

20th-century Non-Domestic Buildings and Public Places: National Framework for Assessment

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20th-century non-domestic buildings and public places in Worcestershire



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Front Cover Image: The 'new' Somers Park Methodist Chapel in Malvern. Designed by Stanley A. Griffiths and completed in 1936.

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20th CENTURY NON-DOMESTIC BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC PLACES: NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSMENT

This framework provides basic guidance to assist in the identification and recording, including in Historic Environment Records (HERs), of 20th-century buildings and public places that may have a local or greater level of heritage interest. It is presented in three parts:

1. INTRODUCTION: an introduction to 20th-century heritage and the planning background
2. ASSESSING 20TH-CENTURY HERITAGE, which sets out how to identify and assess the significance of 20th-century heritage
3. KEY DATES AND TYPES OF HERITAGE, with summary guidance on key dates and types of heritage with links to key sources.

This guidance is illustrated with some national examples and some from Worcestershire, and it forms part of a project - *Adding a New Layer: 20th-Century Non-Domestic Buildings and Public Places in Worcestershire* – commissioned by Historic England. The *Guide to 20th century Non-Domestic Buildings and Public Places in Worcestershire* shows how it has been used to set out the different types of heritage for a county, and the project has also delivered a research framework for 20th-century heritage and case studies on smallholdings, village halls and the towns of Kidderminster and Redditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

Appreciation of the importance of 20th-century heritage is acknowledged across the United Kingdom, Europe and many other parts of the world. This has also developed alongside a distinct philosophical and practical approach to conservation that is alive to the issues raised by themes such as the archaeology of conflict, the political sensitivity of recent heritage and the problems posed by new building techniques such as reinforced concrete.¹ Some obvious milestones include:

- The foundation of the Cinema Theatre Association (<http://cinema-theatre.org.uk>) in 1967 and the Thirties Society – now the Twentieth Century Society (<https://c20society.org.uk>) - in 1979.
- Recording and research into the architecture and archaeology of industry, often in the face of rapid change prompted by de-industrialisation particularly from the 1970s.²
- The development of new initiatives to protect inter-war architecture that followed the outcry over the demolition of the Firestone Factory over a bank holiday weekend in 1980.
- The first shortlist compiled by English Heritage, in the late 1980s, for the listing of post-war architecture and subsequent work.
- The first 20th-century Conservation Areas such as Silver End at Braintree in Essex, built as housing from 1926 for workers in the Crittall factory; doors and windows have been protected from removal since 1983 by the removal of Permitted Development Rights.

¹ See for example Macdonald S (ed) 1996 *Modern Matters: Principles and Practice in Conserving Recent Architecture*. Shaftesbury: Donhead

² For example, see Stratton, M (ed) 1997 *Structure and Style: Conserving 20th Century Buildings*. London: E & F N Spon:

- The development in the 1990s of approaches to the conservation, management and understanding of 20th-century military heritage, from anti-invasion defences to airfields and sites of the Cold War.
- Growing awareness of the fragility and importance of our sporting heritage, sparked by campaigns such as *Farewell my Lido*, led by the Thirties Society and including the *Played in Britain* project, and its publications, which followed English Heritage's involvement in the cultural programme for the 2002 Commonwealth Games.³
- The role of Historic Characterisation, and its programme of mapping rural and urban areas, in developing recognition of the legacy and archaeology of the recent past.⁴
- The development of fresh and inter-disciplinary approaches to researching recent and contemporary architecture and archaeology, in considering for example the heritage of popular music, of immigrant communities and of cultural diversity and of hidden places including what has been termed 'queer heritage'?⁵

Identification of 20th-century heritage is an important first step in ensuring that the most distinctive can be retained and adapted as part of future communities and places. Recording by amateurs and professionals, the latter often as a condition of listed building consent or as part of geographic and thematic programmes of research, has made a significant contribution to local Historic Environment Records (HERs), their amalgamation into a national database (PASTSCAPE) and the Historic England Archive.⁶ Many more, however, still await discovery and assessment.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied, defines a heritage asset 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 places good design, the enhancement of local distinctiveness, landscape character and conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets at the heart of delivering sustainable development and good planning.

Heritage assets display a wide variation in their significance, and comprise:

- Designated heritage assets of national and international significance, which for 20th-century heritage include:
 - Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for their 'special architectural and

³ <http://www.playedinbritain.co.uk>

⁴ <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/characterisation/> Penrose, S (ed) 2007 *Images of Change*. Swindon: English Heritage

⁵ This has a growing literature and its own journal, *Contemporary Archaeology*; May, S, Orange, H and Penrose S (eds) 2012 *The Good, the Bad and the Unbuilt: Handling the Heritage of the Recent Past*, British Archaeological Reports International Series 2362. Oxford: Hadrian Books for research frameworks see the essay by Paul Belford ('The archaeology of everything') in chapter 7 of *The Archaeology of the West Midlands. A framework for research* (2011) archived at the Archaeology Data Service

(https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/wmrrf_he_2016/). For the Pride of Place project led by Historic England and Birkbeck College, matched by work by the National Trust see (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/why-does-lgbtq-heritage-matter>)

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/inclusive-heritage/lgbtq-heritage-project/>

⁶ Historic England Archive at <https://archive.historicengland.org.uk> which also provides links to Images of England (photography of listed buildings) and Pastscape (<https://www.pastscape.org.uk>)

historic interest' due to their rarity, age, integrity and group value. The criteria for selection draw attention to the need for progressively greater selection over time, and whilst it follows that relatively few 20th-century buildings or places (from university campuses to airfields) are designated in this way there are many 20th-century buildings and additions to buildings that are included within Conservation Areas with earlier origins. Objects, structures and buildings that are fixed to a Listed Building or are within its curtilage may also be protected by listing.

- Registered Parks and Gardens, which do not have additional statutory controls but are subject to local plan policies.
- Scheduled Monuments of 'National Importance', the most numerous 20th-century heritage assets being military and industrial sites, which meet the criteria set out in the Principles of Selection:⁷ those selected for scheduling are those which are considered to be best-managed as monuments ('to help preserve them, so far as possible, in the state in which they have come down to us today'), rather than through the planning process, agri-environment schemes or nature designations, meaning that many sites of national importance are not Scheduled.
- Non-designated buildings and structures of local (and sometimes greater) historical value and significance, including those included on Historic Environment Records and identified in Neighbourhood Development Plans and by the local planning authorities on Local Lists and Local Plans.
- Non-designated assets of archaeological interest which may vary more widely in terms of their significance and include some of national importance afforded protection by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).

Historic England's Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents, which are linked from the NPPG, offer advice on how national policy and advice can be applied to the historic environment and heritage assets, for making Local Plans, applying an understanding of decision-making to the local environment and determining the contribution that setting makes to the significance of heritage assets.⁸ The National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG), which includes a chapter on *Historic Environment*, provides further guidance on how to meet the demands of the NPPF.

These heritage assets are also part of and contribute to the distinctive character of places and landscapes, as affected by their use and development over time. This has been mapped at a national and local level by Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Characterisation, varying in scale from England's 159 National Character Areas to the identification of individual polygons down to one hectare in size.⁹ The National Design Guide (October 2019), which also supports the NPPF, sets out how to recognise and design for local character, and the importance of using this understanding to benefit people, heritage and nature at the earliest stage of the design process.

⁷ These are listed in the *Principles of Selection of Scheduled Monuments* as: period; rarity; documentation/finds; group value; survival/condition; fragility/ vulnerability; diversity and potential. (DCMS 2013, *Principles of Selection for Ancient Monuments*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/principles-of-selection-for-scheduled-monuments>)

⁸ Historic England, GPA 1 (*The Historic Environment in Local Plans*, 2015), 2 (*Managing Significance in Decision-Making in the Historic Environment*, 2015) and 3 (*The Setting of Heritage Assets*, 2015).

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>



The carving of dates, names and other shapes and symbols into trees may merit recording, being found for example around wartime military sites. This arborglyph, dated 1949, is carved onto a tree at St. George Churchyard in Clifton, Nottinghamshire. © Elaine Willett

2 ASSESSING 20th-CENTURY HERITAGE

The investigation of non-designated heritage assets will reveal some which are of *considerable or exceptional significance, equivalent in significance to designated buildings, structures, monuments and designed landscapes*. Most, however, will have some significance because they make a positive contribution to the understanding and appreciation of an area or place, as well as an understanding of key aspects of life, art, architecture and landscape in the 20th-century.

- *They may have a basic level of interest and value that merits an entry on a Historic Environment Record, so that they can contribute to our understanding of the past.* Historic Environment Records (HERs) provide detailed information about the historic environment of a given area, in order to inform local and national research and decision-making in planning, development-control work and land management. The Historic Environment Records in England have been created as a result of decades of research and investigation. They are maintained and updated for public benefit and used in accordance with national and international standards. As well as holding records on specific heritage assets they also hold the results of area and thematic assessment, area mapping including Historic Landscape Characterisation, which maps the historic character of the present landscape and archaeological finds, recorded as part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
- *They may have 'a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions',* because their more detailed recording can add to our understanding of the past and/or they have some significance that merits their reuse and conservation.
- *They may be included on a list of locally valued heritage assets in a Neighbourhood Development Plan or identified in a Local List.* If backed by appropriate policies, this strengthens the case for the retention of buildings, archaeological sites and historic areas and places, although it does not provide any additional planning controls other than making its retention and conservation a material consideration in the planning process. Article 4 directions can be used to remove permitted development rights where they may otherwise – through the removal of windows, doors and other architectural features – threaten heritage and amenity. Historic England has set out the criteria including social and communal value that can be applied to local heritage listing.¹⁰

Step 1: Identify the asset and its history

What is it? Is it a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape?

What does it tell us about its function and how it has changed? Our buildings and places, and the spaces and boundaries associated with them, reflect changing ways of domestic life, work and play.

¹⁰ Historic England 2016, *Local Heritage Listing*, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/local-designations/>

What do other sources tell us about its history? The understanding from documents, newspapers, local stories and memories will always enrich appreciation and understanding of a place.

What date is it? When was it built or created, and what is the evidence for any later adaptation or extension?

How legible is it? To what extent has its original character been retained? Does it have any noticeable alterations or phases of development? Do these undermine or add to its architectural and historic interest?

Was it designed? Does the building have an architectural style? Was an architect or another designer involved in the original design or any later alterations? To what extent is this design unique or is it shared by many other buildings of the same type?

What are its surroundings? A building or place may be sited within an area created over the same period or inserted into an earlier urban or rural landscape.

Step 2: Consider its significance

Significance for heritage policy is defined in the glossary of the National Planning Policy Framework as ‘The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting.’ Historic England’s Advice Note on *Statements of Heritage Significance* ¹¹ provides definitions of these heritage interests and guidance on how significance should be applied in the planning context. These ‘heritage interests’ broadly equate to three of the ways of valuing the historic environment as set out in Historic England’s *Conservation Principles*, which states that ‘significant places should be managed to sustain their values’. It is increasingly realised that these values extend beyond simply an expert judgement of significance to understanding how people value the historic environment for a diversity of other factors such as its sense of place, distinctiveness and its memories.

Archaeological interest (NPPF) / Evidential value (Conservation Principles)

This derives from the evidence contained in a place for its historic form and fabric – what can be seen and also considering what can be concealed behind layers of fabric or under the ground. Key questions are:

- How legible is it in terms of its survival and to what extent does this matter? For example, is this survival significant in terms of its detail (windows, doors and architectural detail) as well as in terms of its overall external form?
- How well-preserved and legible is the internal plan form and any architectural detail?
- What does the survival of the heritage asset tell you that documents and memories cannot?

¹¹ Historic England Advice Note Historic England Advice Note 12, 2019, *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets*

- Was it designed as part of a group, and if so how well do how buildings and spaces still relate to each other?

Architectural and artistic interest (NPPF) / Aesthetic value (Conservation Principles)

This derives from how a place has been designed and has evolved and is core to how people experience places – from views in the landscape to architectural style, details of craftsmanship and construction. Key questions are:

- How does it relate to key developments in architecture and craftsmanship? Is it an early example of its type?
- Is it a standard design seen in many other buildings?
- Is it a strong architectural composition that displays pioneering, unusual or innovative approaches in its massing, scale and detail?
- Is it rare, unusual or pioneering in its planning, construction and detail? Does it display any technical or architectural innovation for its period?
- How has it aged over time, and is this an important aspect of its significance?

Historic interest (NPPF) / Historical value (Conservation Principles)

This derives from the ways in which – mostly due to their level of survival – places illustrate or are associated with past people, historic developments and aspects of life, complementing or enriching what we may know from documentary and other sources. Key questions are:

- How does its design or planning result from its original function and development over time? Is it innovative or pioneering in any way?
- How does it illustrate aspects of social, economic, cultural or military history?
- Is it a building, place or landmark associated with a significant national or local figure, movement or event? Does it mark a significant moment in the development of its local community?
- Does it have significance in marking the development of long-established or new immigrant communities?
- Does it have a hidden history and is there a reason for this, such with some military sites and with what has been termed ‘queer heritage’?

Communal value

The additional value listed in *Conservation Principles* is *Communal value*, which is central to Historic England’s advice note on Local Lists but omitted from the PPG and Historic England’s advice on *Statements of Heritage Significance*. Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory and affords the opportunity to consider other factors such as the additional social, spiritual and other benefits offered by places. It is fundamental to how many communities approach the identification of heritage – for example in compiling Local Lists – that they feel is threatened and in need of sensitive reuse and conservation. Some buildings and places were always intended for a community use or, as a result of their role, have communal value: parks, sports grounds, swimming pools and lidos, libraries, pubs, village halls and places of worship. Public parks and other green spaces might also be designated by the local community as a Local Green Space.

Consider other benefits

Some 20th-century sites have a clear value and role as part of our Natural Capital, delivering services such as habitats for wildlife and the regulation, management and storage of water; there is increasing realisation of how heritage and the historic environment is intertwined with the natural environment.¹² These are not simply obvious places such as gardens, churchyards and parks, although sports grounds are typically low in biodiversity, but also brownfield sites with a previous military or industrial use, historic boundaries and building materials. Recent work on heritage and well-being has also indicated how buildings can be placed within the context of a holistic assessment of health and well-being indicators: much of this builds on the growing field of research on sporting heritage and parks, the use of datasets such as *Taking Part* and *Understanding Society* also highlighting the importance of historic towns.¹³ In addition, some 20th-century heritage may adjoin or be sited within areas of land notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as being of special nature conservation interest.



Sandford Parks Lido in Cheltenham, which opened in 1935, is a successful example of a local authority asset whose management has been transferred to a local charitable trust. The Conservation Plan included some initial work on identifying how people use and value the site as a whole, and how this was derived from its overall design as part of a planned landscape. This understanding of how the design of the site in its landscape setting sustained and enabled its enjoyment as a communal space was further developed for use in a Public Inquiry in 2010, and supported by the Planning Inspectorate (<https://www.sandfordparkslido.org.uk/about/lido-history/>). The lido was listed at grade II in 2019. © Jeremy Lake

¹² Fluck, H and Holyoak, V 2017 *Ecosystem Services, Natural Capital and the Historic Environment*. Historic England Research Report Series 19/2017; Powell, J, Lake, J, Berry, R, Gaskell, P, Courtney, P and Smith, K (2019) *Heritage, Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services: Historic Buildings and their Associated Boundaries*. Research Report Series 09-2019.

¹³ See for example Fujiwara, D, Cornwall, T and Dolan, P 2014 *Heritage and Wellbeing*. Report for Historic England.

3 WHAT TO LOOK FOR: KEY DATES AND TYPES OF HERITAGE

This section provides a summary of the main phases of development over the 20th-century and the range of building and other types encountered. There is now a substantial and increasing literature on 20th-century heritage, some of which is listed in the websites of the Twentieth Century Society (<https://c20society.org.uk>) and Historic England (<https://historicengland.org.uk>). Many themes and types of heritage with reading lists are included in Historic England's *Listing Selection Guides* and *Introductions to Heritage Assets* (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing>), and can also be search on its Research Reports database (<https://historicengland.org.uk/research>).

3.1 DATE – WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The criteria for listing call for 'progressively greater selection' for the period after 1850 and 'careful selection' for post-1945. The vast majority of this building stock is housing, which is closely linked to the development of non-domestic buildings and places which are critical in servicing the needs of a growing population and economy.

Up to 1914

Mainstream architectural styles follow the precedents set in the later 19th-century, from the florid Baroque used for theatres and town halls to the increasing emphasis on stripping out and streamlining the detail of Classical and more solidly English, neo-Georgian buildings. The domestic architecture of this period continues to be marked by a strong contrast between areas of high-density and often gridded urban housing, increasingly subject to public health acts and bylaws, and lower-density villa and suburban housing. It is also marked by significant innovations in planning, notably the Garden City Movement piloted at Letchworth and Hampstead. Linked to this was the continued development of the whole range site and building types, key innovations including the development of reinforced concrete, of cinemas and other places for mass leisure, of parks with an increasing emphasis on informal sports and family activities, the early development of the motor industry, including the first garages for motor vehicles, and the first years of the aviation industry.

The First World War

The conflict had a major impact on all people. Large areas of the country and many sites were requisitioned for training and housing soldiers and airmen. Defence from the threat of invasion and aerial attack required the construction and adaptation of airfields, coastal defence batteries and dockyards. Munitions stores and factories – often requiring purpose-built housing – were also critical in supporting the war effort, including the National Factories built after the establishment of the Ministry of Munitions in 1915.

The inter-war period (1919–1939)

The impact of Modernism and of the International Style is mostly confined to southern England, but Art Deco was applied to the design and especially the detailing of many buildings. Many buildings displayed their modernity through simply expressing their steel or reinforced concrete frames in bare

facades stripped of architectural ornament. Also influential was the influence of the Dutch architect W. M. Dudok in which a varied approach to scaling the different elements and details of buildings lent them a distinctive asymmetrical character. An obvious expression of the increased time that people had for leisure and recreation is reflected in the provision of cinemas, recreational halls, sports grounds and lidos. The expanding infrastructure of the electricity grid and of the motor industry enabled the expansion of new industries into new areas and the development of housing away from older settlements and railway stations. The standardisation and mass production of materials, foreign imports and improved infrastructure reduced costs and by 1939 nearly a third of the population lived in houses built after 1918 – a quarter of these being built by public authorities. The Garden City movement had a profound impact on suburban architecture and planning, the most marked growth being along the south coast, around London and in the West Midlands. The availability of land for development was also enabled by massive land sales following the agricultural depression and declining rents that commenced in the 1870s, imposition of death duties from 1894, Liberal budget of 1910 and the First World War.

The Second World War

The legacy of the Second World War, whilst as with the previous conflict requiring a vast infrastructure of training grounds and manufacturing, extends into many parts of the country due to the need, at the early stage of the conflict, to defend 'in-depth' against the threat of invasion with an infrastructure of linear defence including pill boxes and anti-tank defences. Whilst the amount of agricultural land contracted, the amount given over to arable crops doubled. Prefabricated housing is developed from 1944, reports and parliamentary acts prepare the foundations for the post-war planning system and legislation for listing buildings, education and health care for all, as well as for the modern Welfare State.

Post-1945

Over 64% of the current housing stock dates from after 1945, nearly 20% of this stock dating from 1945-64.¹⁴ This period is marked by a massive investment in Local Authority housing (their tenants comprising a quarter of the population by 1961), accompanied by the establishment after 1950 of New Towns and from 1960 of high-rise housing. Simplicity of design and standardisation using prefabricated techniques characterised domestic architecture to the 1970s, followed by a desire for more variation in house design. Over the whole period from 1980–2011, housing output dropped to 41% of its average level between 1951 and 1980.

Mainstream architecture in this period progresses from a wider application by the 1950s of the International and Scandinavian Style to schools, factories and other building types, followed by the adoption of tall, curtain-walled buildings from America for commercial buildings and from the later 1950s the increasing use of bare concrete to form dramatic volumes and displays of structural engineering in steel, reinforced concrete and timber. This so-called Brutalist style lasted into the mid-1970s, and was associated in particular with new university, civic and commercial architecture and

¹⁴ English Housing Stock Age, Designing Buildings Wiki, October 2016
(https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/English_housing_stock_age)

large-scale schemes for public and private housing. Other developments illustrate a different approach to more varied low-rise housing and landscaping.

Manufacturing peaked in the mid-1960s, followed by the decline of population in inner-city areas and the shift to a service economy. The first 'High Tech' offices in the early 1970s mark a significant shift in their emphasis on transparency and fluidity in design and construction, and Postmodern architecture broke from the rulebook of Modernism by reintroducing historic elements into quirky and playful compositions that were both 'high tech' in their construction and made innovative use of brick and other traditional materials. The integration of historic buildings into commercial and residential developments had also become more common from the 1970s. These and other developments in post-industrial Britain, its place in the global economy, and questions about identity and place in which architecture and conservation has played a significant role, are also reflected in greater stylistic diversity from Modernism to contemporary vernacular design. Housing Associations, typically working on small sites, took the lead in the design of affordable housing. New development has also followed the large-scale release of industrial land, and, from the 1980s, historic sites such as Victorian institutions and former airfields.

3.2 BUILDING TYPES – WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The headings used for the building and site types set out below follow the standards set out in Historic England's Thesaurus of Terms for recording the built and buried heritage to a common standard including for local HERs.¹⁵ These types also nest within the classifications used for mapping different types of historic landscape as mapped by Historic Landscape Characterisation.¹⁶

Agriculture and Subsistence

This classification comprises farmsteads, farm buildings and other structures which support farming and smallholdings. The 20th-century is marked by more prefabrication and standardisation to minimize labour and meet hygiene and other regulations. Many thousands of these were built, particularly from the 1950s, and some are being converted to other uses. Prefabricated sheds and adapted or purpose-built pre-1940 dairies and cattle housing, using metal-framed windows, roof structures and concrete floors and stalls merit recording as part of farmstead groups. It is always worth noting their date from maps and also their local or national manufacturers from plaques and other markings.

The following agricultural buildings are less common and may have a higher level of interest:

- Buildings in traditional style, plan and form – such as stables and cow houses – are uncommon after 1900 and became increasingly redundant for modern agriculture from the 1950s. Post-1950 agricultural buildings in a defined architectural style, including those using local materials in order to respect local vernacular, are very uncommon.

¹⁵ Historic England 2014 Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH) Thesauri (<http://thesaurus.historicengland.org.uk>) The Thesaurus also includes Monuments and a class termed 'Unassigned' from aircraft crash sites to yards. Last updated February 2019 (version 22) <http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/fish-vocabularies/>

¹⁶ <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/characterisation>

- The best-preserved County Council smallholdings, established under Acts in 1892 and 1908 and which became most common in the inter-war period, will have some or even considerable significance.
- Innovative examples of pre-1940 planning and construction in the arrangement of farm buildings are rare in a national context. Silage towers, the first of which date from the late 19th-century, are rare before 1940.
- Buildings erected in WWI and WWII, which may result from the efforts of War Agriculture Committees, are rare. Reused and relocated fabric from wartime temporary structures, such as Belfast trusses (WWI) and Romney huts (WWII), can survive in farmstead groups.

These are the other types of structures of interest that fall into this category:

- Huts and other accommodation for housing seasonal workers are fragile but mark a significant aspect of rural life and work, and in woodland and other settings they may include archaeological artefacts.
- Livestock and produce markets may have historic interest that merits recording and office buildings of some architectural merit, and features such as weighbridges and offices that may have some heritage interest.
- Allotment gardens have very strong communal values and histories.
- Rivers and inland water bodies may have sites and (very rarely) buildings associated with commercial fishing.
- Some coastal fishing sites and buildings, such as net lofts and smokeries, may continue the craft and industrial techniques of the 19th-century and earlier, but can be dwarfed in scale by those of the large-scale commercial fisheries that developed on a diminishing number of sites over the 20th-century.

Key sources

- Acton, L 2011 Allotment gardens: A reflection of history, heritage, community and self. *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology* **21**, 46–58 Available [here](#)
- *Agricultural Buildings: Listing Selection Guide*. 2017. Available [here](#)
- Lake, J 2013 *National Farm Building Types*. Historic England guidance. Available [here](#)
- Way, T 2008 *Allotments*. Princes Risborough: Shire Publications



A 1920s smallholding in Lincolnshire, a well-preserved example in vernacular style. © Jeremy Lake



An unusually innovative example of an inter-war cowhouse in the Yorkshire Dales, its circular plan enabling cattle to be centrally milked by machine. © Jeremy Lake

Civil

This classification comprises buildings and places for the provision of civic amenities and the enforcement of the law. Most were built by national and local government, with national and county architects' departments being responsible for most designs from the 1930s. These can include solid and well-designed examples that reflect both Modern influences and continued developments in more traditional styles, often prominent features of the local scene and sometimes marked out by their attention to architectural form and detail. Wall art was increasingly employed as a distinctive feature of post-war architecture. The different types include:

- Public buildings and government offices. County and town halls can date from the medieval period, but most were built after the formation of County Councils and then Urban and District councils in 1888 and 1894. These can combine many different functions, from offices for surveyors and public utilities to law courts and police stations, and display a great range of architectural style: Neo-Classical and Neo-Georgian (ornamental or stripped of its detail) was increasingly favoured over Gothic styles by architects working for the Office of Works (1852–1940), often stripped of its detail and influenced by Dutch and other European Modernist styles in the 1930s. Its successor, the Ministry of Works and then the Property Services Agency (1972–1993), increasingly favoured modern styles using prefabricated techniques for central government offices, whilst following the reforms of local government in 1974, many local government offices (at county and district level) were built in Vernacular Revival styles using brick.
- Post Offices, dating from the expansion of the Post Office network in the second half of the 19th-century and executed by the same architects' offices in similar styles.
- Police stations, sometimes combined with magistrates' and law courts, built from the 1950s by County architects with headquarters in Georgian or Domestic Revival styles; modern styles were more common from the 1960s. Housing was commonly provided in a stripped-down Domestic Revival or neo-Georgian style.
- Fire stations built for voluntary bodies until the setting-up of County fire authorities in the 1930s. Housing was commonly provided in a stripped-down Domestic Revival or neo-Georgian style.
- Buildings and parts of buildings (in particular the basements of Local Authority offices) for civil defence.
- Prisons have continued to make use of earlier sites, a major feature since the 1940s being the adoption of mainstream civic architecture designs and from the 1990s minimal architectural treatment to prisons counterbalanced by approaches to more experimental designs focused on education and enabling rehabilitation.
- Civic centres, first developed in the 1930s and growing in number from the 1960s, combined government offices with facilities for civic events, theatre, music and dance. They were more self-consciously designed as part of their communities, and as a consequence of their function and how this is embodied through their architecture, can have considerable architectural, historic and communal value.

Benefactors and increasingly communities have played a key role in the provision of facilities for communities:

- Community and village halls, dating from the end of the 19th-century and including Memorial Halls built after the World Wars, display a wide range of styles and materials, from prefabricated structures in corrugated iron to reused wartime hutting and architect-designed buildings in local vernacular styles; despite relocation, wartime fabric reused for village halls may now survive better in these than other contexts.

Key sources

- East, J and Rutt, N 2012 *The Civic Plunge Revisited*, Twentieth Century Society
- *Law and Government Buildings: Listing Selection Guide* 2017. Available [here](#)



Early 20th-century prefabricated Village Hall in Worcestershire. © Worcestershire County Council



Fire Station, Este Road, Battersea, Wandsworth, Greater London Authority © Historic England Archive DP148790



Civic Centre, Rickergate, Carlisle, Cumbria, completed in 1964 by Charles Pearson and Partners and now listed at grade II. © Historic England Archive DP137946

Commemorative (including Public Art)

This classification comprises sites, buildings, structures, features and areas of land commemorating an historical event, person or animal. They often have very high communal value and include:

- War memorials (statues, buildings and landscapes), which have great communal value and have been subject to national listing programmes.
- Commemorative plaques which may be re-sited if used as foundation stones for church and community buildings.
- Statues, buildings and landscapes dedicated to and/or funded by notable individuals or organisations.
- Buildings or landscapes celebrating notable events, for example the Queen's Coronation or Silver Jubilee or the 1951 Festival of Britain.

Other building types such as village halls may also commemorate loss in conflict, donations by wealthy patrons and the collaboration of community members.

There was a blossoming of public art from the 1950s, in which the Arts Council (established 1945) played a prominent role. This took the form of sculpture, mosaics, reliefs and murals applied to public buildings, in particular, and to shopping arcades and supermarkets from the 1970s. These can have considerable or outstanding interest in their own right, some being capable of relocation to new sites where they may be better protected.

Key sources

- *Commemorative Structures: Listing Selection Guide*. 2017 (2nd edition). Available [here](#)
- *Landscapes of Remembrance: Introductions to Heritage Assets* 2017 Historic England. Available [here](#)
- *Public Art 1945–95: Introductions to Heritage Assets* 2016. Available [here](#)
- *Murals* The Twentieth Century Society. Available [here](#)



Decorative brickwork makes a notable display of public art on the Police Station at Stourport-on-Severn.



General view of a 1967 bronzed fibreglass relief mural by William Mitchell on the north side of Lewes County Hall, from the north-west © Historic England Archive DP172762



This children's playing field in Worcestershire – dedicated in 1929 in loving memory of Ernst Victor Stevens of Chapel Farm, Netherton – is an early example of a recreational area for children. © Worcestershire County Council

Commercial

The 20th-century witnessed a massive expansion in the numbers of commercial buildings for business, retail and storage, the scale of development being increasingly enabled and stimulated by road, rail and air travel.

- Shops in town centres – many of which are historic buildings – were often internally remodelled and extended to provide more retail space. Shop fronts of the post-1914 period are typically less ornate than those of earlier eras: notable exceptions are historicist shop fronts, such as those commissioned by W H Smith, and Classical, Moderne and Art Deco examples which mostly comprise the stores of national chains. The identity of small family businesses – such as outfitters and grocers – was limited to signage on the shop fronts of older buildings which has been more vulnerable to change.
- Few post-1945 shops have architectural interest in their own right, and indeed can often be considered as ‘anywhere architecture’ that – often due to blank elevations of brick or concrete above street level - is insensitive to and detracts from the historic character of an area; shop fronts are dominated by expanses of plate glass, a major driver being the desire to open as much of the most valuable front part of a shop onto view from the street.
- Shopping parades and department stores – their large scale enabled by the amalgamation of earlier shops and plots, were built in great numbers in larger towns and cities in the inter-war period, often using steel frames cloaked in a diversity of styles (especially neo-Georgian and Moderne). National chain stores such as Boots generally maintained their brand identity with their own distinctive ‘house style’ architecture which can add a distinctive quality and character to the urban scene.
- Post-1950s shopping centres and superstores built to a larger scale, with associated car parking, make more use of materials such as steel framing, glass, aluminum and concrete. They are commonly utilitarian and of no or negligible architectural interest, and from the 1980s were being eclipsed by shopping centres and then retail parks. Some of these were developed with a strong sense of architectural identity and character.
- The facades of warehouses and distribution centres might be ornamented or treated to add a degree of interest to structures that are rarely more than utilitarian in their structure or planning.
- Commercial offices in a diversity of modern styles and with innovative features such as atriums in their planning were built in increasing numbers from the mid-1950s, also resulting from either the amalgamation of multiple plots or on new sites on the edge of urban areas or in rural areas. The result is a great diversity in approach to the design of tower blocks and the design of ‘low-rise’ offices and (from the 1980s) business parks integrated into landscaped grounds, displaying some of the most exciting examples of the skills of architects and the relatively new discipline of landscape architecture.
- Bank architecture was dominated by respectable and ‘reassuring’ neo-Georgian and classical styles in the early to mid-20th-century. Solid Modernist styles were adopted from the 1960s, as small banks were swallowed up by the ‘Big Four’, and some of the most dramatic examples of buildings for the banking and financial services sector were built after the deregulation of the financial services sector in the 1980s.

- Eating and drinking establishments continue to follow in earlier architectural styles but are marked by an increasing desire to cater for women and families. Roadhouses in a diversity of styles and dating from the inter-war period are the most distinctive new types of public houses, found alongside main roads and breaking new ground in catering for family groups. Tea houses were established close to tourist spots accessed by car and bus from the 1920s. Estate Pubs with recreational and communal facilities developed as a distinctive aspect of housing estates in the 1950s–1970s. Pre-1970s restaurants and bars displaying strong American influences in their signage and layout are also worthy of recording, as are Indian and other restaurants which illustrate increasing diversity in British culture.
- Hotel design either continues earlier 19th-century traditions or reflects broad developments in commercial architecture.

Key sources

- Cole, E 2015 The Urban and Suburban Public House in Inter-War England, 1918–1939. *Historic England Research Report 4/2015*
- *Commerce and Exchange Buildings: Listing Selection Guide 2017* (2nd edition). Available [here](#)
- *Shopping Parades: Introductions to Heritage Assets 2016*. Available [here](#)
- *The Late 20th-Century Commercial Office: Introductions to Heritage Assets 2016*. Available [here](#)



Woolworths, 16-18 Maidenhead Street, Hertford, East Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire © Historic England Archive BB016857



The Lincoln Imp, Gloucester Avenue, Lincoln Gardens, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire © Historic England Archive DP197351



The Swan Centre shopping precinct in Kidderminster, opened in 1968. Town-centre shopping precincts of this type are increasingly under threat, and whilst only a small proportion can be designated they all merit entry on HERs and 'preservation by record' through photography and the archive of any original plans and related documents.

Communications

Sites, buildings and features associated with the transmission and receiving of radio, electric and digital information, of particular interest being:

- Pre-1914 sites and buildings, of rarity and considerable historic interest in a national context.
- Inter-war and WWII transmitter stations, complete or substantially complete groups being very rare.
- Telegraph offices and radio stations including those used for transmitting and receiving messages.
- Telephone exchanges, including those built to the designs of the Office of Works in the 1920s; these can be built in neo-Georgian styles to a high standard that complements the historic character of urban areas.
- Telephone kiosks, notably the K6 designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and its predecessors, which have been designated in areas of high heritage value.
- Modern styles from the 1970s, which more usually follow trends in commercial architecture except in their internal planning.

These sites can have considerable historic interest, particularly in relationship to both world wars and the development of signals intelligence. They may often be short-lived and insubstantial in their construction.

Key sources

- *British Post Office Buildings and Their Architects: an Illustrated Guide*. Available [here](#)
- Clarke, J 2008 *Purpose-Built Post Offices: A Rapid Assessment and Suggestions for Future Work*. English Heritage Research Department Report Series **29** (2008)



This Post Office in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, opened in 1937 and now converted into flats, survives as a representative example of the neo-Classical style favoured by the Office of Works.



Brick blast walls survive from this WWII radio transmitter site at Ide Hill in Kent, built as part of a network of radio stations for disrupting the routes taken to targets by enemy bombers. © Jeremy Lake

Defence

Reaction to the scale and nature of military technology and threats has bequeathed many thousands of sites, buildings, structures and features used in the defence of the civilian population:

- Pillboxes and road blocks for defence against invasion, airfields and their defences for training and reserves as well as bomber offence and fighter defence, decoys and gun batteries for air defence, and a massive infrastructure from military camps, hospitals and training areas and supply depots to communications systems. A wide range of standard building and site types were developed; this included temporary fabric ranging from Nissen, Seco and Romney huts to the more long-lived Temporary Office Blocks used at Bletchley Park and hundreds of other sites during the Second World War. It is estimated that during the Second World War more than 20% of Britain's land area was used for military purposes,¹⁷ excluding the networks of anti-invasion defences that thread across the landscape. Many military bases continued to expand in the Cold War, some reaching the size of large towns, and a network of sites for reporting attacks and managing the aftermath of nuclear war were built.
- All drill halls built for reserve forces merit recording, and some have considerable architectural interest as examples of bespoke and increasingly standardised approaches to planning: inter-war examples may be executed in Modern as well as more traditional neo-Georgian and classical styles, and post-war ones are far more utilitarian in appearance. More humble in their appearance but of great historic and communal value are the traces of the civil defence infrastructure put in place before and during the Second World War; purpose-built structures related to Civil Defence or Air Raid Precautions include Communal Air Raid Shelters, Control Rooms, Laundries, Gas Decontamination Centres and Ambulance Depots; some air raid shelters date from the First World War.
- War Rooms dating from the 1950s and Regional Seats of Government dating from the early 1980s were built at times of heightened tension to act as administrative centres in the event of nuclear war, and post-war government offices may also have underground shelters.

National initiatives led by the Council for British Archaeology and Historic England have led to many thousands of sites, structures and buildings constructed over the 20th-century being added to HERs. The best-preserved and most historically significant are now designated heritage assets. Temporary fabric and extensive sites which are now an integral part of the landscapes and communities around them have proven to be the most difficult to protect in this manner, although local communities have often chosen to erect memorials to those who served in them and some have now reverted to archaeological sites within woodland and other habitats of natural significance. Wall art can add to the significance of wartime and Cold War fabric. In addition, many sites and buildings erected for other reasons were used or requisitioned for military or civil defence purposes, such as housing child evacuees and military hospitals and headquarters, which may give them additional historic significance (see *20th century Heritage: non-domestic buildings and public places in Worcestershire, Defence*).

¹⁷ Rowley, *The English Landscape in the Twentieth Century*, 315-6

Key sources

- *Military Structures: Listing Selection Guidance* (2nd edition). Available [here](#)
- Cocroft W D and Thomas R J C 2004 *Cold War. Building for Nuclear Confrontation, 1946–1989*. Swindon: English Heritage
- *Civil Defence – from the First World War to the Cold War: Introductions to Heritage Assets* 2016. Available [here](#)
- *Drill Halls* 2015. Available [here](#)



Pillbox in Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire. © Elaine Willett



An example of a 1930s Drill Hall, showing the influence of the period at Crewe, Cheshire © Historic England Archive DP166577



The Pilots' Ready Room at Stow Maries Airfield, Essex, from the south-east, with a water tower behind – one of the best-preserved WWI airfields in England © Historic England Archive DP217235



These twin water towers are iconic remnants of the US 93rd Military General Hospital camp at Blackmore Park in Hanley Castle, near Malvern, which was later a temporary PoW camp. The camp consisted of about 175 facilities blocks and 60 hospital buildings.

Education

Sites, buildings, structures and features relating to the provision of knowledge and skills are one of the most distinctive and often innovative examples of 20th-century architecture, particularly in terms of how their planning expresses developing ideas about children and society. As a result, they may have considerable architectural, historic and communal interest and value. Education was made compulsory for children under the age of ten from 1880, and free after the Education Act of 1891. Most rural areas – with the exception of primary schools which were built or adapted to open plans – found it hard to adjust to the three-tier system of grammar, secondary modern and technical schools introduced under the 1944 Education Act.

- State schools continued to be built into the 1930s after the models following the 1870 Education Act, with classrooms set around an assembly hall. Secondary school education, and the provision of schools for children who had disabilities, was expanded after 1918. Grammar and secondary schools in neo-Georgian and later more modernist styles were modelled on public schools with their quadrangles and playing fields. Of particular interest might be distinctive features such as fixed and folding screens to enable flexible use of space, panelled corridors and offices and, very rarely, intact libraries and laboratories.
- Open-air schools of the 1920s–30s, which are innovative in their planning in an international context and may include moveable screens and other features linked to flexible use.
- 67% of all state school buildings were built in 1944–1976,¹⁸ a period when Britain was internationally acclaimed for innovations first pioneered in the 1930s – in affording light and air, in prefabrication and planning for flexible use with open teaching areas, sometimes focused around a library or resource centre, and sports facilities. The majority of technical, secondary and grammar schools on the cutting edge of innovation fall into the period between the 1950s and 1970s, following the Education Act of 1944, and are mostly the work of county and municipal architects with some significant figures in 20th-century architecture also being involved if commissions were put out to tender.
- The Robbins Report in 1963 resulted in the building of many more universities, colleges of technology and further education. These were added to earlier generations of mostly Domestic Revival and neo-Georgian buildings including the ‘red brick’ universities dating from the end of the 19th-century. They include some striking examples of modernist architecture by leading practitioners on the national and international stage, universities being particularly distinctive in this respect.
- Laboratories have considerable or outstanding historic significance depending on the discoveries and inventions made within them.
- Institutes with classrooms and reading rooms, as built from the 19th-century in a diversity of styles, were usually built with other facilities to promote social interaction and well-being. Relatively few were built after 1918.
- Public libraries continued to be built until 1914 using public funds and the donations of philanthropists (notably Andrew Carnegie), and many were built by County authorities after they were empowered to do so by the Public Libraries Act of 1919; the Moderne style is rare,

¹⁸ Smith J 2007 *School Buildings: the State of Knowledge*, English Heritage (now Historic England) Research Department Report Series no 100-2007

solid neo-Georgian or other historical styles being favoured. Period shelving, sculpture and planning to facilitate access and supervision, and with rooms for reading to children and for other groups, may add to the heritage interest of the libraries built up to 1939. There are some exceptionally bold and imaginative examples of post-war libraries, from the circular or polygonal plans favoured by small libraries to some of the largest 'headquarters libraries' serving county or municipal authorities, either tendered out or designed by their respective in-house architects; relatively few were built after the 1970s, a feature of this period being the conversion of schools, chapels and other buildings into libraries [now 'ideas stores' and information centres].

- Museums share these broad developments on the architectural front and are often combined with libraries.

Churches and chapels continued to make a significant contribution to pre-school and primary education, through providing classrooms within them or as separate buildings.

Key sources

- *Education Buildings: Listing Selection Guidance* (2nd edition). Available [here](#)
- Harwood, E 2012 *England's Schools: History, architecture and adaptation*. Swindon: English Heritage
- *The English Public Library 1850-1939: Introductions to Heritage Assets* 2016. Available [here](#)
- *The English Public Library 1945-85: Introductions to Heritage Assets* 2016. Available [here](#)



The Music Room at President Kennedy School and Community College at Holbrooks in Coventry. Part of the school opened in 1968 and was recorded by Historic England prior to its demolition after the school closed and moved to a new site in 2017. © Historic England Archive DP172632



Holyoake's Field First School celebrated its centenary in 2013 but has since been granted permission to rebuild in green belt, leaving the original buildings at risk of demolition.



Sion High School in Kidderminster was built as a secondary school in the 1950s, and before its demolition for housing was one of the last works of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Designed around a grassed quadrangle, it represented a continuation of the pre-war International Style in its strong and modular horizontal form. Photograph © Paul Collins

Gardens, public parks and urban spaces – see Recreation

Health and Welfare

This broad classification comprises sites, buildings, structures and features for treating mental and physical illness (hospitals and health centres) and for social welfare provided by charitable foundations and the state.

- Hospitals, asylums and convalescent homes continued to be built following earlier models – particularly that of the pavilion plan – into the early part of the century. Women’s and children’s hospitals, and small cottage hospitals, also continued to follow earlier precedents. Their architectural treatment is a critical factor in determining their significance as heritage assets.
- The 20th century was increasingly marked by the development of a looser approach to planning, to benefit as much as possible from light and air, and innovative site and building types such as open-air hospitals – further adapting the tradition set by convalescent hospitals, asylums and children’s homes set in restorative open spaces. Areas were increasingly needed for research, teaching and new technology, and housing nurses. Health centres – famously pioneered by the Modernist architects Lubetkin and Tecton at Finsbury in 1938 – were placed on the front line of providing general health care for local communities, increasing in numbers after the 1946 National Health Services Act. The NHS took over and extended existing hospitals. Modern Movement architecture was considered to be highly suitable for the large General Hospitals built on new sites from the later 1960s, but it is rare to find examples which are architecturally distinguished.
- Many historic almshouses have been saved and their facilities extended by charitable trusts in the post-1945 period.
- Industrial workforces, particularly those already organised as mutual benefit societies by the late 19th-century, also played a critical role in the provision of leisure and educational facilities in miners’, mechanics’ and other institutes.
- Clubs and societies developed as a distinctive characteristic of 20th-century social life. Women’s Institutes, Working Men’s and Ex-Servicemen’s Clubs (the British Legion was formed in 1921) followed in the footsteps of institutes, but little is known about the architecture of clubs, including those of the Scouting Movement (formed 1910) and other organisations developed for the welfare of boys and girls. Most were built in a domestic or vernacular style, the largest Working Men’s clubs being sometimes executed in a neo-Georgian style.
- Youth clubs built from the 1950s also offered leisure facilities and the first of these merits recording and consideration for reuse. They were often part of planned housing developments and promoted by the National Council of Social Service (founded 1919, now the National Council for Voluntary Organisations).

Key sources

- *Health and Welfare Buildings: Listing Selection Guidance 2017*. (2nd edition). Available [here](#)
- Hughes, J 2000 'The matchbox on a muffin: The design of hospitals in the early NHS'. *Medical History* **44**, 21-56



An early and distinctive example of a Women's Institute building dating from the early 1920s, built in Prestbury in Gloucestershire. © Jeremy Lake



Isolation Hospital, Arne, Purbeck, Dorset (Grade II listed) ARNE Isolation Hospital This was built in the early 1900s to a prefabricated system by Humphrey's of Knightsbridge, © Rev. Andrew Salmon. Source: Historic England Archive IOE01/15293/08



The Miners' Welfare Institute at Willington was one of many built the mining villages of this part of County Durham, each having rooms for reading, games and teaching a range of subjects. It was built in about 1920 and incorporated in the 1970s by Wear Valley District Council into the new Spectrum Leisure Centre. The Institute has been empty for over 20 years, and the whole leisure centre has been safeguarded by a Community Development Trust. © Jeremy Lake

Industrial and Maritime

Most of the workshops and other buildings associated with small-scale crafts and industries, such as brewing and malting, milling corn, making textiles, shoes and glass and making iron tools, have a distinctive character in their architecture and planning.

- Large-scale manufacturing and processing sites, which required housing for their workforces and access to good communications, continued to follow the development of new industries such as aviation and the motor industry. The 1909 Planning Act and, from the 1920s, the expansion of the electricity grid drove and enabled the construction of many industrial and business premises away from centres of population and the older dependency on railway stations. These may have interest in how their architecture expresses their engineering and planning, such as using steel framing and reinforced concrete to enable time-effective working in evenly-lit and flexible spaces. Architectural treatment is mostly confined to the elevations of headquarters, showrooms and office blocks facing main and approach roads. Also significant are pre-1940 factories set within their own landscaped grounds. Some of the most advanced factories of the post-1945 period are the 'low-rise' factory blocks that combine the skills of the architect, engineer and landscape architect in the layout and design of manufacturing, research, education, administration and support services within designed landscapes. Many contain evidence for constant adaptation that is worthy of record.
- Whilst the development of the extractive industries (of stone, coal, ore and other minerals, and land for processing, refining and manufacturing) and of armaments and explosives manufacturing and ordnance storage, has used large areas of land, it has rarely bequeathed buildings of architectural significance; standardised and utilitarian structures have been constantly adapted or swept away by renewal programmes, but they or their footprint can be sited within extensive sites that merit recording and/or careful management for the way in which they offer evidence for and illustrate industrial activity. They may also have historic associations and considerable communal value for local communities whose past and present lives they have shaped.
- Also included in this category are sites associated with maritime and river management, trade and transportation, including buildings and structures associated with the construction, maintenance and supply of boats, transport and trade (docks, ports, wharves); those to enable navigation and regulate safe passage (weirs, locks, navigation aids) and more recently, those to help regulate flooding.

Key sources

- *Industrial Buildings: Listing Selection Guide 2017*. Available [here](#)
- *Maritime and Naval Buildings: Listing Selection Guide 2017*. Available [here](#)



Art Deco treatment to the factory built in 1923 of the National Canning Company Limited, at Wisbech in Cambridgeshire (now listed grade II) marked the early development of the packaging and fruit canning industry in the town. © Peter D. Dewar. Source: Historic England Archive IOE01/16545/28



'The Rows' workshops and showrooms built after 1910 for the Morgan Motor Company in Malvern, Worcestershire. Morgans achieved fame as a bespoke and small-scale manufacturer of sports cars. © Historic England Archive DP137037



The Enfield Cycle Company, in Redditch, manufactured motorcycles, bicycles, lawnmowers and stationary engines under the name Royal Enfield – so-called after the company had secured a key contract with the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield. The massing of this brick building reflects the influence of 1920s–1930s Dutch and Scandinavian architects, and dates from the rebuilding of the site after the fire of 1926.

Public utilities (includes power stations and water supply and drainage)

Sites, buildings, structures and features for the supply and disposal of sewage and waste water mostly date from the mid-19th century and include some of the most spectacular examples of Victorian and later engineering and their associated landscapes in England. Most 20th-century water towers are built of reinforced concrete and are of less intrinsic combined architectural and engineering significance than their predecessors. The harnessing of water energy, the mining of coal and the supply of oil and gas underpinned the development of power stations from the late 19th-century. Most of those surviving from before 1914, including small-scale generating stations in urban areas, are designated as heritage assets. Some of those predating 1940 – after the establishment of the national grid following the 1919 Electricity Supply Act – are also significant in terms of their architectural expression. Historic England has undertaken the recording of these sites dating after 1945, many of which have had an enormous impact on the landscape, as they have become increasingly redundant.

Key sources

- *20th-Century Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Power Generation: Introductions to Heritage Assets* 2015. Available [here](#)
- *Infrastructure: Utilities and Communication: Listing Selection Guide* 2017.
- Tucker D G 1977 'Electricity generating stations for public supply in the West Midlands 1888–1977' in *West Midlands Studies* 10. Available [here](#)



The 'archaeology' of power lines and electricity transmission merits recording. High Marnham Power Station, Nottinghamshire, was built in the late 1950s and demolished in 2012. The construction of the National Grid, following the 1926 Electricity (Supply) Act was a massive undertaking, unprecedented in its scale. The architect Sir Reginald Blomfield modified an earlier American design, creating a design which has divided opinion ever since. © Elaine Willett and Copyright Andy Stephenson and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence.

Recreation (including public parks and open spaces) and sport

Sites, buildings, structures, features and areas of land associated with sport, leisure and entertainment illustrate one of the most historically significant aspects of social life in the later 19th and 20th centuries. They are associated with the shortening of working hours and increased leisure time, complementing how the built environment and landscape increasingly illustrates from the late 18th-century the growth of emphasis on spas, resorts and other places for recreation.

Planned and/or landscaped areas designed for aesthetic or recreational purposes were provided for rural and urban communities and are a historically significant expression of 20th-century social and family life. The 20th-century commences with formal parks and gardens following earlier precedents with ornamental walks, cafes, bandstands and pavilions. The inter-war period – which sees the emergence of landscape architecture as a profession in its own right – sees an increasing emphasis on open space in the design of parks in order to enable free play and recreation with a greater emphasis on children and families; parks of this type may be associated with swimming pools, tennis courts and other sports facilities. Post-war parks, particularly those associated with large-scale renewal schemes and housing developments, continue the emphasis on provision for free play and families, with public art as a frequent focal point. The provision for children is highly significant historically, but it is very rare to find any evidence for it surviving due to constant schemes for renewal. As well as their high communal value, recognised in successive programmes led by the Heritage Lottery Fund, they may have additional value as wildlife habitats and for flood storage.

- Structures associated with sporting heritage – ball games and racing in particular – rarely predate 1940 due to the constant need to rebuild and refashion them for changing standards of comfort, health and safety. Cricket and more rarely tennis, golf and rowing clubs are most likely to have club houses in a defined architectural style, usually variations on historic and Domestic Revival styles; those of pre-1940 date will have some heritage significance. The landscapes and places associated with them may have considerable historic and communal value, however, which is rarely reflected in official heritage designations. The most architecturally elaborate and significant post-1960 sports buildings are those built for universities and Local Authorities pioneering the development of multi-purpose sports centres which may also include other recreational facilities.
- Indoor swimming pools can be lavish displays of municipal architecture as well as making use of new developments in reinforced concrete and laminated timber. Complete outdoor swimming baths or lidos of the period to 1940 are now rare. Other outdoor swimming spots might also have long histories, although few tangible remains.
- Public parks can include a diversity of structures such as tea rooms, fountains, lavatories and bandstands, of heritage significance if part of a coherent or architecturally distinguished scheme. Areas and structures for facilitating children's play are of great historic significance but have rarely survived intact.
- Surviving pre-1940 cinemas can be of considerable architectural interest, offering – in contrast to more functional modern cinemas – exotic environments for illustrating one of the most significant aspects of people's experiences in the 20th-century; complete pre-1914 examples are rare.

- A relatively small number of theatres were built – mostly by civic authorities – after the last major phase of building theatres in the Edwardian period.
- Sports buildings can be sited within grounds which include racetracks and playing fields/areas which form an integral part of their settings. These often have very high communal value. Activities such as cycling and walking grew in popularity from the later 19th-century but have little tangible legacy; the Ramblers Association was founded in 1935.

Key sources

- *Culture and Entertainment Buildings: Listing Selection Guide 2017*. Available [here](#)
- *Garden and Park Structures: Listing Selection Guide 2017*. Available [here](#)
- Layton-Jones, K 2016 *Uncertain Prospects: Public parks in the new age of austerity*. Report for The Gardens Trust
- *Sports and Recreation Buildings: Listing Selection Guide 2017*. Available [here](#)



Bandstand at Town Park, Netteswell, Harlow, Essex. This is an innovative design, dating from 1973, sited within the Grade II listed public park planned in 1949-1953 by Frederick Gibberd, masterplanner for Harlow New Town, and the celebrated landscape architect Dame Sylvia Crowe. © Historic England Archive DP247786



Apollo Cinema, Newport Road, Stafford, Staffordshire. The Odeon Theatre or Odeon Cinema opened in 1936 and like many was converted into a bingo hall before being re-opened as Stafford Cinema. The building was empty in 2020. © Historic England Archive NWC01/01/3087



The football ground at Willington, County Durham, survives from the 1930s. Whilst its buildings have typically been rebuilt, they form part of a well-preserved landscape which has significance for this former coal-mining community. © Jeremy Lake



The Bowling Green and pavilion at Cripplegate Park in Worcester, built between 1928 and 1940, is a good example of the vernacular revival style favoured by sports clubs. The green is still well used by teams from across the city and Malvern Hills District.

Religious, ritual and funerary

Sites, buildings, structures and features related to the practice of rituals and religious beliefs, including funerary rites. This includes ancillary buildings, structures and features of uncertain use, which are thought to be 'ritual' (for example, hill figures).

Places of worship have continued to be central to the lives of communities.

- In very broad terms, Gothic and other mainstream styles are joined by Modernist styles by the inter-war period, the distinctive brickwork and dramatic massing of Dutch and Scandinavian architecture being particularly influential before 1940.
- The construction, design and massing of the most innovative Anglican and Roman Catholic churches and chapels of the period from the 1950s, which are concentrated in growing suburban areas, resulted from the desire for the congregation to be closer to the priest and the sacraments and so break away from earlier longitudinal forms. Around two thirds of Roman Catholic churches in England date from the 20th-century, after the consecration of Westminster Cathedral in 1910, and most of those from between 1950 and 1970.
- Nonconformist places of worship continued to follow earlier traditions that since the 17th century had given primacy to seeing and hearing the preacher, the most innovative and ground-breaking in their architectural treatment again dating from the 1950s–1960s.
- The strength of the post-war evangelical movement can find its expression in innovative and American-influenced places of worship, but equally if not more so, it has adapted or simply used other spaces such as sports and school halls.
- Islamic, Sikh and Hindu places of worship followed the pattern of earlier Christian denominations – practice in homes and other premises prior to the building and establishment of their own places of worship.

Churchyards and, from the early 1900s, crematoria with their gardens of rest were sited away from centres of population from the late 19th-century; most of the latter date from the 1950s. Some of these have considerable significance as designed landscapes.

Key sources

- *19th- and 20th-Century Roman Catholic Churches* 2017. Available [here](#)
- Saleem S 2018 *The British Mosque: An Architectural and Social History*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press
- *Places of Worship: Listing Selection Guide* 2017. Available [here](#)
- *Nonconformist Places of Worship: Introductions to Heritage Assets* 2016. Available [here](#)



St Winefride's Church is a fine example (now listed grade II) of the work of Francis Xavier Velarde which was built to serve its surrounding Catholic community in the suburb of Monkmoor, Shrewsbury. © Historic England Archive DP235130



The 'new' Somers Park Methodist Chapel in Malvern, dated 1936, is an expressive example of the Fre Style favoured by some Nonconformist congregations from the late 19th-century. © Worcestershire County Council



Over the 20th-century immigrant communities have continued to adapt earlier buildings for worship and mark their identity and sense of community with new buildings. The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Ostra Brama in Kidderminster was opened to serve members of the Polish community in 1963.

Transport and travel

The growth of the national road network, maintained by public highway authorities, and then of car ownership from the 1920s transformed individual mobility. Concerns emerged about the impact of development, including along roads, at the same time that a variety of publications – including the Shell County guides from the 1930s – met growing demand for the exploration and discovery of rural landscapes and heritage; the Trunk Act of 1936 transferred responsibility for roads to the Ministry of Transport. Motorways developed later than in other parts of Europe, from the late 1950s. Multi-storey car parks were built from the 1930s and were built in great numbers from the 1960s; the latter will have greater significance if they display great innovation in their planning and may be integrated with shopping centres of some architectural interest.

Another significant but often overlooked aspect of this theme is how bridges were adapted and strengthened to take motor transport. There are relatively few 20th-century bridges that – largely due to their construction and design in reinforced concrete or as suspension bridges in steel and concrete – have national significance on account of their engineering virtuosity. Wartime portable bridges, most numerous being the Bailey bridges manufactured from 1941, can be found reused as road or pedestrian bridges.

The canal infrastructure and abandoned railway lines now play a significant role for leisure and recreation. The rail infrastructure of the previous century continued in large part to be reused until the Beeching cuts of the 1960s. Mechanised marshalling yards and container transport developed in the 1920s–1930s. The growth of the national road network and of civil aviation from the 1920s is associated with the construction of garages, filling stations and of airfields, and of the provision of signposting (usually with a distinct county brand) and of emergency call boxes installed by the AA and RAC. Complete pre-1940 examples of the latter are now rare, particularly if associated with any terminals, hangars or hotels. Passenger air travel experienced massive growth from the 1960s.

Key sources

- *Buildings and Infrastructure for the Motor Car: Introductions to Heritage Assets* 2016. Available [here](#)
- *Infrastructure: Transport: Listing Selection Guide*. Available [here](#)
- Morrison, K A and Minnis, J 2012 *Carscapes: The Motor Car, Architecture and Landscapes in England*. London: Yale University Press, in association with English Heritage



The Ling Forest, Eakring Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire © Historic England Archive DP175913



An inter-war, rural filling station and tearoom in Worcestershire. Recently demolished as part of re-development plans. © Worcestershire County Council



Vintage petrol pumps near Arkle Town in Langthwaite. © Miles Johnson, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority



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