



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Managing Historic Character in Wales



May 2017

 **Cadw**

Statement of Purpose

Managing Historic Character in Wales explains why it is important to recognise historic character and use it as an evidence base for conservation, regeneration and planning work. It shows how policies and programmes to manage change can take inspiration from the past to help create and sustain distinctive places for the future.

Managing Historic Character in Wales does not impose another layer of designation or consent, but encourages the best use of our historic environment to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. This means managing change, not preventing it. Local development plans are the best place to set policies about local historic character which can be taken into consideration when determining or preparing planning applications.

Managing Historic Character in Wales is best-practice guidance, which supplements *Planning Policy Wales*¹ and *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*.² It also highlights how an understanding of historic character can be used in many ways beyond the planning system.

Managing Historic Character in Wales, together with *Managing Lists of Historic Assets of Special Local Interest in Wales*,³ focuses on those aspects of local heritage that have considerable value for local communities, including those that are not designated for their special national interest or importance.⁴

Managing Historic Character in Wales is aimed primarily at local authority conservation, planning, housing, regeneration and development departments. It will also be of interest to other public bodies, local communities and third sector organisations, as well as owners, developers and agents, who have a vital role in identifying, promoting and caring for local historic character. Although this guidance outlines the main principles of looking at historic character, it is not intended to serve as a toolkit.



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Cadw is the Welsh Government's historic environment service, working for an accessible and well-protected historic environment.

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Cover photograph: The historic town centre of Dolgellau (© Crown copyright (2017) Cadw, Welsh Government).

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Fast Facts –

- 1 **Historic character helps to make every place unique.**
- 2 **Historic character is expressed through patterns of land use and settlement, and building traditions.**
- 3 **Historic character can be identified anywhere in Wales — from cities and suburbs to small rural hamlets and landscapes.**
- 4 **By understanding historic character, we can make informed decisions about what we keep, how we care for it and how to accommodate change.**
- 5 **Understanding historic character can encourage communities to get involved in caring for their place and provide opportunities to learn new skills.**
- 6 **National guidance encourages planning authorities to understand, record and use historic character as part of their evidence base to guide the management of change and inspire regeneration and renewal.**

Introduction ↵

The historic environment is a vital part of our shared cultural heritage. It shapes our sense of place and contributes to our well-being and quality of life. Some elements of the historic environment have been identified as having special national interest or importance — our scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas and registered historic parks, gardens and landscapes. Historic character, however, is more than the sum of these nationally recognised assets. The ordinary and everyday may contribute as much to historic character as a grand old building. This means that even somewhere with few designated historic assets can have a rich historic character.

Historic character confers identity, creates a sense of belonging and contributes to the quality of the places where we live, work and visit. It can also be an asset for economic vitality and regeneration.

By studying historic character, we can compile an objective evidence base which can be used for many different purposes. It can inspire regeneration activity, planning, development and design to help sustain local distinctiveness. It can also help us to make informed decisions about what we keep, how we care for it and how we accommodate change so that we celebrate the individuality of a place and make the best use of its heritage. By working with local communities, we can learn what makes a place special for them and encourage local people to care for it.

Understanding historic character can help how we plan for the Wales that we want to live in today and in the future.

1. What is Historic Character? ↵

The historic character of a place has been shaped by the activities of people over tens, hundreds, or even thousands of years. Many of the distinctive qualities of a place result from its history in the same way that the character of a person is formed over time. These can include its origins and significant periods in its history — how and why it developed and changed. It can also include particular activities and traditions, communities and people, or events associated with a place. These elements all contribute to historic character: they have both a tangible legacy in the form and fabric of a place and an intangible legacy in the names, stories, art and culture associated with it.

Historic character makes every place unique and contributes to its significance, especially for local people.

1.1 What to Look For ↵

We can find historic character anywhere in Wales and studies can range in area from a few streets to whole towns and landscapes. The essential elements are not difficult to identify; they include the following.

1.2 The Overall Form and Layout of a Place ↵

This may have survived for much longer than individual buildings and features. The pattern of settlement can be identified in the units of development, the shape of building plots or fields and the relationship between buildings and spaces. These elements, together with the character of boundaries and open spaces, views and the networks of roads and paths, deserve respect and can offer a distinctive framework in which to accommodate change.

1.3 Buildings ↵

Seemingly unexceptional or ordinary buildings can be vital to the character of a place. They may contribute just as much as notable historic buildings or landmarks. Most places are marked by their own distinctive traditions of building which developed over a period of time in response to the needs of local people, the availability of building materials, and the development of local styles, techniques and skills. It is important that these traditions — and the skills to maintain and care for them — are kept alive and used to inspire and influence new design and development.

1.4 Changing Landscapes ↵

Large parts of Wales may look uninhabited now, but almost every part of the landscape has been altered by people in some way. Traces of this past activity contribute to historic character and can take many forms including ancient sites ranging from prehistoric hut circles to industrial ironworks. Evidence of past land use — such as quarries and mines, hedgerows and stone walls — and transport infrastructure — such as footpaths, bridges, roads, railways and canals — all reflect human activity. Individual elements may be protected and some landscapes may be registered, but a holistic approach to identifying and understanding how and why the character of discrete areas has evolved through time can stimulate management and regeneration initiatives.⁵

1.5 Hidden Histories — Archaeological Potential ↵

Even apparently empty spaces may have hidden features that survive from earlier land use. These can be rediscovered through research and investigation and, where appropriate, protected or used to inform and inspire development or redevelopment.

1.6 People's Stories ↵

A place may have important cultural traditions, literary, artistic and political associations, or connections with notable individuals, which add colour and layers to its identity. Stories about a place and its people are often treasured by local communities. Finding ways to tell these stories, for example, through guidebooks, apps or information panels, can enrich the experience of a place for residents and visitors alike.

Wherever you are in Wales, these elements create a unique story of people and place. Decisions about change that respect the evidence for this story will foster local identity and distinctiveness.

There are good tried and tested ways of recording people's stories.⁶

2. Understanding Historic Character ⇐

Just as an understanding of historic character has many uses, so the analysis can be done by a range of people including local planning authority officers and specialist contractors and consultants. With proper support from the local planning authority, the Welsh archaeological trusts or third sector organisations (such as the amenity societies), local voluntary groups can make a very valuable contribution by conducting surveys and compiling reports. The evidence of historic character collected in this way can be very robust.

2.1 Detailed Assessment ⇐

A structured approach to understanding historic character — in a way that can be shared and understood by local people, planners and developers — provides a robust evidence base that can be used positively to encourage conservation and inspire appropriate change. It can, for example, inform area statements and local well-being plans (see sections 3.1 and 3.2), local development plans and place plans. It can also support specific regeneration initiatives, such as Townscape Heritage or housing renewal programmes.

2.2. Community Engagement ⇐

Studying historic character can capture local knowledge which people often hold as memories, experiences and observations, but rarely write down. This valuable evidence is often uncoordinated making it inaccessible to the community and the local authority. But local people are one of the best sources of knowledge and, once equipped with the right tools and supported by appropriate training, are willing and able to study local historic character.⁷

Involving the local community can encourage people to deepen their understanding and appreciation of their place, helping to instil a sense of ownership and local pride. It can help local groups increase their capacity to influence decision making and provide a focus for community involvement in the day-to-day care of places.

Understanding historic character can also create opportunities for local people to develop or learn new skills. These can range from traditional building skills and tour guiding through to developing analytical skills and report writing.

2.3 Getting Started ↵

Before beginning an analysis of historic character, it is a good idea to find out what information is already available.

2.3.1 Sources of Information ↵

- The local historic environment record is a good starting place for anyone seeking to understand more about the historic character of their area. Historic environment records are managed by the four Welsh archaeological trusts. Online public access to the historic environment record for each local authority area is through Archwilio.⁸
- The National Monuments Record of Wales is the national archive for the historic environment of Wales. It is a good source of historic photographs and drawings of places in Wales, including aerial photographs. Online public access is provided through Coflein.⁹
- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales maintains and develops the Historic Wales portal¹⁰ as an online gateway to national and regional records about the historic environment.
- The Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service (Cadw) holds the definitive records for listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered historic parks, gardens and landscapes. These are available through Cof Cymru — Cadw's online record of the national historic assets of Wales.¹¹
- Local planning authorities hold records of conservation areas, including appraisals and management plans.¹²
- Cadw has produced reports about the historic character of a number of towns in Wales.¹³ The Welsh archaeological trusts have also carried out detailed studies of some historic towns.
- The register of historic landscapes in Wales contains information about the 58 registered areas in Wales and can be accessed on Cof Cymru. The Welsh archaeological trusts have identified and analysed historic landscape character areas for each registered historic landscape in Wales.¹⁴
- The List of Historic Place Names of Wales records the various forms and spellings used for the names of topographical features, communities, thoroughfares, structures and other aspects of the landscape recorded in sources that predate the First World War.¹⁵
- Natural Resources Wales maintains LANDMAP,¹⁶ which is the recognised landscape baseline resource in Wales for planning and decision making. It includes mapped and survey information about historic and cultural landscapes. LANDMAP defines discrete geographical areas of historic landscape based on the identification of historic land uses, patterns and features. Each area is accompanied by a survey detailing historic character. These areas may lend themselves to character study in greater depth and the information captured by LANDMAP may provide a starting point for more detailed investigation.
- Civic Trust Cymru worked with a number of community groups and local authorities to produce detailed character studies of several towns in Wales.

- Local archive services, museum collections, local history groups and study centres.
- National archives including The National Archives, Bodleian Library and The British Museum.

Existing studies are a valuable resource where they are available, but for many places, there are opportunities to present fresh understanding of historic character, drawing on all these sources of information, combined with insights from close observation in the field.

2.3.2 Toolkits ▾

There are already some practical resources available to help communities get involved in understanding historic character, but the precise detail will depend on the purpose of the study.

Civic Trust Cymru developed resources to support local people and community groups to explore the character of their towns in a structured way. Modelled on Cadw's series of understanding urban character studies, *Exploring Your Town: A Manual and Tool Kit*, explains the components of character and how to record them.¹⁷

The Design Commission for Wales has also produced a practical toolkit to encourage residents to investigate and analyse where they live and plan for its future.¹⁸ As a first step, it recommends establishing a town team, with representation from local residents, businesses, volunteers and community groups.

The curatorial sections of the Welsh archaeological trusts can also provide information, advice and support. Their detailed historic landscape characterisation studies provide good models for communities investigating their local heritage.¹⁹

2.3.3 Historic Character Reports ▾

Cadw has studied the historic character in 14 towns across Wales and published a report on each which is available on Cadw's website.²⁰ This work can be used not only for information about specific places, but also as a model for other local studies. It is important to note that each report has been compiled for a specific reason so the content and level of detail varies as appropriate.

Although each historic character analysis will have its own characteristics and needs, there are some common themes which will be relevant to most reports:

- the aims of the study need to explain the context and purpose of the report
- historical development — the origins and significant periods of development and survival, and their social and economic context
- historical topography — extent and boundary, geology, landscape character, setting, settlement form and layout
- the character of streets and spaces — plots and spaces, boundaries and routes, views and approaches, open and green spaces
- the character of building — buildings traditions (age, types and styles); form and materials; details — roofs, windows and doors; buildings of local importance

- historical associations — people, events and traditions
- character areas — these break down the whole area into smaller units with their own identity, distinguished by building type, style or layout, for example
- archaeological potential
- statement of significance
- sources — these should document where information comes from
- maps — these may be historical and modern recording historic features and development, and how these have influenced the modern layout.

2.3.4 Funding ↵

Some financial support for survey activity that involves community participation may be available from, for example, the Heritage Lottery Fund.²¹

2.3.5 What to Do with Your Study ↵

It is important that completed studies are made freely available and accessible. They should be deposited in the appropriate historic environment record, managed by one of the four Welsh archaeological trusts.

3. Historic Character and Sustainable Development ↵

Many activities can have an impact on historic character. Development and redevelopment, regeneration and renewal can each either reinforce or undermine character. But, when these activities take into account the historic character of a place — and not just the individual designated assets — they are more likely to have a positive impact on local distinctiveness.

Responding to historic character is not about preserving a place in aspic and trying to keep everything. Instead, it is about managing change so that we keep what makes a place special and use the legacy of the past to inform and integrate new development, and to identify opportunities for positive change and enhancement.

The sustainable development principle²² is at the heart of planning for the Wales we want to live in now and in the future. This means making long-term, joined-up plans to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Recognising and understanding historic character can contribute to the evidence base for this holistic planning.

3.1 Working Better Together: Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ↵

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out seven well-being goals to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.²³

Wales's well-being can only be improved by collective effort. Forty-four individual public bodies are required to work in ways that:

- respect our future needs
- include the people they serve
- combine efforts between them
- produce shared benefits
- prevent problems from occurring or worsening.

In doing so, they must set and publish objectives that are designed to maximise their contribution towards each of the well-being goals, and take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives. One of the goals is 'a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language', in which our heritage is promoted and protected.

The Act also established public services boards for each local authority in Wales. To maximise their contribution to the goals, a public services board must first publish an assessment of local well-being for its area.

A detailed analysis of historic character can contribute to the evidence base for an assessment of heritage and help to highlight areas that might be considered by individual public bodies, or by the public services board for action in the local well-being plan. A community-driven analysis will best express local priorities.

In preparing local development plans, local planning authorities must take into account the most recent local well-being plans in the area.

3.2 The Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Area Statements ↵

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016²⁴ put in place legislation to enable Wales's natural resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way. It also established the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change.

The Act introduces a clear national framework for the sustainable management of natural resources:

- the State of Natural Resources Report, produced by Natural Resources Wales, assesses the state of natural resources through the presentation of up-to-date evidence
- the Natural Resources Policy, produced by the Welsh Ministers, identifies the priorities and opportunities for managing Wales's natural resources, taking into account the evidence provided by the State of Natural Resources Report
- area statements, produced by Natural Resources Wales, will provide an evidence base for the sustainable management of natural resources, at the appropriate scale for action to take forward the Welsh Ministers' priorities in the Natural Resources Policy. Local priorities for the sustainable management of natural resources will also be identified as area statements are developed to inform local well-being plans. All of Wales will be covered by one or more area statements.

Public services board assessments of local well-being must take account of area statements.

Local planning authorities must take account of area statements when producing local development plans.

3.3 Planning Policy and Development Management ⇐

3.3.1 National Planning Policy ⇐

Planning Policy Wales sets out the Welsh Government's land-use planning policies. Technical Advice Notes provide detailed planning advice to be read alongside *Planning Policy Wales* when preparing local development plans and considering or preparing planning applications.

Chapter 6 of *Planning Policy Wales* promotes an understanding of historic character to highlight the distinctiveness of urban and rural areas of Wales and to guide decisions about their future.²⁵

Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment states that historic character should be taken into account in the management of change to sustain local distinctiveness and a sense of place. It recommends the use of an objective, structured approach to identify the elements of historic character and create an evidence base.²⁶

3.3.2 Local Development Plans ⇐

Local planning authorities must prepare local development plans which take into account area statements, local well-being plans and national planning policy. These plans provide the principles for decision making in the planning process and local land allocations.

Local development plans may include policies to protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, and promote high design standards for both new development and existing buildings where alteration, extension and change of use come within the scope of the planning process. Such policies are given weight alongside other development plan policies in the planning process and enable historic character to be taken into consideration when determining applications for planning permission.

A sound evidence base for these policies is necessary and a detailed analysis of historic character can be useful, especially when linked to supplementary planning guidance.

3.3.3 Supplementary Planning Guidance ⇐

Local planning authorities can adopt supplementary planning guidance which supports existing policies about local character and distinctiveness in the adopted local development plan. Supplementary planning guidance is a material consideration in the planning process and can provide clarity about policies so that they are well understood and can be applied effectively.²⁷

A detailed analysis of historic character can be part of the evidence base for supplementary planning guidance, which may be site, area, or topic specific, such as design and the built environment. Conservation area appraisals and management plans or master plans and development briefs (see section 3.3.5) can also be adopted as supplementary planning guidance. Local planning authorities may also decide to adopt a

statement of historic character as supplementary planning guidance to support existing policy within the adopted local development plan.

3.3.4 Place Plans ↵

Place plans encourage greater community engagement in local planning decision making. They are prepared by town and community councils with help from the local planning authority. Place plans supplement policies set out in the local development plan and are adopted as supplementary planning guidance, which means that they are a material consideration when deciding planning applications. Place plans can cover a range of local issues; for example, they could specify the finer details of planning proposals to reflect local distinctiveness or they could take the form of a development brief.

The place planning exercise is a good opportunity to engage the local community in understanding historic character. The resulting evidence base, developed from within the community itself, could be a valuable tool for place plans.

3.3.5 Master Plans and Development Briefs ↵

Master plans and development briefs will benefit from fine-grained detail about specific areas and sites. An analysis of historic character can make an important contribution to this process. It can provide an account of underlying structure and pattern, help to identify what is significant, and consider both those elements that are lost and those that are not acknowledged by statutory designation. An analysis can help establish a general framework for change and inform the development of design principles that respect the legacy of the past and reinforce distinctiveness.

It is good practice to specify an analysis of historic character in the brief for any master plans and development briefs. Master plans and development briefs may be adopted as supplementary planning guidance, where these are linked to policies and land use allocations in an adopted local development plan.

3.4 Design ↵

Technical Advice Note 12: Design sets out objectives and principles for delivering good design.²⁸ Sustaining or enhancing local character is one of the objectives and an understanding of historic character is recognised as a fundamental principle of the design process.

The starting point for delivering good design is an appraisal of the context of an area, including its character, through attention to its history, topography, historic land use, street and field patterns, archaeology, architecture and building materials, distinctive features and traditions — the vernacular elements of the landscape and its cultural resources. The process of analysing historic character should identify design features in an area, building features and urban design features.

This does not mean that design should be a pastiche or copy, but it should respect and respond to the local context; for example, in terms of scale, massing and orientation. Innovative, contemporary design can make a positive contribution to local distinctiveness.

Context appraisal for design can inform local development plan policy, supplementary planning guidance and development briefs, as well as applications for specific proposals. Detailed analysis of historic character should be part of this appraisal process.

It is also important to encourage owners, tenants and agents to use materials and skills sympathetic to historic character when making repairs or alterations that do not require any sort of consent. This can be achieved through local design guides and other best-practice guidance such as Cadw's *Caring for...* guides.²⁹

The Design Commission for Wales can advise on design and planning for sustainable buildings.³⁰

3.5 Conservation ↵

A detailed analysis of historic character may identify areas of special architectural or historic interest which meet the criteria for designation as conservation areas. Using a structured approach to understanding historic character is essential for conservation area designation, appraisal, review and management, and may also offer opportunities to involve the community.³¹ Local planning authorities designate conservation areas and administer conservation area consent.

An analysis of historic character is also a useful base from which to identify historic assets of special local interest.³² Local planning authorities are responsible for local designation and protection.

Occasionally, the analysis may highlight a historic asset that should be listed, scheduled or registered by Cadw on behalf of the Welsh Ministers. Processes for requesting national designation are explained on Cadw's website.

3.6 Regeneration ↵

Historic character should be a vital element of any plans for regeneration and renewal. Not only does it create distinctiveness and identity, but it also contributes to quality of life and quality of place. Heritage can also drive renewed community confidence and investment.

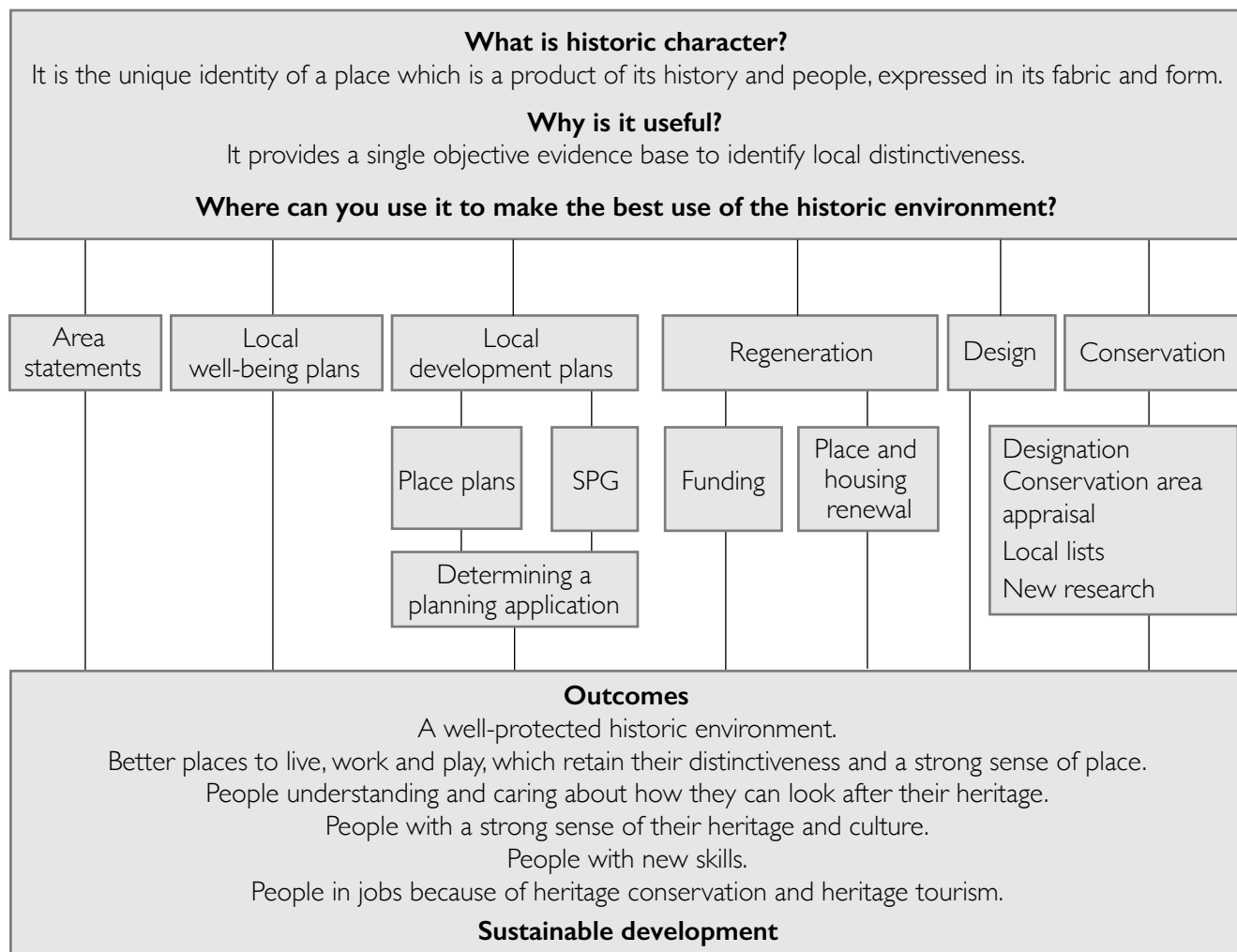
Individual historic assets can be a focus for specific regeneration investment, but historic character is present everywhere, irrespective of age or perceived quality. It is part of the unique identity of a place. Recognising that character and strengthening it or complementing it in new development helps to sustain distinctiveness. It also provides opportunities for fostering engagement and developing skills, and supports the well-being of local communities.

An analysis of historic character can help support positive action by:

- identifying characteristics or features that should be retained or respected in both large- and small-scale renewal schemes, including distinctive patterns of development, specific buildings, or particular building traditions
- suggesting areas where grant aid or other incentives would be most effective. The Heritage Lottery Fund is an enthusiastic supporter of understanding historic character, which it uses to help target investment.
- inspiring high-quality innovative design which respects historic character.

Annex 7

Using Historic Character — Summary Diagram



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<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/protection/historiclandscapes/?lang=en>
- 6 For advice about recording people's experience and memories, consult The Oral History Society. ↗
<http://www.ohs.org.uk/>
- 7 For advice about public engagement, see the Participation Cymru website, which includes the national principles for public engagement endorsed by the Welsh Government. ↗
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- 14 See Cof Cymru for the registered historic landscapes and individual websites of the Welsh archaeological trusts for historic landscape character areas. ↗
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- 18 *Shape my Town*, Design Commission for Wales, 2014 ↗
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- 19 For historic landscape characterisation methodology see *The Gwent Levels Historic Landscape Study: Characterization and Assessment of the Landscape*, Stephen Rippon, Cadw and Countryside Council for Wales, 1995 ↗
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- 27 *Planning Policy Wales* (Edition 9), Chapter 2: Local Development Plans, paras 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 ↗
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28 *Technical Advice Note 12: Design* ↗

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29 Cadw, along with other conservation organisations such as the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland, produces a range of repair and maintenance guidance. See Maintenance and Conservation in Further Information. ↗

30 Design Commission for Wales ↗

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Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, 2011

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/conservation/conservationprinciples/?lang=en>

Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process, Second Edition, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside Council for Wales, 2007

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/protection/historiclandscapes/?lang=en>

Historic Environment Records in Wales: Compilation and Use (Statutory Guidance), Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/records/v1/historicenvironmentrecords/?lang=en>

Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/publications/?lang=en>

Managing Conservation Areas in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/publications/?lang=en>

Managing Lists of Historic Assets of Special Local Interest in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/publications/?lang=en>

Toolkits

Exploring your Town: A Manual and Tool Kit, Civic Trust Cymru, 2013

Shape my Town Toolkit

<http://www.shapemytown.org/about>

Cadw's Urban Character Reports

Aberdare: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, 2009

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/aberdare/?lang=en>

Aberystwyth: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, 2013

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/aberystwyth/?lang=en>

Barry Island: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Government, 2016

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/barryisland/?lang=en>

Blaenau Ffestiniog: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, 2011

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/blaenauffestiniog/?lang=en>

Caernarfon Waterfront: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, 2010

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/caernarfonwaterfront/?lang=en>

Cefn Mawr and District: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Government, 2014

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/cefn-mawr-and-district/?lang=en>

Denbigh: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, 2010

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/denbigh/?lang=en>

Dolgellau: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, 2009

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/dolgellau/?lang=en>

Flint: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, 2009

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/flint/?lang=en>

Hafod and the Lower Swansea Valley: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Government, 2016

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/Hafodandthelowerswanseavalley/?lang=en>

Llangollen: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Government, 2016

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/llangollen/?lang=en>

Merthyr Tydfil: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Government, 2015

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/merthyr-tydfil/?lang=en>

Pembroke: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Government, 2015

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/pembroke/?lang=en>

Pontypool: Understanding Urban Character, Cadw, Welsh Government, 2012

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/regenerationandsustainability/understandingcharacter/pontypool/?lang=en>

Maintenance and Conservation

Cadw has published a range of publications about caring for, conserving and converting various types of building. These can be found online at:

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/publications/?skip=1&lang=en>

BS7913 Guide to the Conservation of Historic Buildings

<http://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030248522>

Historic England <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/your-home/>

Historic Environment Scotland <https://www.engineshed.org/>

Institute of Historic Building Conservation <http://www.ihbc.org.uk/>

Maintenance Matters!

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/help-advice-and-grants/lookingafteryourproperty/maintenancematters/?lang=en>

Historical Information

Archives Wales — an online catalogue that allows you to search information in more than 7,000 collections of historical records in the holdings of 21 archives in Wales.

<https://archives.wales/>

Archwilio — provides online public access to the historic environment records for each local authority area in Wales. Archwilio is maintained and supported with further information held by the Welsh archaeological trusts. www.archwilio.org.uk

Bodleian Library <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

Cof Cymru — Cadw's online record of the national historic assets of Wales, which includes listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites and registered historic landscapes. Registered historic parks and gardens will be added to Cof Cymru during 2018.

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en>

Coflein — the online catalogue for the National Monuments Record of Wales, the national collection of information about the historic environment of Wales.

<http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

Cynefin — an online resource to research Welsh tithe maps and their indexes.

<http://cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk/>

Historic Wales — an online gateway to national and regional historic environment records.

www.historicwales.gov.uk

LANDMAP — the online landscape baseline resource maintained by Natural Resources Wales.

LANDMAP datasets are also published for download for use in a geographical information system (GIS)

on <http://lle.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue?lang=en&text=landmap>

Natural Resources Wales (2016) LANDMAP Methodology: Guidance for Wales. Historic Landscape

Natural Resources Wales (2016) LANDMAP Methodology: Guidance for Wales. Cultural Landscape

List of Historic Place Names of Wales — records the various forms and spellings used for the names of topographical features, communities, thoroughfares, structures and other aspects of the landscape recorded in sources that predate the First World War.

<https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/>

The British Museum <http://www.britishmuseum.org/>

The National Archives — the official archive of the UK government.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

The National Library of Wales

<https://www.llgc.org.uk/>

Contacts

Welsh Government

Historic Environment Service (Cadw)

Plas Carew

Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed

Parc Nantgarw

Cardiff

CF15 7QQ

Tel. 03000 256000

cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk

<http://cadw.gov.wales/?lang=en>

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Ffordd Penglais, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BU

Tel. 01970 621200

nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk

www.rcahmw.gov.uk

National Monuments Record of Wales

nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk

www.coflein.gov.uk

You can arrange to visit the public search room in Aberystwyth where staff will explain the resources available in the National Monuments Record for researching historic character, including historic maps, drawings, photographs and survey records.

Natural Resources Wales

c/o Customer Care Centre

Ty Cambria, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP

Tel: 0300 065 3000

enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

<http://naturalresources.wales/>

Natural Resources Wales can provide information and advice on using LANDMAP historic and cultural landscape information and seascapes.

Heritage Lottery Fund

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/>

Design Commission for Wales

4th Floor, Cambrian Buildings, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF10 5FL

Tel: 029 2045 1964

connect@dcfw.org

<http://dcfw.org/>

The Design Commission for Wales can provide advice and guidance about design proposals.

Local Planning Authorities

Local planning authorities' conservation and planning officers can be contacted via the relevant local authority website.

Welsh Archaeological Trusts

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
41 Broad Street, Welshpool SY21 7RR
Tel. 01938 553670
trust@cpat.org.uk
www.cpat.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AE
Tel. 01558 823121
info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea SA1 6EL
Tel. 01792 655208
enquiries@ggat.org.uk
www.ggat.org.uk

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Craig Beuno, Garth Road, Bangor LL57 2RT
Tel. 01248 352535
gat@heneb.co.uk
www.heneb.co.uk

Amenity Societies

Ancient Monuments Society
<http://ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk/>

Council for British Archaeology (CBA)
<http://new.archaeologyuk.org/>

Georgian Group
www.georgiangroup.org.uk

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)
<https://www.spab.org.uk/>

Twentieth Century Society
www.c20society.org.uk

Theatres Trust

<http://www.theatretrust.org.uk/>

Victorian Society

www.victoriansociety.org.uk

Welsh Historic Gardens Trust

<http://www.whgt.org.uk/>

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