

Part 9 ▶ Historic Environment

Historic Environment design considerations for within road corridors and new developments



9.1 Introduction

The Historic Environment is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as ‘all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora’.

Paragraph 8 of the NPPF sets out how the planning system has three overarching objectives which need to be pursued to help achieve sustainable development. The protection and enhancement of the historic environment is referenced in the third of these objectives, highlighting its role in helping achieve sustainable development:

“an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment...”.

The historic environment is made up of heritage assets. The NPPF defines a heritage asset as being ‘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 includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the Local Planning Authority (including local listing)’.

Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance (NPPF, para. 189). Some of these may be statutorily protected, for example, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Park and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Conservation Areas etc.

As set out in paragraph 189 of the NPPF, heritage assets ‘are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner

appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations’.

Development can have both direct and indirect impacts on the historic environment. This can range from the disturbance or destruction of archaeological deposits during on-site works, to impacts on the setting of heritage assets within, or in the wider vicinity of, the application site.

This part of **The Warwickshire Design Guide** covers the information an applicant will need to provide with any application submitted to the Highway Authority.

Early consultation with WCC’s Archaeological Information and Advice team (AI&A) is recommended.



9.2 Historic Environment Impact Mitigation Process

To ensure that any potential impacts on any heritage assets, including archaeological features which survive across the site or in its wider vicinity, are identified and appropriately mitigated, it is recommended developers liaise with WCC’s Archaeological Information and Advice team at the early design stage.

Their contact details are:

Archaeological Information and Advice (AI&A)
Warwickshire County Council

PO Box 43

Shire Hall

Warwick CV34 4SX

Tel: **(01926) 412276**

Email: Planningarchaeologist@warwickshire.gov.uk

Advance fees will be agreed prior to any consultation and calculated according to the scale of the undertaking.

All applications where the proposed development involves any groundworks, landscaping, remedial works undertaken to treat poor ground conditions and/or installation of street furniture and equipment, shall either:

- provide a letter from the WCC Archaeological Information and Advice team confirming that either:
- no archaeological mitigation is necessary or,
- an appropriate strategy to mitigate any impacts the proposed development may have on any archaeological sites which survive within or in the wider vicinity of the application area has been developed. The application should include a document setting out the mitigation strategy, including a Written Scheme of Investigation for any archaeological work to be undertaken;
- or provide a report detailing the results of an Archaeological Assessment undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological contractor. The scope of the assessment, which may include archaeological evaluative fieldwork, should be agreed with the WCC Archaeological Information and Advice team in advance.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Warwickshire County Council must be accessed to inform this Assessment. The assessment must quote the unique HER search reference number; the on-line version is not suitable for use in the planning process. Further information on the Historic Environment Record can be found on the **HER webpage** - (www.warwickshire.gov.uk/herresourcesandinformation).

Information on the locations of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, and Battlefields is available from the **National Heritage List for England** - (www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/).

Existing planning consents may be subject to an archaeological condition which secures an archaeological mitigation strategy (which may include archaeological fieldwork) across the application site, or parts thereof. Developers should ensure the requirements of any such condition(s) have been satisfied and any highways proposal is not in conflict with any agreed mitigation strategy.

The AI&A team should also be consulted on any proposal to remove any hedgerow or part thereof.

Where there is a potential for a proposal to have an impact on historic buildings or structures and/or a Conservation Area, assessment by an appropriately experienced and qualified Conservation Specialist may be necessary.



9.3 Suggested Further Reading

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

National Planning Practice Guidance, in particular guidance on the Historic Environment (www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment)

Historic England's published planning advice at

www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/#Section4Text.

These include:

- **Good Practice Advice notes (GPAs)** - provide supporting information on good practice, particularly looking at the principles of how national policy and guidance can be applied.
- **Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs)** - include detailed, practical advice on how to implement national planning policy and guidance.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

The Hedgerows Regulations 1997