



Conserving Significance

Introduction to Identifying Values

Conservation defined (EH)

The process of *managing change* to a *significant* place in its setting in ways that will best sustain its *heritage values*, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.

Why use Conservation Principles?

Framework to:

Identify *what* is important in a historic designed landscape by being able to articulate *what makes it important*

Use this to compare relative importance of different features and areas of a landscape

Decide and demonstrate whether proposed changes would affect, positively or negatively, what matters in a designed landscape

The Concepts

- Conservation Principles – the overarching framework for careful and considered management
- Values – these describe the aspects or qualities of worth or importance that a place may have

These principles and values are then used to lay out processes for *assessing the heritage significance* of a place and *managing change to significant* places.

- Significance – the sum of the cultural and natural heritage values of a place

(Selected) Conservation Principles

Principle 3 – Understanding the significance of places is vital

Principle 4 – Significant places should be managed to sustain their values

Principle 5 – Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent

Understanding Values

Evidential value

Historical value

- Illustrative
- Associative

Aesthetic value

- Design
- Artistic
- Fortuitous

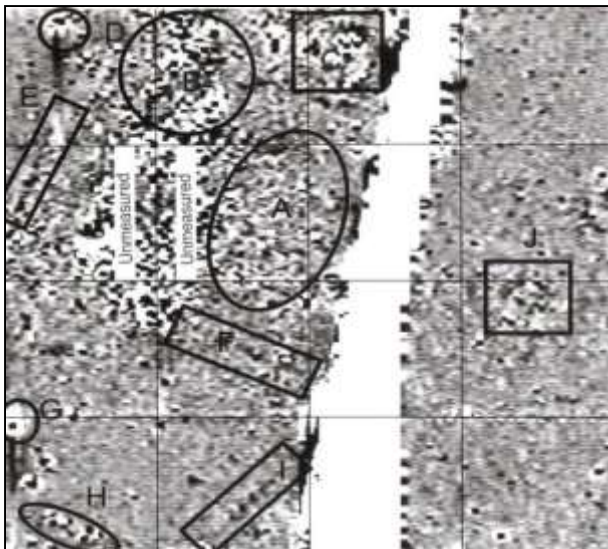
Communal value

- Commemorative and symbolic
- Social
- Spiritual

Sum of all these = Significance

Evidential value

The potential of a place to yield new evidence about past human activity



Historical values

Ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present



Associative



Illustrative

Aesthetic values

Ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place



Designed



Fortuitous

Communal values

The meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory



Social



Commemorative



Spiritual

Assessing Significance

- **Understand** the fabric and evolution of the place
- **Identify** who values the place and why





...Assessing Significance

- **Relate** identified heritage values to the fabric/features of the place
- **Consider** the relative importance of those identified values

...Assessing Significance

- **Consider** the contribution of associated objects and collections
- **Consider** the contribution made by setting and context

- Insert example of painting etc or item from archive that might strengthen or support a place's significance

...Assessing Significance

- **Compare** the place with other places sharing similar values
- **Articulate** the significance of the place



A tool to help

Feature	Evidential	Historical	Aesthetic	Communal
Fieldtree Park				
Northern Park				
Lake				
Temple				
Kitchen Garden				
View to tower				

- Insert extract from statement of significance as an example

3.2 Theme B - Overall Statement of Significance

3.2.1 Gunnersbury Park is a historic landscape that has continually evolved and expanded over the past 300 years, influenced and altered by its successive owners. Today it is a landscape from which emanates a unique, multi-faceted and fascinating history and which imparts a sense of peace and tranquillity. Situated in West London, it bears witness to the large country houses, owned by a wealthy elite, that surrounded London in the 18th and 19th century as well as the hey-day of municipal parks. Its owners have included Henry Furnese (a member of parliament), Princess Amelia (the daughter of King George II) and members of the Rothschild family (an eminent banking family). Between them, they entertained an array of politicians, statesmen, royalty, diplomats and envoys at Gunnersbury.

3.2.2 Gunnersbury Park's designations at national, regional and local level indicate clear cultural, historical, social, recreational and ecological significance and value. The Site contains 21 listed buildings and structures (four Grade II* and 17 Grade II) and is designated as a Grade II* on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, a Conservation Area, Greenspace and Metropolitan Open Land and also a nature conservation Site of Borough Importance, Grade II.

3.2.3 Its history is visible as layers in the landscape and built features, providing a unique record of its evolution. Its designed landscape has many aesthetic and scenic qualities, creating several interesting vistas across, in and out of the Park and many other unique features. The mansion's gardens, ornamental parkland, wooded lake, walled garden, amenity area and open playing fields all contribute to the Park's special character and structure and form the setting for the listed buildings and other surviving elements from the different phases of the Park's history. Gunnersbury Park could claim to have had the hand of W Kent, W Chambers, J C Loudon and J W Pulham in its making, their associations bringing additional value.

Statement of Significance for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site

I Summary statement of significance

The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments.

It comprises two areas of chalkland in Southern Britain within which complexes of Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments and associated sites were built. Each area contains a focal stone circle and henge and many other major monuments. At Stonehenge these include the Avenue, the Cursuses, Durrington Walls, Woodhenge and the densest concentration of burial mounds in Britain. At Avebury, they include Windmill Hill, the West Kennet Long Barrow, the Sanctuary, Silbury Hill, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues, the West Kennet Palisaded Enclosures and important barrows.

The World Heritage Site is of Outstanding Universal Value for the following qualities:

- Stonehenge is one of the most impressive prehistoric megalithic monuments in the world on account of the sheer size of its megaliths, the sophistication of its concentric plan and architectural design, the shaping of the stones, uniquely using both Wiltshire Sarsen sandstone and Pembroke Bluestone, and the precision with which it was built.
- At Avebury, the massive Henge, containing the largest prehistoric stone circle in the world, and Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric mound in Europe, demonstrate the outstanding engineering skills which were used to create masterpieces of earthen and megalithic architecture.
- There is an exceptional survival of prehistoric monuments and sites within the World Heritage Site including settlements, burial grounds, and large constructions of earth and stone. Today, together with their settings, they form landscapes without parallel. These complexes would have been of major significance to those who created them, as is apparent by the huge investment of time and effort they represent. They provide an insight into the mortuary and ceremonial practices of the period, and are evidence of prehistoric technology, architecture, and astronomy. The careful siting of monuments in relation to the landscape helps us to further understand the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

EH Register – Thornes Park

Summary of Garden

Thornes Park is a public park consisting of three historically distinct areas of landscaping, the earliest dating from the later C18. The public park was opened in 1891, with additions in 1919 and 1924.

Reasons for Designation

Thornes Park, Wakefield, is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- * Survival: It is a good example of an urban municipal park of the late C19 and early C20 where the layout survives almost intact
- * Historic Interest: it has added interest in the incorporation of a late C18 landscape possibly designed by John Carr, as well as a scheduled medieval motte and bailey castle earthwork.

EH Register – Gisburne Park

Summary of Garden

An early C18 formal garden and deer park associated with Gisburne Hall, overlain by an C18 landscaped park.

Reasons for Designation

This C18 formal garden and deer park, overlain by a landscaped park is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons: * Historic interest: the integrity of the early C18 formal garden and deer park phase is preserved and is highly visible * Historic interest: despite some loss of character in parts, it is a good example of a mid and later C18 landscaped park in the English natural style, and sufficient of its original landscaping survives to reflect its original design * Design influence: some elements of the landscaping appear to reflect the influence of a proposed early C18 design by Lord Robert Petre on subsequent generations of the Lister family * Group value: it has strong group value with a number of listed buildings including the Grade II* gate lodges and the Grade I Gisburne Hall * Tree nursery: the presence of the 'Great Nursery' on Coppy Hill is a striking and unusual feature.

John Betjeman's description, "...the nearest and strangest piece of country surviving in London" captures the unusual nature of this site which offers a remarkable combination of flora and fauna, social history and dramatic views in a built-up area of London evident of the rapid growth of London in the early twentieth century.

The hill is part of a chain of high points in south London and has been exploited as such for signalling purposes, whether commercial, defence, or in celebration, and as an important part of London's Great War defence. These purposes have been nearly lost in living memory although some of the structures remain.

Whilst many areas of the country claim cultural links with Elizabeth I, the legend of her visit to the hill in 1602 has been marked by a specimen oak for nearly 400 years, and this has specifically given its name to the local area and the hill itself, a fact of which many local people are probably unaware.

The 'agitation' which brought about the purchase of One Tree Hill for the public is an excellent demonstration 'in miniature' of the sort of protests that took place across the country by people that cared about the erosion of their 'rights' and held the belief that open space was important to social, mental and physical health. Such protests still continue today, particularly in London where waves of regeneration and development continue and small spaces come under threat. The actions of those protestors at the end of the nineteenth century have benefited generations of all social classes since. The role of the hill as a short cut also continues, particularly for local residents to reach Honor Oak Station, rather than the canal!

The prominent boundary marker on the summit represents a small piece in the jigsaw of the development of the London boroughs, and the ancient and near-forgotten traditions associated with a time before computerised mapping systems rendered such markers unnecessary.

Canterbury City Council

Statement of Significance – Memorial Park, Herne Bay (2007)

4.0 Significance: why do we value it as part of our heritage?

4.1 General statement of significance

Memorial Park was completed in the mid 1930's. It is therefore only 77 years old at the time of writing which makes it a relatively recent park. It was originally conceived as a memorial to those that lost their lives in the First World War. Despite its relative young age the park now forms an integral part of the town.

It possesses a number of original elements which are significant and need to be retained and conserved. Apart from these there is a wide range of features which could be changed or removed to adapt the park for present-day usage.

How can this relate to the work of CGTs?

Understanding and applying these principles can be used to

- help assess the impact of development on a landscape
- decide whether a developer has addressed significance in planning applications
- articulate the case for local listing of a landscape
- pinpoint what is important to convey about a site in visits, research reports, leaflets etc

