



Historic England

# Designating our designed landscape heritage: registering, listing, conservation areas and local lists

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## Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

- National Heritage Act 1983 enables Historic England to set up such a Register
- Established 1984
- Currently 1635 sites





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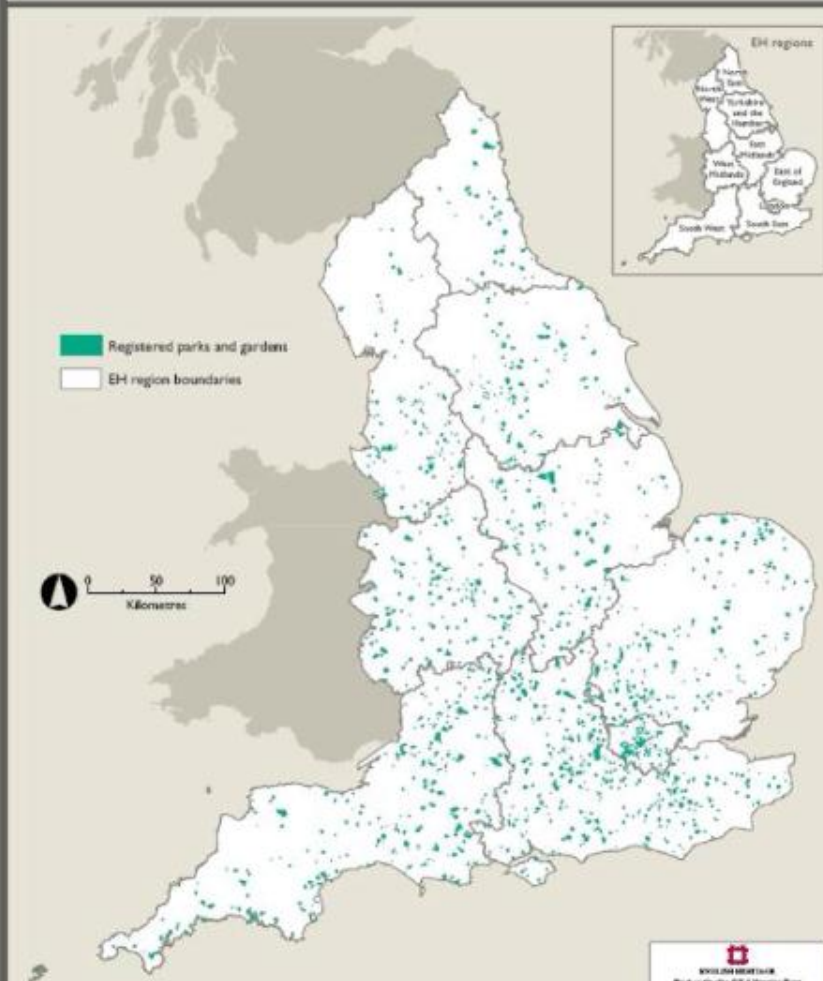
## Why register?

Following Historic England core objectives, the Register encourages:

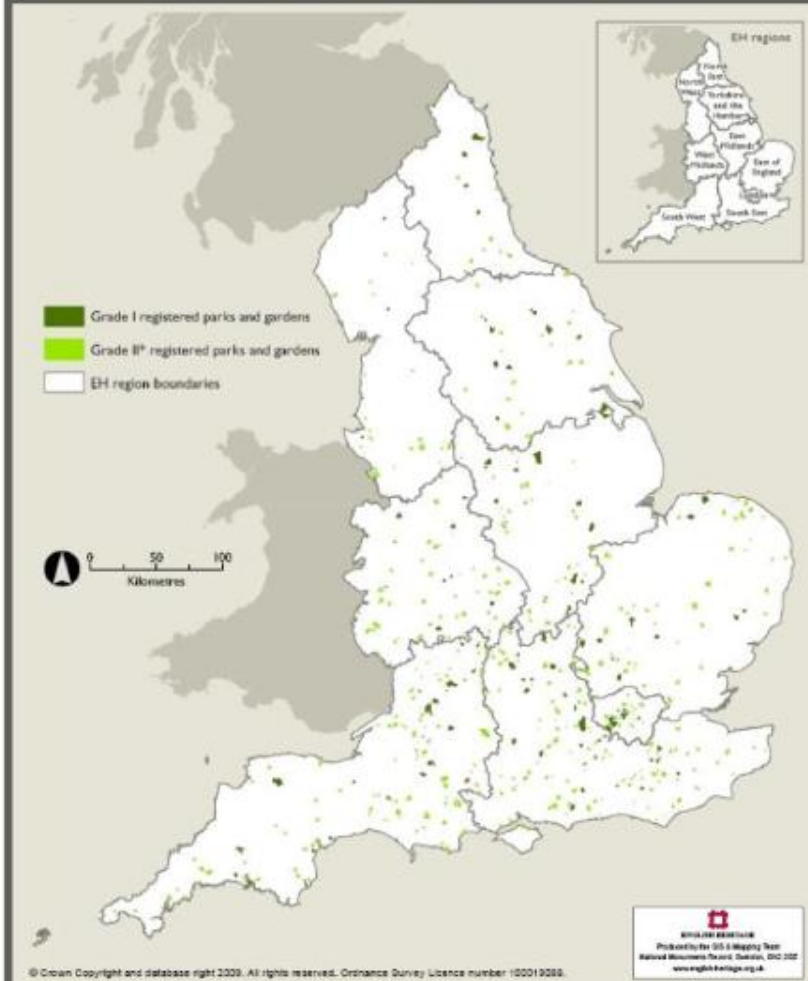
- Good long-term management, linking with conservation planning and our Conservation principles
- Access (but no presumption about such)
- interpretation



## National distribution of all registered parks and gardens



## National distribution of grade I and grade II\* registered parks and gardens





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## Grading

- Like buildings, designed landscapes included on the Register are graded I, II\* and II. All are by definition of national significance and all warrant every effort to preserve them.
- Grade I sites are of exceptional interest
- Grade II\* sites are of more than special interest
- Grade II sites are of special interest



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## Four broad landscape types

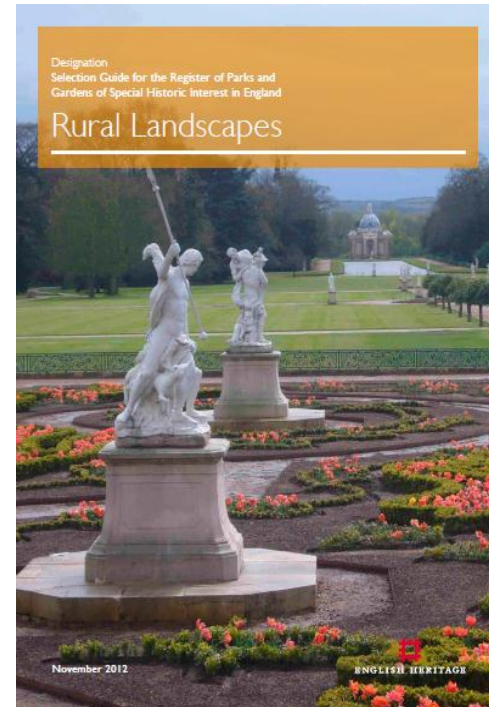
- Rural landscapes: such as deer parks, parks for country houses, appropriated natural landscapes, rectory grounds and the like, gardens around private houses (Arts & Craft and Modern), plant-centred gardens, sculpture parks and gardens;
- Urban landscapes: such as town walks and squares, pleasure gardens, public parks, private gardens, detached town gardens, allotments, nurseries, seaside gardens, botanic gardens, landscaping in the public realm;
- Landscapes of Remembrance: such as cemeteries, denomination burial grounds, crematoria, military cemeteries, institutional burial grounds, emergency mass burial grounds;
- Institutional landscapes: such as landscapes of health and welfare, schools, universities and colleges, government and civic buildings, utilities and infrastructure, military complexes, industry and commerce.



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## Historic England's Selection Guides

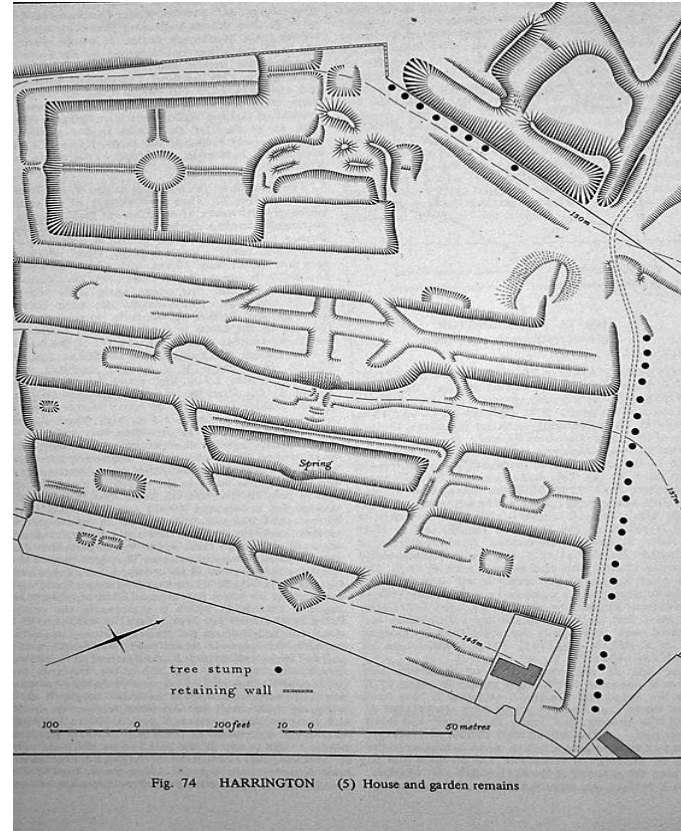
- Define and discuss the types of landscapes on the Register and offer detailed discussions of selection criteria
- Each guide includes a list to further reading. They are available at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/selection-criteria/pag-selection/>



# The Criteria

which define designed landscapes of national significance

- Sites formed pre-1750 where at least a proportion of the original layout is still in evidence



Harrington, Northants (Grade II\*)



Sites laid out between 1750-1840 where enough of the layout survives to reflect the original design.



Kenwood, Middlesex (Grade II\*)

Sites with a main phase post-1840 which are of special interest and relatively intact, the degree of required interest rising as the site becomes closer in time.



Rodmanton Manor, Gloucestershire (Grade II\*)

Particular careful selection is required for sites from the period after 1945. Sites less than 30 years old are normally only registered if they are outstanding and under threat

Japanese Garden at the New House, Shipton, Oxfordshire (Grade II\*)



Further considerations which may influence selection or exceptionally be sufficient by themselves to merit designation:

Sites which are early or representative examples of a type of site, style of layout, or of the work of a designer (amateur or professional) of national importance

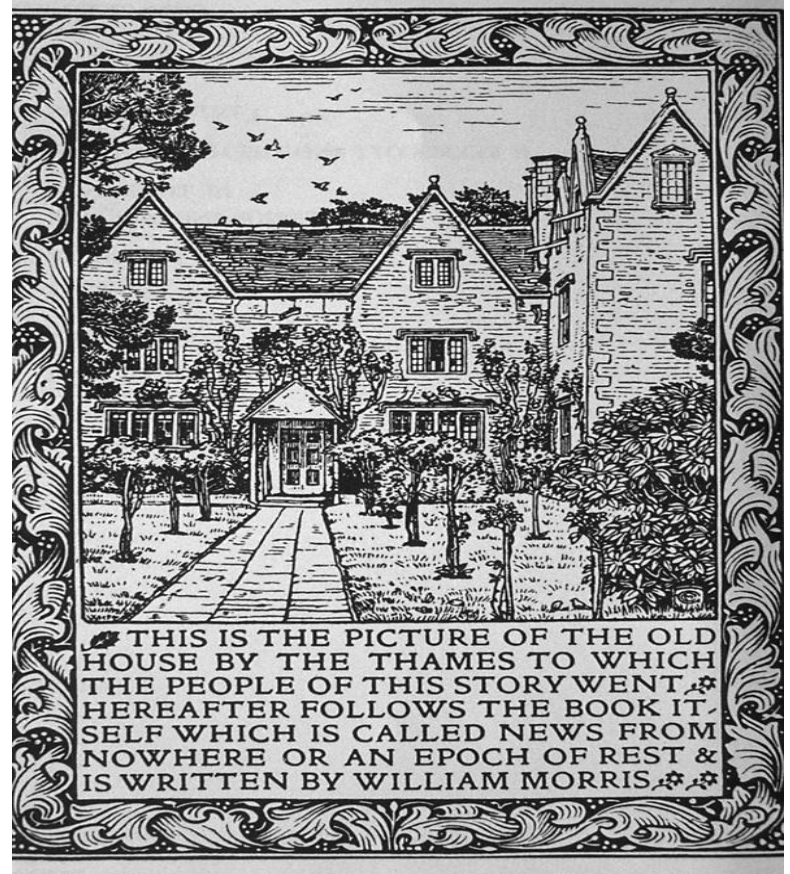


Key Hill Cemetery, Birmingham (Grade II\*)

Sites which were influential in the development of taste, whether through reputation or references in art or literature



Kelmscott Manor,  
Oxfordshire (Grade II)



Sites having an association with a significant person or event.



Barbara Hepworth's garden in St Ives, Cornwall (Grade II)

Boscobel House and the Royal Oak, Shropshire (Grade II)

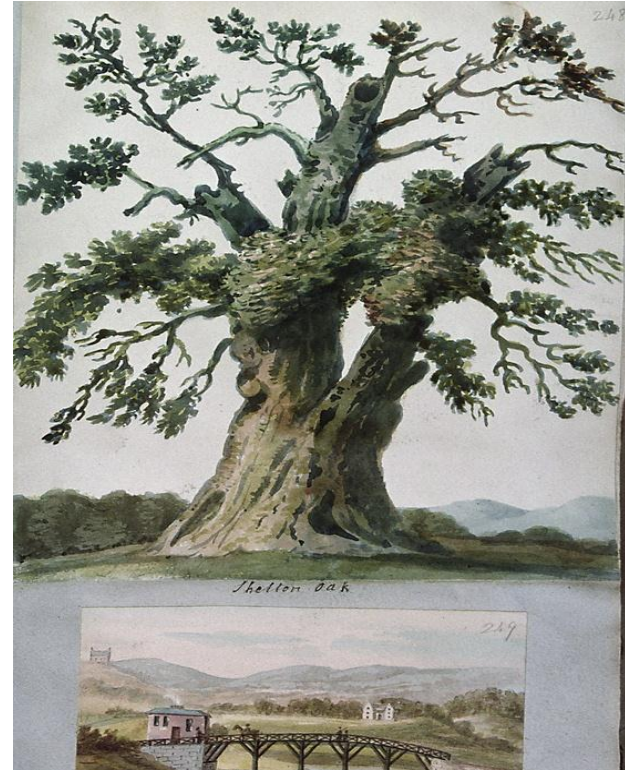
# Sites with a strong group value with other heritage assets



Staunton Harold, Leicestershire  
(grade II\*)

# Plants and trees

- Register concerns landscapes of historic significance: landscaping, buildings, water features, trees, and their inter-relationship.
- It is not about horticultural significance, although historic planting schemes, if influential, are relevant.
- There can be an overlap with national or local environmental designations (ie Ancient Woodland; TPOs, AONB, SSSI)



The Shelton Oak, Shrewsbury

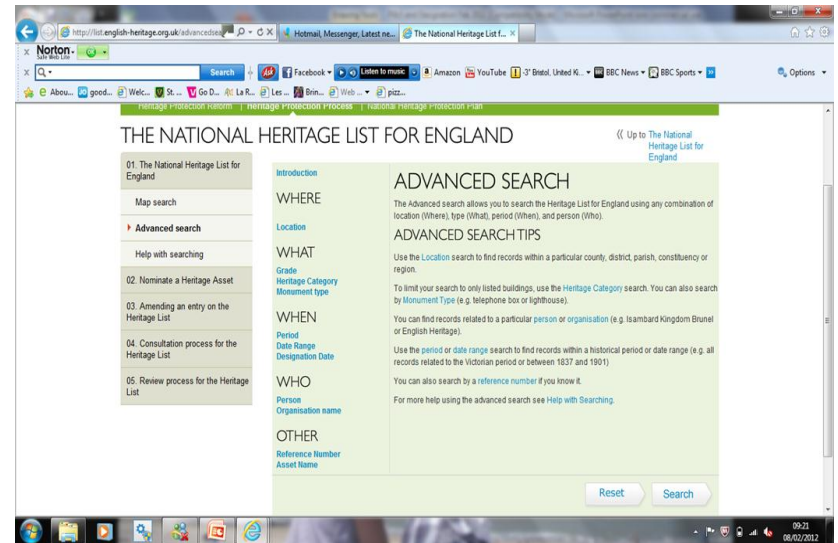




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## The Future

- Since 2010 the Register has been a component of the National Heritage List for England (NHLE): online, searchable
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> June 'Enriching the List' was launched
- The NHLE encourages a far less compartmentalised approach to designation; register entries, list entries and scheduling entries acknowledge each other

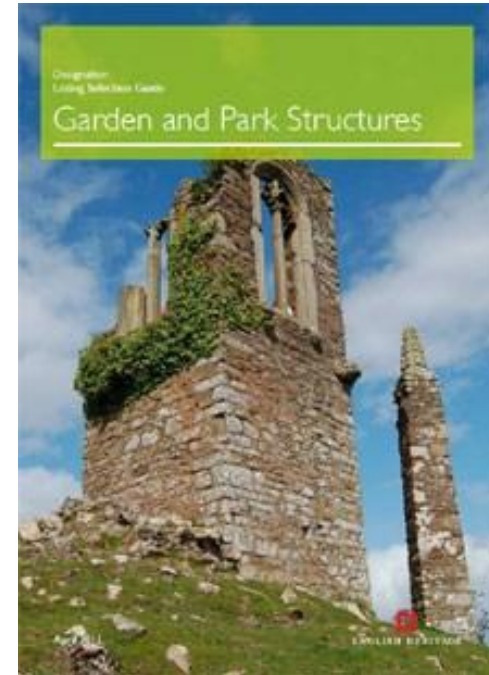




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## Listing

- 20 thematic selection guides
- Others of relevance include country houses and agricultural buildings
- Potentially listable structures in designed landscapes include home farms, kennels, boathouses, bridges, icehouses





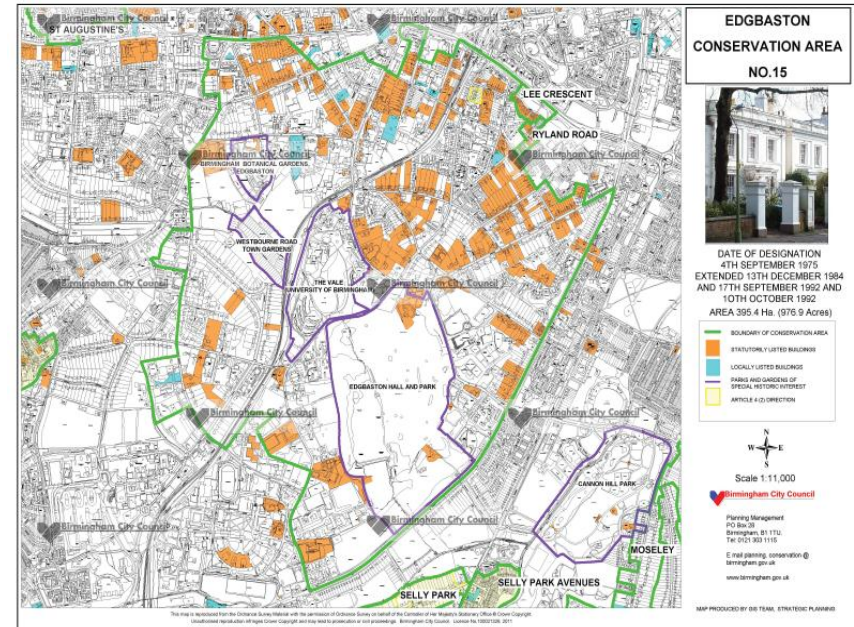
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## Conservation Areas

- First CAs were designated in 1967 and there are now over 8000 in England. They are designated by local authorities for their special architectural and historic interest.

There are many different types:

- Those centred on historic towns and cities
- Fishing and mining villages
- C18 and C19 suburbs
- Model housing estates
- Country houses set in their historic parks
- Historic transport links and their environs, such as stretches of canals



Edgbaston Conservation Area



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## Local Lists

- Play an essential role in building and reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness;
- Can be used to identify significant local heritage assets to support the development of Local Plans;
- Can complement the understanding and management of what is special in a place as already revealed through its listed buildings, registered sites and CAs;
- Encouraging their use can strengthen the role of local heritage assets as a material consideration in the planning process.

Historic England encourages local authorities to use local lists and to consider including sites with archaeological interest and parks and gardens as well as buildings



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## Save your Research!

- Take notes and keep them safe
- Label photos and plans (with dates)
- Use public deposit: county HERs; local study libraries; record offices, Parks and Gardens UK
- And use 'Enriching the List': become a contributor by completing our Heritage Passport Form online <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/>