



New to Local Listing?

Here are some of the words you might come across on our website and guidance, or when researching your nomination for the Black Country Local Heritage List.

Term	Definition
Amenity Value	An aspect of a place which contributes to the overall character or enjoyment of an area by people. For example, a green space which is publicly accessible can have amenity value. It can also refer to less tangible aspects of enjoyment, for example places that have a sense of tranquillity.
Black Country Core Strategy/Black Country Plan	In 2011 the four Black Country Authorities (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) adopted the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS). This covers the period 2006 to 2026 and provides the framework for the local policies, Area Action Plans and site allocations for individual authority areas. The Black Country Plan will supersede the BCCS and will identify and allocate sufficient development land for the area's housing and employment needs for the next 15 years. It is currently in consultation and will be adopted in April 2024.
Burgage Plot	A medieval land term that is usually characterised by a long and narrow plot of land to the rear of a building, usually in a town. It is an early English term related to a town ("burgh") tenanted property ('burgage'). For more information visit www.burgageplots.info
Conservation	The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset, or its setting, in a way that retains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance.
Conservation Area	An area designated by local authorities to recognise that it is of special architectural or historic interest. Sites within them have some protection (particularly against demolition) through Planning legislation.
Cultural History	The study of the ways in which past societies expressed their knowledge, beliefs and traditions or understood the beliefs and traditions of others.
Designated asset	A heritage asset identified through legislation such as a Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or World Heritage Site or a Conservation Area.

Geopark	An area or landscape with outstanding geological heritage and where there is considerable effort to conserve it and increase the public understanding and enjoyment of it. The Black Country Geopark is part of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network, which recognises the international importance of the area's natural and cultural heritage.
Aesthetic value	The extent to which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place - for example, from good architecture or design.
Communal value	The extent to which a site or place has meaning to people and communities. The most obvious examples are war and other memorials, which refer back to past lives and events, but shared places such as pubs or civic spaces also form part of our collective memory, identity and history
Evidential value	The extent to which a site or place can reveal information or 'evidence' about past times, or that type of heritage asset. It can take many forms, ranging from sites which can be tied closely into information held in historic documents, to how far any physical remains show how much a site has stayed the same – or changed – over time.
Social value	The extent to which people draw a sense of identity or distinctiveness from a site. Past events can resonate with the present to reinforce a community's sense of self. Social value is less tied to the survival of original building materials in a historic site, but more the key characteristics or symbolism are maintained.
Heritage significance	The value or importance of an asset (be that a building, archaeological site, or a larger historic area such as a whole village or landscape) to this and future generations because of its "heritage interest". The National Planning Policy Framework states that this interest may be ' <i>archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic</i> '. It may come from a heritage asset's physical presence but also from its setting.
Heritage site or 'asset'	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. Heritage assets includes those which are nationally 'designated' as well as assets identified by the local planning authority, including items on a Local Heritage List.
Historic Environment	All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. It includes all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether they are visible, buried or submerged, and landscapes with planted or managed flora.
Historic Environment Record (HER)	A map-based database held by each of the Black Country Authorities which contains information on known archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings and landscapes in the area. As well as being used for research purposes, it is a vital tool in the planning process for understanding the local historic environment and making informed decisions about change.

Local Planning Authority	The local government body, usually the planning department of the district or borough council, that is empowered by law to carry out planning functions for a particular area. This includes dealing with planning permission and listed building consents. In the Black Country these are Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and Wolverhampton City Council.
Locally listed site	A site which is on a local authority 'Local List' for its contribution to the character and distinctiveness of the area. These sites have some protection from change and alteration through the planning process.
Material consideration	An aspect of a site or place which needs to be considered as part of the planning process. The significance of sites on local lists are a 'material consideration' in planning applications and development proposals.
National list	A site of national importance recorded on the National Heritage List for England . These sites – which include scheduled monuments, listed buildings and registered parkland and battlefields - have a high degree of protection from change or demolition and have been added to the List by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport after assessment using strict criteria by Historic England.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The policy framework that sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
Non-designated heritage asset	Buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions because of their heritage interest, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets, including Local Listing. Many undesignated heritage assets are sites on the Historic Environment Record.
Physical integrity	The wholeness or completeness of a site. For example, a building or site which survives largely in its original form.
Planning application	A formal request for a local authority to give permission to build something new or make changes to an existing building. Permission may be sought in principle through 'outline' planning applications, or in detail through 'full' planning applications.
Pre-industrial	The era before the Industrial Age - the widespread mechanisation and mass production which is generally accepted as being after c.1760.
Setting	The surroundings in which a heritage site is located and experienced. This can change over time and the setting of a site may make a positive or negative contribution to its significance.