to the type of asset.
- **RARITY:** Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common? For an asset to have a degree of rarity it must exemplify a design, age, pattern or other quality that is in itself uncommon, either to the locality, borough or wider region. Many assets for example may be of considerable age, but may not be particularly rare.
- **INTEGRITY:** Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition? To have a degree of integrity the asset should retain a sense of completeness either individually or part of a larger group. The interest of an archaeological site will depend on its level of survival, and those assets which demonstrate the greatest potential for archaeological interest will be considered for inclusion on the list if the evidence base is compelling and a distinct area can be identified.
- **LANDMARK QUALITY:** Does it have a visual prominence and can it be singled out as a landmark within the local scene? Assets considered a 'local landmarks' are normally aesthetically attractive and dominate the street scene or an important view or vista. An asset with landmark quality is normally seen as a geographical or cultural orientation point.
- **GROUP VALUE:** Is it part of a group of assets that have a clear historic, aesthetic or communal association? This relationship can be the result of a deliberate design or accidental, through piecemeal development of the area.
- **OTHER:** Is there another way you think the asset has special local value or interest?