

Proposed Listing Criteria for Local Heritage List

'Local Heritage Lists are a means for stakeholders, the community, and a local planning authority to jointly identify heritage assets that are valued as distinctive elements of the local heritage/identity of a place. It provides clarity on the location of assets and what it is about them that is significant. It can also play a key part in promoting the cultural identity of a place for various purposes, including investment and tourism.' Local Heritage Listing Toolkit, Civic Voice

What is the purpose of a Local Heritage List?

- To raise awareness of an area's local heritage assets and their importance to local distinctiveness.
- To inform developers, owners, council officers and members about buildings within the local authority boundary that are desirable to retain and protect.
- To provide guidance and specialist advice to owners to help protect the character and setting of those buildings, structures, sites and landscapes.
- To help the council in its decision making when discussing proposals and determining planning applications.
- To record the nature of the local historic environment more accurately.

Selection Criteria

The designation of 'local interest' shall apply to buildings/structures/spaces/landscaped areas that meet one or more of the criteria given below provided that its historic form and qualities have not been eroded by unsympathetic alteration or extension. The selection criteria is based on those set out in the Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing by English Heritage in 2012 and reflected in the 2016 edition by Historic England. Heritage assets designated by Historic England and featured on the National Heritage list will not be considered for inclusion on this list.

Types of Heritage in Swale

1. Buildings or structures of local significance
2. Green spaces/ landscapes of local significance
3. Landscape historically associated with war time use – for e.g.: a WW1 shooting range.
4. Industrial heritage - unique to Swale and its history
5. Unlisted Blue plaque buildings
6. Agricultural buildings (Swale is rural, many barns are older than their industrial counterparts. Consider farms and barns.)
7. Clusters of buildings (would they be changed by new/intrusive development which could change a small cluster)
8. The interaction and relationship of small group of buildings – Significant contribution to the townscape or streetscape
9. Archaeological Heritage

Criteria for local listing

The criteria have been developed using national guidance in an attempt to recognise those heritage assets of local importance. The criteria are subject to public consultation before formally adopted.

Heritage assets should be of architectural or historical interest, or both.

They should then fit into one or more of the following General Principles of Selection:

- Age and rarity
- Aesthetic Interest
- Group value
- Archaeological / and or Archival Interest
- Landmark qualities
- Intactness (state of originality)
- Designed Landscape interest
- Social and communal value

Swale Borough Council is proposing to adopt the following criteria for a Local Heritage List within the borough – any one of which may in isolation be considered sufficient:

- Historic interest – buildings/structures/spaces that are of special social, cultural, or economic interest to Swale, and/or have proven affiliation with important local people or events, or other community associations.
- Architectural interest – buildings/structures/spaces that are of special architectural interest to Swale for reasons of their vernacular, aesthetic, type, form, style, plan technology, townscape, unity, or association with important architects.
- Age or rarity – buildings/structures/spaces that are: legibly pre-1700 in interest; of appreciable interest from between 1700–1840; of a high level of interest post-1840; of an outstanding interest and less than 30 years old.

Architectural Interest

1. If the building was built before 1840, does it survive in anything like its original external condition?
2. If it was built between 1840-1899 (Victorian), does it retain its original features? Is it of sufficient quality to distinguish it from other buildings of that period locally?
3. If it was built between 1900-1919 (early 20th century), does it retain its original features? Is it of sufficient quality to distinguish it from other buildings of that period locally?
4. If it was built between 1920-1938, is it an outstanding example of the style of the period?
5. If it was built between 1939-1945, is it a rare surviving example of a wartime structure?
6. If it was built after 1945, is it a building of exceptional quality and design? Does it represent a specific type of building type design from that period.
7. Was the building or structure designed by an architect/craftsperson of national or local importance?
8. Has the building received a national award or recognition?
9. Is it an example of a style of building that is special to Swale?
 - Shipbuilding and the barge trade
 - Brick making
 - Paper making
 - Military installations, including gunpowder production
 - Brewing

- Fruit and hop culture – e.g. with reference to oasts

10. Is it a group of buildings that together are a good surviving example of an historic architectural style, particularly one associated with Kent?

- public houses – including “Roadhouses” built between the World Wars – when the motorcar was becoming popular
- village accommodation once reserved for paupers - Alms Houses
- buildings that have been/ were prominent in the life of the community such as:
 - village halls
 - forges
 - post-offices
 - schools
 - oasts
 - sail-lofts
 - other historic buildings which used to be devoted to local industry.
 - residences or buildings associated with notable public figures, places of worship, Gatehouses.

11. Does the building or structure exhibit important characteristics of design, decoration, or craftsmanship? For example, a mural, or clock or decorative tile work on an otherwise undistinguished building.

12. Is it a good early example of a particular technological innovation in building/structure type and technique? For example, viaduct and similar engineered spans.

Historic Interest

13. Is the building or structure associated with an important national or local historic figure or event?

14. Is it a building, structure or item of street furniture which has an important association with the development of the town or its social or cultural history? For example, schools, churches, public buildings, mileposts, boundary markers and old letter boxes.

15. Is it a building, structure or item of street furniture which has an important association with the history of the area’s local economic development? For example, agricultural, industrial, commercial or transport buildings and structures.

16. If a structure such as a wall, terracing or garden building, is it associated with a historic landscape or is it of identifiable importance to the historic design or development of the area?

Contribution to townscape

17. Is it a significant landmark building, folly or curiosity that makes a positive contribution to the streetscape?

18. Does the building or group of buildings contribute significantly to the townscape, street scene or appearance of the area?

19. Is it a rare surviving example of street furniture that contributes positively to the local area?