

Gardens Trust Training Handout: Conservation Jargon Buster

Character Area

This is a method of identifying discrete areas of a landscape which display similar characteristics and design features. Usually the characteristic features are described in general, the area ascribed a name, and marked up on a plan. They are defined in order to assist the description and analysis of a site and to prepare coherent management policies. They have no statutory purpose and their boundaries are often subjective.

Conservation

The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and where appropriate enhances its significance.

Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

This is a document which sets out the significance of a site and how that significance will be retained in any future use, alteration, repair, management or development. It is based on a process which seeks to understand and assess the site, detail its significance and vulnerabilities, and create policies and guidelines for retaining significance in the future, with a specific set of actions or proposals for the management of the site.

Conservation Statement

A shortened version of a conservation management plan. It is not as detailed and often done on the basis of existing knowledge.

Enabling Development

Development that would be unacceptable in planning terms but for the fact that it would bring heritage benefits sufficient to justify it being carried out, and which could not otherwise be achieved.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

A procedure for drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects. There are formal government guidelines for what should be included in this available from the Department of Communities and Local Government (online, available for download).



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Environmental Statement

Detailed information compiled by a developer about the likely main environmental effects of a project subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Gazetteer

A database describing and listing the different elements of a place or, for a landscape, its character areas with their contents, that makes up the heritage of a place. An example of an entry might be a garden compartment with a description of its location, main phase or period, features e.g. statuary, key trees, planting, garden buildings, and a summary of its significance. It can also include notes on condition and threats. It is a useful way to organise complicated information about the heritage in a way that the manager can use.

Heritage Asset

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage Assets are the valued components of the historic environment. They include *Designated Heritage Assets* and assets identified by the Local Planning Authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process (including local listing).

A Designated Heritage Asset is defined as a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Lists, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated as such under the relevant legislation.

Heritage At Risk Programme

The Heritage at Risk Programme (HAR) is run by Historic England to help understand the overall state of England's historic sites. The programme identifies those sites that are most at **risk** of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development

Heritage Impact Assessment

The process of establishing the impact of a specific proposal on the special interest of an historical building and its landscape, and identifying ways of mitigating any adverse impacts.

Historic environment

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



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planted or managed flora. Those elements of the historic environment that hold significance are called heritage assets.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Historic environment records are information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use. Typically, they comprise databases linked to a geographic information system (GIS), and associated reference material, together with a dedicated staffing resource.

Historic Interest

An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide an emotional meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

Intervention

The term used to describe change through action.

Issues and Constraints

Specific subjects that are important in the management of the site, such as its current use, the future needs of owners, current development proposals, designations, land ownership or access.

Parkland Plan

This is a slightly shorter version of a conservation management plan particularly used by Natural England for landscapes which are entering into an environmental stewardship agreement. It is limited to covering only the parkland of a landscape; all ornamental gardens or pleasure grounds are excluded.

Policies

These are the guidelines for determining what is appropriate for the individual place and provide a framework for making decisions, taking into account the place's significance. They propose approaches to such areas as the philosophical basis for conservation, defining repair priorities, identifying appropriate uses, mechanisms for future decision-making and appropriate future development.



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Prescriptions (for management and maintenance)

These are the written directions for how the conservation management of the place should be carried out. They should be drawn up with full reference to the established policies, issues and constraints of the site and obviously follow on from these. They describe *what* should be done, precisely how, when and by whom.

Preservation

Maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Reconstruction

Returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric.

Restoration

Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Setting

The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Specification

Written schedule of work required for a particular project, set out in enough detail to be quantifiable, costed, implemented and monitored.

Stakeholders

All those who have an interest in the use, care and management of the place in question.

Statement of Significance

This explains why people value the heritage of a place. If the heritage is formally protected, the statement should explain why it is protected. The statement should describe and explain all the different types of heritage in a place and the ways in which they are important and to whom. This might include natural, architectural, archaeological, historical, social, community, scientific or educational values. While natural heritage is measured by a



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separate set of values, mostly enshrined in legislation (e.g. those that govern designation of an SSSI, SNCI, etc), elements of natural heritage will also have cultural values e.g. veteran trees, geological structures viewed as picturesque rock formations, and should be addressed within the CMP as such. Significances are often ranked as national, regional or local. A category of detractors, features which mar or damage the positive significance, is sometimes included.

Statutory Agencies

Government agencies such as Historic England, CADW, Natural England, The Environment Agency, who will need to be consulted during the preparation of a CMP affecting significant historic or natural landscapes.

Note on Sources

These definitions have partly been drawn from the following sources:
Clark, K *Informed Conservation* English Heritage 2001
Heritage Lottery Fund 'Conservation Management Planning' April 2008
Watkins, J & Wright, T (eds) *The Management and Maintenance of Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes* Frances Lincoln 2007
Planning Policy Statement 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5) 2010

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