

July 2024

# Issues and options consultation document

## Heritage

### Incorporating Identification of heritage assets

Preserving our cultural heritage is a fundamental responsibility of the local council, reflecting our commitment to safeguarding the legacy of past generations for the benefit of present and future residents. The identification of heritage assets is a crucial step in this process, enabling us to recognize, protect, and celebrate the diverse range of historic, architectural, and archaeological treasures within our local area.

#### Defining Heritage Assets:

Heritage assets encompass a broad spectrum of tangible and intangible elements that contribute to the cultural identity and heritage significance of our locality. These may include:

**Listed Buildings:** Buildings or structures of special architectural or historic interest designated by Historic England or the relevant national authority. Listed buildings are categorized into Grades I, II\*, and II, reflecting their significance and level of protection.

**Conservation Areas:** Designated areas of special architectural or historic interest, where special planning regulations are in place to preserve and enhance their character and appearance.

**Archaeological Sites:** Sites of archaeological significance, ranging from ancient settlements and burial grounds to industrial remains and battlefield sites, providing valuable insights into our past.

**Historic Parks and Landscapes:** Parks, gardens, and landscapes with historic, architectural, or horticultural significance, reflecting changing tastes, social attitudes, and land management practices over time.

#### Identifying Heritage Assets:

The identification of heritage assets involves a systematic process of research, survey, and evaluation to identify and assess their significance. This includes:

**Historic Environment Records (HERs):** Consultation of local and national databases, archives, and records maintained by Historic England and other heritage organizations to compile comprehensive inventories of known heritage assets.

**Field Surveys and Assessments:** Physical surveys and assessments conducted by qualified heritage professionals to identify and evaluate potential heritage assets, considering their historical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural significance.

**Community Engagement:** Consultation with local communities, heritage groups, and stakeholders to gather local knowledge, memories, and insights into the significance of heritage assets within their neighborhoods.

**Expert Advice:** Collaboration with heritage experts, conservation architects, archaeologists, and other specialists to provide professional guidance and expertise in identifying and assessing heritage assets.

## Preserving Our Cultural Legacy:

Once identified, heritage assets are afforded appropriate protection and management to ensure their long-term preservation and enjoyment by current and future generations. This may include:

**Conservation and Maintenance:** Implementing conservation policies and guidelines to ensure the sensitive repair, maintenance, and enhancement of listed buildings, conservation areas, and historic landscapes.

**Planning Controls:** Incorporating heritage considerations into the planning process through the designation of conservation areas, the implementation of development controls, and the requirement for heritage impact assessments for proposed developments.

**Education and Interpretation:** Promoting public awareness and appreciation of heritage assets through educational initiatives, interpretation panels, heritage trails, guided tours, and community events.

**Partnerships and Funding:** Collaborating with heritage organizations, funding bodies, and community groups to secure resources, grants, and funding for the conservation, restoration, and interpretation of heritage assets.

## Heritage significance assessment

Preserving our cultural heritage is a cornerstone of our local council's commitment to maintaining the identity and character of our community. To ensure the effective management and protection of our heritage assets, we have developed a comprehensive Heritage Significance Assessment methodology. This methodology provides a systematic framework for evaluating the historical, architectural, cultural, and archaeological importance of different heritage assets within our locality.

## Methodology for Assessing Heritage Significance:

**Identification of Heritage Assets:** The first step in our assessment methodology involves identifying and documenting heritage assets within our community. This includes buildings, structures, landscapes, archaeological sites, and other tangible and intangible elements with cultural significance.

**Historical Context:** We consider the historical context of each heritage asset, examining its origins, development, and evolution over time. By understanding the historical significance of these assets, we can better appreciate their contributions to our shared heritage.

**Architectural Analysis:** Our assessment methodology includes a detailed architectural analysis of heritage buildings and structures. This involves examining their design, construction techniques, materials, and craftsmanship to assess their architectural significance and integrity.

**Cultural Importance:** Heritage assets often have cultural significance that extends beyond their physical characteristics. We consider the social, religious, and symbolic meanings associated with these assets, as well as their roles in shaping local identity and sense of place.

**Archaeological Value:** In addition to above-ground structures, our assessment methodology also considers the archaeological importance of heritage sites. This involves evaluating their potential to yield information about past human activity, including settlement patterns, land use, and cultural practices.

**(this is an example document)**