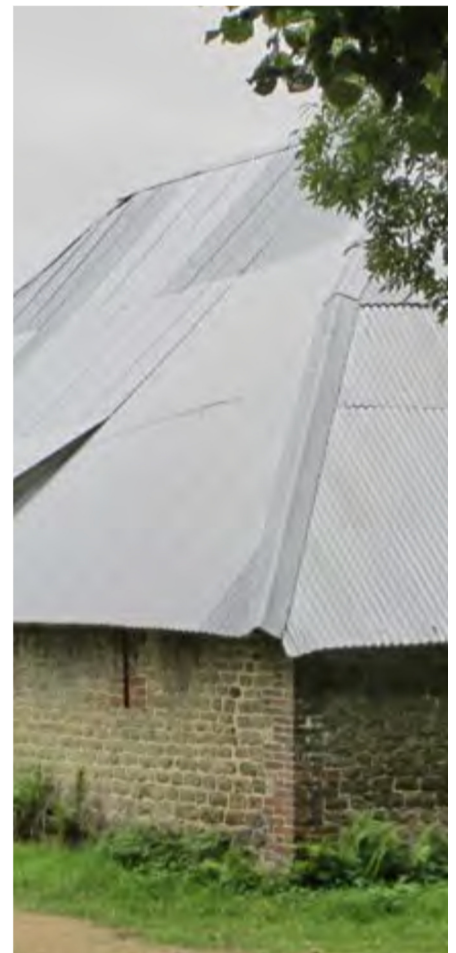


A Local Heritage List
for the
South Downs National Park Authority:
Criteria for Selection



What is a Local Heritage List?

As you may well know, important historic buildings can be given protection by being 'Listed'. There are also other ways of protecting the historic places, including Conservation Areas, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and Scheduled Monuments.

In making such designations, a building or site is usually assessed against national standards; only Conservation Areas are designated locally. However, there are many buildings and sites that do not meet those national standards but which are important from a local or regional perspective.

It is this sort of place that a Local Heritage List can help to protect. It achieves this through the planning system, making the impact of any planning proposal on a Locally Designated Heritage Asset a 'material consideration' when considering that planning application. This is not as high a degree of protection as listing but nor is it without weight.

Historic England has explored the idea of a Local Heritage List in its guidance note:

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7/>

Principles underlying the selection criteria.

When considering formal designation of heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens etc), Historic England thinks about the heritage values that can be ascribed to a place.

People value historic places in many different ways but they can generally be grouped into four broad categories. It is important to remember that any particular site can display more than one of the values.

The first category is **Evidential Value**. This refers to the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. All archaeological sites will have evidential value but so may other heritage assets.

Historical Value is the second category. It refers to the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It might, for example, be the home of a famous person or the location of an important historic event. In the South Downs examples would include Gilbert White's house in Selbourne, which has historical value because of its connection with the famous Naturalist, whilst the same could be said of Cheriton battlefield, as the site of an important event in the English Civil War.

Aesthetic Value is the third, and perhaps most abstract, category. Historic England de-

scribes it as “the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place”. Historic Parks and Gardens would in all probability have aesthetic value but this category could also include consciously designed architecture or a richly decorated chapel in a church.

The final category is **Communal Value**, which relates to the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. A War Memorial, for example, will almost certainly have a communal value in addition to any other values it may have.

These same values can be used for all heritage assets, including those being considered for addition to a Local List, and they inform the criteria outlined in the following pages.

A. Buildings and sites which display Architectural, Design and/or Artistic Interest

This criterion could include elements of evidential, historical and aesthetic value.

Many buildings and sites are nationally listed for displaying this type of interest. Those which do not meet the rigorous standard for listing on a national basis but which, nevertheless, do have a degree of such interest when considered against the local range of such assets would be eligible for the local list.

These could include:-

Individual buildings, including for example:

- The work of a significant national or regional architect/designer
- Garden structures within designed landscapes, such as follies, walled gardens, ice house, game larders,

Designed landscapes

- Parks and Gardens
- Cemeteries

Public Art

- War memorials
- Public art and structures incorporated into wider designed landscapes

Monuments

- War memorials
- Grave stones and more elaborate grave markers
- Follies

B. Good surviving examples of vernacular buildings which contribute to local distinctiveness

This largely relates to evidential value, as such buildings provide evidence of local traditions in building practice and use of local materials.

It could include buildings which combine some or all of:

- Flintwork of particularly good quality
- Cob (a form of earth construction found in Hampshire)

- Horsham Stone
- Timber-framing
- Mathematical tiles

Or Building types such as:

- Ox byres
- Granaries standing on staddle stones.

C. Buildings and Sites which have Historic Interest

Buildings and sites can be formally designated as heritage assets because of their links with important people and events.

Some places which have such value are already listed or otherwise designated. Examples in the National Park include cottages at Charleston, Rodmell and Furlongs associated with Vanessa Bell, Virginia Woolf and Peggy Angus respectively.

However, there are also places which have links with people and events of a more local significance or which are local remains of wider historic events

D. Buildings which have a wider group value in the town- or village-scape

Many buildings do not stand on their own in isolated positions but rather form part of a wider group. The value of the whole group may well be larger than the sum of its parts; in the conservation world, this is called 'Group Value' and it can be so significant as to get buildings listed that would not be so if they stood in isolation.

One hundred and sixty-six historic settlements in the National Park are designated as Conservation Areas and this provides a greater degree of control than local listing. In undertaking Conservation Area Appraisals, the National Park Authority identifies those buildings which "makes a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area" - most of the traditional and historic buildings in a Conservation Area will be so identified and this does not equate to Local Listing.

Nevertheless, it is possible that some unlisted buildings play such a prominent role in the village-scape that they warrant identification by Local Listing.

E. Buildings and Sites which have a Communal Value

Some buildings which the community demonstrably regard as Local Landmarks or as places having a

particular significance for the community - a significance that may well not be apparent to a visitor - may be added to the Local List.

However, this is the hardest criterion to define and the reasoning behind any Local Listing based on it needs to be very clearly set out.

It should also be noted that any entry under this criterion must comprise something which can be generally recognised as a heritage asset such as a building, archaeological site, or designed landscape.