



## Neighbourhood Planning Information Sheet 2:

# Promoting the conservation of heritage assets

1. Preparing a neighbourhood plan may provide opportunities to promote the conservation of buildings and spaces by identifying their heritage interest as part of evidence-gathering, and, potentially, by developing a list of heritage assets that are locally valued.
2. As a first step, Historic England recommends contacting the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to find out if they have prepared or plan to prepare a local list of non-designated heritage assets or have otherwise identified non-designated heritage assets. Work undertaken on a neighbourhood plan could help to inform an LPA's existing local list or provide the foundations for a local list if one has yet to be prepared.
3. In such cases, adhering to the LPA's clearly-defined criteria of eligibility for local listing is recommended, to ensure that a consistent, clear approach is taken, and to maximise the likelihood that, subject to discussion with the LPA, the identified assets are integrated in a single local list for that area.
4. The LPA may decide to add non-designated heritage assets identified by a neighbourhood planning group to their local list after publication of the examiner's report on the neighbourhood plan or following a referendum on the plan.
5. The LPA's agreement is not needed for a neighbourhood planning group to identify non-designated heritage assets; however, the LPA will be an important stakeholder at the examination stage, and will be the body responsible for deciding whether to accept the examiner's recommendations, whether to take the plan to referendum and, ultimately, whether it should be made. As such it is sensible to work closely with the local planning authority's heritage advisers, to determine the best way forward. In addition to discussions with the LPA about local listing, non-designated heritage assets identified by a neighbourhood planning group should also be added to the local Historic Environment Record.

Policy NP9 of Bredon Parish Neighbourhood Plan identifies certain buildings, boundary walls and other structures as being worthy of protection as non-designated heritage assets due to the contribution they make to the distinctive local character of the parish.  
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## Identifying potential assets

6. [Local Heritage Listing: Historic England Advice Note 7 \(2nd edition\)](#) identifies the following main stages in the production of a local heritage list:

- 1 Commencement: initiating a local heritage list
- 2 Criteria: defining the scope of the local heritage list
- 3 Identification: determining potential assets for the local heritage list
- 4 Assessment: evaluating suitability of assets for the local heritage list
- 5 Approval: finalising and confirming the contents of the local heritage list
- 6 Publication: ensuring public access to the local heritage list, including through the Historic Environment Record
- 7 Review: periodic review, revision and updating of the local heritage list

7. Refer to [Local Heritage Listing: Historic England Advice Note 7 \(2nd edition\)](#) for more information on each stage.

8. Most archaeological sites and landscapes remain undesignated. So the identification of non-designated heritage assets in a neighbourhood plan can highlight both locally and nationally important, but unscheduled, archaeological sites, helping them to be given the right level of consideration in planning decisions.

9. The historic interest of a local green space may prompt communities to consider designation of local green space in a neighbourhood plan. The [Locality Roadmap](#) outlines how to approach such opportunities.

## Designated heritage assets

10. Alternatively, or in addition, a neighbourhood planning group may also consider how its assets are considered comparatively with those found elsewhere, including perhaps the potential for national designation.

11. Nationally, Historic England makes recommendations for listing buildings and scheduling monuments, and designates registered parks and gardens and battlefields itself, only taking forward cases where the site falls under one of the following criteria:

- Is under serious threat of loss or major alteration;
- Is one of Historic England's [strategic listing priorities](#);
- Has very strong potential for inclusion on the National Heritage List for England, which is the only official, up to date, register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England.

12. An online form is available for use to amend or remove existing entries from the [National Heritage List for England](#), as well as to apply for Fast-Track Listing and a Listing Enhancement as part of Historic England's charged-for [Enhanced Advisory Services](#).

13. It is unnecessary and may be counter-productive to add designated heritage assets to the local heritage list.

## Conservation within a conservation area

14. Conservation areas can be designated where an LPA identifies an area of special architectural or historic interest, which deserves careful management to protect that character.

15. In this context, the evidence gathering process for preparing a neighbourhood plan may offer the possibility to identify features within an area that could make it suitable for inclusion in a conservation area.

Consequently, the community can potentially support the management of these features by collecting information and making it available to LPA decision makers through an updated Conservation Area Appraisal.

**16.** The special interest of areas may change over time and there is scope for changing the boundary of conservation areas accordingly. The conservation area may be reduced in size or, in exceptional circumstances, reconsideration of the designation entirely, if cumulative impacts of development in the area have eroded the features of special interest. Alternatively, the conservation area may be expanded to include historic rear plots with archaeological potential, later phases of development, or parks, cemeteries and historic green spaces.

**17.** Whether identifying a need to amend a conservation area, or proposing a new conservation area, the LPA needs to ensure that an area justifies its status as a conservation area.

**18.** A character appraisal will be needed to inform any review of the designation or prior to designation. This can be reviewed regularly as part of the management of the area. Historic England has published an advice note on [Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management](#), which includes the benefits of active steps to manage change in conservation areas.