



Heritage Research Prize

SIGNIFICANCE

The assessment of the significance of the heritage asset(s) is undertaken under the values set out in English Heritage's Advice Note No 12: *Statements of Heritage Significance*, 2019 and addresses the requirements of paragraph 200 of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) 2023. The determination of significance is a key guiding factor, and all decisions should flow from an understanding of the significance and values attached to the site. The determination of the significance of heritage assets is based on statutory designation and professional judgement against four broad values: archaeological, architectural, artistic, historical (illustrative, associative, communal). The values are given an assessment of High, Medium or Low and an overall rating of Significance of Local, Regional or National follows.

Significance and the National Planning Policy Framework 2023

Significance: values are archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic (illustrative, associative, communal)

- **What is 'Significance'?**

Significance is defined in the Glossary of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2023 as *'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. Significance derives not just from its physical presence but also from its setting'*

The various interests are defined as:

Archaeological interest: There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.

Architectural interest: These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types.

Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, like sculpture.

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 meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

The setting of a heritage asset is defined as *'the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced'* (NPPF 2023, Annex 2: Glossary)



LINK: www.gov.uk, [Historic Environment Guidance \(2014\)](#)

LINK: [The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice in Planning, Note 3 \(Second Edition\)](#) (pdf, Historic England, 2017 edition)

NPPF 2019 PPG paragraph: 006 reference ID: 18a-006-20190723