

Cumbria Local List Selection Criteria

Local Listing is the identification of valuable aspects of our past which have interest which relates to the local area. Local heritage listing can include all types of heritage assets, whether buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes. It should be noted that Local Listing doesn't protect buildings from demolition and doesn't change what works require permission in the way a Conservation Area or formal designation would. Being locally listed can also be a material planning consideration for new development in some circumstances.

Historic England have outlined common aspects of selection criteria to ascertain whether something is of local significance, and eligible for inclusion on a local list.

Asset type

Although local heritage lists have long been developed successfully for buildings, all heritage asset types, including monuments, sites, places, areas, parks, gardens and designed landscapes may be considered for inclusion.

- Is the site characteristic of a local area?
- Does it demonstrate local practices and way of life?
- How might the site be used to tell the story of the local area?

Age

The age of an asset may be an important criterion, and the age range can be adjusted to take into account distinctive local characteristics or building traditions.

Survival and Authenticity

The survival of the original form and material of any heritage asset will add value. Sometimes, however, older sites and features can survive largely hidden behind later remodelling.

- Does the building/feature/site remain in a substantial and recognisable form?
- Does it retain its historic features and layouts?
- Is it a rare survival of its type or one of many examples of its kind which represent an important element in the history of the local area?

Historic Interest

A significant historical association of local or national note, including links to important local figures, may enhance the significance of a heritage asset. Blue Plaque and similar schemes may be relevant. Social and communal interest may be regarded as a sub-set of historic interest but has special value in local listing. As noted in the Planning Policy Guidance: 'Heritage assets ... can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity'. It therefore relates to places perceived as a source of local identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence, contributing to the 'collective memory' of a place.

- Does it relate to an important aspect of local social, cultural, political, religious or economic history?
- Is it associated with an important local feature, person or event?
- Does it appear in historic documents, maps or photographs?

Archaeological Interest

The local heritage asset may provide evidence about past human activity in the locality, which may be in the form of buried remains, but may also be revealed in the structure of buildings or in a designed landscape, for instance. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are primary sources of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

The National Planning Policy Framework defines archaeological interest in a heritage asset as if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.

- Is there tangible evidence for the archaeological site?
- Is the site visible and can it be characterised?
- Are there any known archaeological finds from the site?

Architectural and Artistic Interest

The intrinsic design and aesthetic value of an asset relating to local and/or national styles, materials, construction and craft techniques, or any other distinctive characteristics.

- Is it attractive, characterful, striking or inspiring?
- Does it represent a particular architectural style or demonstrate design features characteristic of the local area?
- Is it associated with a locally or nationally known architect, designer, engineer or builder?
- Is it an attractive designed landscape, green space or other planned area such as a town square which reflects landscaping fashions or historic public realm planning?

Group Value

Groupings of assets with a clear visual design or historic relationship.

- Is it visibly or demonstrably part of a group of assets which contribute to the area's heritage?

Landmark Status

An asset with strong communal or historical associations, or because it has especially striking aesthetic value, may be singled out as a landmark within the local scene.

- Is it a key landmark feature, contributing to the landscape, skyline or streetscape?