

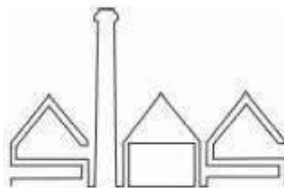
LOCAL HERITAGE LIST FOR SOMERSET CRITERIA



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On behalf of the Statutory Planning Authorities of Somerset

The Slipway at Watchet Harbour © Robin Drayton (cc-by-sa/2.0)

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Age

Definition

Age is often associated with rarity and with providing a record of the past (evidential value), however, it has a wider relevance to heritage value. The age of an asset bestows authenticity, and the tangible connection ('time-turner') to our past.

Variations in form, function and style often align with the development of ideas, technology or significant events over time. By understanding the age of an asset, we can appreciate its historic context and cherish its surviving characteristics.

Application

Assets of any date will be considered, with modern assets included, if they hold other values in the selection criteria or if it has received an award, recognition, or it represents an important event.

Significance relating to Age can depend on its historic and cultural context. The age range relevant to different asset types will be guided by factors such as distinctive local characteristics, significant design, technical and social developments, styles and building traditions.

For instance, sites and structures relating to locally important industries will be considered. The 19th century limekiln at Ash Wood, Ash Priors, is a good example from the extensive lime burning industry of rural Somerset. Kilns were built into quarry faces, cliffs and hillsides for the production of lime to spread on poor soils and for building. The 1932 'Building B' of the former Morlands Factory in Glastonbury is a distinctive reminder of the long-standing sheepskin industry of Somerset.

Other assets reflect important technical and social changes. At a road junction in West End, Wedmore, stands an 1880s highway guidepost; one of the first guideposts to be erected in cast iron and a forerunner to their standardisation and widespread use in the early 20th century alongside the rise of the motor vehicle. Frome's 'Old Fire Station' was completed in 1895 as a replacement for housing two horse drawn steam pumped engines. By 1970 it was also superseded for a larger station.



FROME OLD FIRE STATION

© KEVIN HALE (CC-BY-SA/2.0)

Aspects to consider

- ✓ Depth of time
 - ✓ Context with historic events
 - ✓ The surviving proportion of an asset's original form
-
- When investigating the age of a heritage asset, look at the 1840s Tithe map and early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.
 - Evidence for the age of the asset may also appear on historic documents such as deeds, legal contracts, archive newspapers or private plans and estate schedules.
 - The asset, itself, may have a foundation stone, plaque, or commemorative signage to suggest its age, although these may relate to a rebuild or addition, new ownership, or have been moved from elsewhere.
 - Assets may have features of interest from more than one period: a medieval building may exhibit changes made in the 18th century, an extension installed in the 19th century, or a separate use adopted in the late 20th century.



TAUNTON BUS STATION

© PETER WRIGHT



WEST END GUIDEPOST, WEDMORE

© SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST

Rarity

Definition

In general, the more unusual an asset is in either a national or a Somerset context, the more likely it will hold valuable evidence of the past. Furthermore, it is likely to be a curiosity due to its uniqueness. Assets will be judged against local characteristics, on a county basis, for different types and themes.

Application

Rarity can be assessed on both the function and the attributes of a heritage asset, so for example, if a building is of a similar date and style to those around it but is one of the few to retain original features, it would be deemed rare.

On Exmoor, prehistoric stone settings are smaller and have unusual patterns compared to typical nationwide examples. Conversely, Romano-British field systems are unusual on Exmoor whilst being common in a national context. Both contexts would qualify the asset for nomination. Other examples would be the experimental post WWII Petter/Nissen houses near Yeovil and the little altered group of 19th century estate cottages attached to Pennard House, East Pennard.

Aspects to consider

- ✓ Surviving examples of its kind
- ✓ Evident threats
- ✓ The surviving proportion of its original form

- When identifying heritage assets for nomination, think about the asset's features and attributes – what makes it stand out and are there similar examples nearby?
- Think about architectural embellishments, landscape features, associated artifacts, later refurbishment/repair work, etc.
- Additionally, look at the condition of the asset – has it survived intact where others are in a poor state of preservation? Has the original design/layout been preserved despite later uses? Or has it been unusually adapted from another use? Is it a particularly good example of its kind?
- Sometimes, even the smallest feature of an asset can contribute to its rarity, so in-depth research is worthwhile.



CATCHWORK MEADOW SYSTEM AT
CLOGG'S FARM, EXMOOR
HISTORIC ENGLAND

Distinctive Design

Definition

Distinctive Design describes both the design and the aesthetic value of an asset relating to style, layout, materials, construction techniques, artistry, craftsmanship, and other distinctive characteristics. It can arise from conscious design or from fortuitous events - such as the organic evolution of a place or the patina of time.

Architectural interest lies in the art or science of the design, construction, craft, and structure of all types of buildings. In addition to this, design interest lies in the human skills of decorative building elements, sculpture and other displays of public art.

Application

Distinctive Design would include an asset valued locally for its 'polite' architectural design or vernacular interest; association with a locally or nationally notable architect, designer, or engineer; demonstrates design features of exceptional quality; or includes features characteristic of the local area.

Examples include: the former vicarages of Burrowbridge and East Brent, the cob buildings in the west of the county, demonstrating a distinct regional construction technique; and the striking geometric sculptures of the late Phillip King in Street, being the work of a nationally important British sculptor.



THE ORIGINAL INFANTS SCHOOL, TAUNTON,
BY RICHARD CARVER

© SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST

Aspects to consider

- ✓ Artistic distinction – both intrinsic and group contribution
 - ✓ Qualities in the fabric innovation
 - ✓ Representation of regional or local variation
 - ✓ Illustration of important aspects of regional history
 - ✓ Level of alteration
-
- Does it illustrate a typical method of construction, building technique, local materials and/or unique characteristics that are locally distinctive to that region?
 - Does the asset enhance the local area and would the character of the local area be diminished by the loss of the building or site?
 - Is the asset prominent within its surroundings?



FORMER VICARAGE, EAST BRENT
© SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST



BARRAGE BALLOON HANGAR, PAWLETT
© RUTH RIDDLE (CC-BY-SA/2.0)

Historical Association

Definition

The value of a heritage asset may be derived from an historical association of local or national note. This could be with a significant person or group, with an important event, or from the collective experience of a place.

Application

Heritage assets with historic value provide a material record of our history as well as meaning for communities. Structures or places associated with historic and traditional cultural activities may be included if their historic origins are well documented.

An innocuous looking earthwork in the Hoar Oak valley, near Simonsbath, relates to the enclosure of the Exe Plain. Here were found 12 stone slabs, drilled and intended as gateposts – a critical component in the process of enclosure. To the west of Kilmersdon Church rises a steep footpath to a hillside well, purported to be the inspiration for the ‘Jack and Jill’ nursery rhyme. The route is now marked by a delightful stone relief and a series of inscribed way markers.



JACK AND JILL HILL,
KILMERSDON

© SOUTH WEST HERITAGE
TRUST

Aspects to consider

- ✓ Level of connection
- ✓ Importance of the historical association
- When considering if your asset has historic interest, look for connections it may have with notable (local or national historic individuals, groups, and events. This could include the birthplace of a local figure, the meeting place of an influential group, or the site of a significant social event. Several areas around Somerset have connections with writers, such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge with the Quantock Hills, R. D. Blackmore with Exmoor, and Arthur C. Clarke with Minehead and Bishop’s Lydeard.
- Think, also, about whether the asset has been an integral part of the development of the local community's identity, such as a place of worship or a large industrial employer and if it has remained the focus of the community up to the present day.



BLUE ANCHOR TRAIN STATION, ON THE WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY

© MATTBUCK (CC BY-SA/3.0)

Evidential Value

Definition

Heritage assets will likely provide evidence about past human activity, which may be archaeological (often buried remains), but also revealed in standing structures and in our manmade landscape. This information is part of the primary record for the development and people of a place. Evidential value is of great importance for poorly documented and underrepresented aspects of our past, normally associated with age, but it can be relevant to assets of any period.

Application

Although evidential value is commonly thought of in terms of archaeological sites, it can apply to any asset, as a whole or in part, which contains information about its past uses and occupants. This includes such things as timber framing in buildings, preserved garden layouts, gravestone designs, farmstead buildings, and historic graffiti, etc. The evidential value of an asset is enhanced by its association with other assets.

Alongside Whatley Church is a complex of earthworks related to an deserted settlement. The well-preserved depressions in the paddock and churchyard indicate abandoned house platforms, a main street and boundary bank. The smoke blackening of the roof timbers belonging to The Bays in Wearne supports the evidence that it originated as a 15th century open-hall house.

Aspects to consider

- ✓ Level of preservation
- ✓ Contribution to regional research objectives
- ✓ The survival of contextual associations

- When deciding if your nominated asset has evidential interest, think about what it could tell us about people in the area's past. Does it contain or is it associated with the direct evidence to help us understand those people in the form of artefacts, original structures or internal features, evidence of particular activities or events?
- It may be that the asset is described in contemporary and historic written accounts, images (photos, engravings, paintings, etc) or mapping, all of which is useful information to include in your nomination.



RUINED COTTAGE IN THE
ABANDONED VILLAGE OF CLICKET

© BRUCE INDUNI

Social and Communal Value

Definition

Social and Communal value is reflected in assets that are treasured by a particular community, be it through locality or shared identity, due to its strong community or historical association, or from its striking visual presence.

All communities or groups should have the ability to nominate assets which reflect their collective experience and how they identify in the present day.

Application

As well as prominent buildings, it can include plaques, monuments, artwork and landscapes. It may be a special place where people gather, an asset that played a significant role in the history of the group, or symbolises wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

Examples include St Matthew's Field, the home of Bridgwater's fair since the early 15th century, Watchet's former lifeboat station and now the local library, and the spiritual labyrinth interpreted in the terraced slopes of Glastonbury Tor.



HUMPHREY THE CAMEL, M5

© ANDY BENNETT

Aspects to consider

- ✓ Landmark visibility
- ✓ Illustration of community identity

- Look for features with special local or national historical connections that contribute to the social or communal history of an area.
- In some cases, significance is enhanced by a perceived local identity or social interaction, which could include intangible aspects of heritage that contribute to the “collective memory” of a place.
- A community under threat may coalesce around a particular asset, or a building or landscape feature may be a focal point for the development of a new sense of community as places expand and change.
- Buildings that have had a use that is significant to locale, such as a water pump house, a corner shop, community hall or local pub could all be nominated.
- Other examples of buildings holding social and/or communal value may include churches, schools, village and town halls, chapels, public libraries, memorials, and places of employment and workhouses. These all could have formed a focal point or key social role in the historical development of the area.
- Describe the value of this asset to the community. What role is this asset playing in developing community identity now or in the recent past?



**FITZHEAD'S 14C TITHE BARN,
NOW IN USE AS THE
COMMUNITY'S VILLAGE HALL**

© LIZZIE INDUNI



GLASTONBURY TOR'S TERRACED SLOPES

© TREEHOUSE1977 (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Group Value

Definition

Group value occurs when assets with a visual, design or historic relationship are clustered together and form a setting that tells us about the historic, economic, industrial and/or social development of that place, or simply form a visually pleasing place. An asset grouping can contribute to the street scene, roofscape, landscape, and the understanding or perception of a place.

Application

In some cases, heritage assets may have been originally intended to exist as part of a wider complex, such as a model settlement, factory, civic quarter, planned square or terrace. In these instances, all the surviving elements of the original group should be considered together. Group value also will be applicable to organic grouping of heritage assets that have evolved over time.

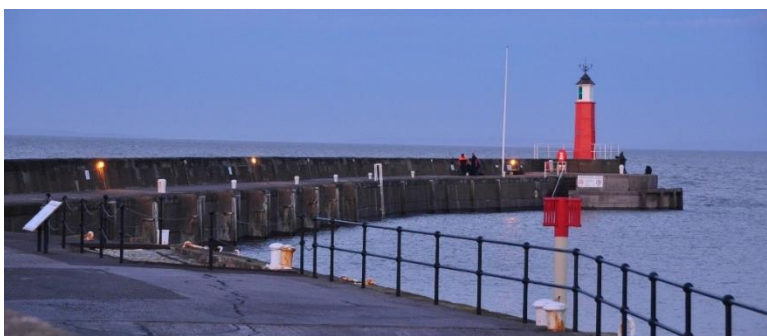
While designated heritage assets cannot be included in the Local Heritage List, a non-designated heritage asset can be nominated for inclusion if it is considered to have Group Value with neighbouring designated assets.

The Civic Campus of Taunton includes a varied collection of Victorian and modern architecture, including the unlisted 1960s buildings of B and C Blocks and the former Taunton Police Station. In one corner of the speculative 1930s Highlands housing estate of Taunton, is an unusual cluster of 'International' houses, a style that failed to be adopted for the completion of the estate. The working harbours of Watchet and Porlock Weir possess a rugged beauty, and the specialist buildings of historic farmsteads will often display strong vernacular character and an insight into former farming practices.

Aspects to consider

- ✓ Architectural or historic units
- ✓ Contribution to the character or integrity of an area

- When assessing a heritage asset for nominating under Group Value, look at other sites in the surrounding area. Are there assets of a similar nature or which relate to the same phase, activity, or event?
- Remember that assets within a grouping do not have to be the same type, so buildings and buried remains, or landscapes and monuments can all be viewed together and contribute to the Group Value.



WATCHET HARBOUR, WESTERN PIER

© LEWIS CLARKE
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Collective Value

Definition

Collective value occurs when an asset is part of a wider, dispersed, collection of related heritage assets. The asset both derives and contributes evidential and social value from being a part of the collection.

Application

Collections of heritage assets will normally be of the same type of site, monument or structure and may demonstrate technical advances or stylistic variations, or contribute to the character of a wider area.

While designated heritage assets cannot be included in the Local Heritage List, a non-designated heritage asset can be nominated for inclusion if it is considered to have Collective Value with designated assets.

The pillboxes and defensive obstacles of the WWII anti-invasion Taunton Stop Line are a good example of assets with Collective Value. The surviving features are stretched across Somerset following the line of the waterways they reinforced. The towns of Minehead and Frome are enhanced by notable collections of decorative cast iron lamp columns dotted around their streets. The home farm, workers' cottages, and outbuildings of a county estate will often share a distinct and harmonious architectural style that influences the character of the local landscape.

Aspects to consider

- ✓ Contribution to historic character
 - ✓ Contribution to regional research objectives
 - ✓ The level of preservation.
-
- Consider the characteristics and the regional significance of the collection.
 - When assessing a heritage asset for its Collective Value, consider if the asset is a good 'fit' and its contribution to the heritage value of the collection.



PILLBOX ON THE TAUNTON STOP LINE

© SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST



LAMP STANDARD, MINEHEAD

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