



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Criteria for assessing historic buildings for grant assistance

- Community Benefits
- Conservation and Repair
- Tackling Heritage at Risk
- Investing in Skills
- Significance

## Community Benefits

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A Cadw grant supports historic building repair schemes which will give a new lease of life to listed buildings and deliver substantial benefits to Welsh communities. Priority is therefore given to listed buildings that are in community ownership, and schemes that help maintain facilities that bring people together. Places of worship that are open for wider community use may be eligible, as are buildings such as village and community halls, libraries and institutes.

## Conservation and Repair

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The purpose of the grant is to assist in conservation and repair; new building and works to services will not be eligible for support, though Cadw may be able to help with the conservation and repair element of a wider scheme. Support is targeted at good conservation practice, and to help achieve this, Cadw expects the lead professional adviser to be conservation accredited.

Cadw currently accepts:

- **Architects** listed on the AABC Register at category 'A' ([www.aabc-register.co.uk/](http://www.aabc-register.co.uk/)), RIAS Register at Accredited or Advanced level ([www.rias.org.uk/directory/conservation/](http://www.rias.org.uk/directory/conservation/)) or RIBA Conservation Register at Specialist Conservation Architect level ([www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/membership-and-accreditation/specialist-conservation-architect-sca](http://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/membership-and-accreditation/specialist-conservation-architect-sca))
- **Chartered building surveyors** listed on the RICS Building Conservation Accreditation Register ([www.rics.org/uk/join/member-accreditations/building-conservation-accreditation/](http://www.rics.org/uk/join/member-accreditations/building-conservation-accreditation/))
- **Chartered architectural technologists** listed in the CIAT Directory of Accredited Conservationists at Accredited Conservationist level (<https://ciat.org.uk/find-a-practice/find-an-accredited-conservationist.html>)

In some cases Cadw may be able to accept a chartered engineer or other heritage specialist as the appropriate lead professional, but this would need to be agreed in advance of any grant offer being made.

## Tackling Heritage at Risk

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Particular importance is attached to schemes of repair and renewal that will help secure a future for historic buildings which would otherwise be vulnerable through neglect and decay. Priority is therefore given to buildings that are categorised as 'at risk' by Cadw.

## Investing in Skills

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The benefits that can come from investment in traditional building skills and access to historic buildings are acknowledged, and priority is also given to schemes that include an element of skills development and training, and enhanced access opportunities. More information about this is available in 'Grants for Historic Assets: Skills Development and Access Opportunities'.

## Significance

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In addition to these specific criteria, Cadw will also consider the significance of the building according to the framework set out in *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* [cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/conservation/conservationprinciples/?lang=en](http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/conservation/conservationprinciples/?lang=en)

This identifies four areas in which a historic building may have value. These are:

- **Evidential value.** This derives from those elements of a historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, and especially its historic fabric, supported in some cases by documentation. All buildings provide some evidence of specific past human activity from one or perhaps several periods, but the extent to which they do so depends on their coherence and integrity. The extent of survival of original or clearly phased fabric and layout, or of detail relating to use (including internal detail) is particularly important.
- **Historical value.** This refers to the illustrative or associative values of an asset, and its capacity to contribute to an understanding of aspects of past life. A well-preserved building can illustrate an aspect of past life much better than can a damaged or heavily altered building. But historical value may also be less tangible — for example associations with notable people events or movements of proven regional or national significance.

- **Aesthetic value.** This relates to the appearance and form of an asset and its relationship to its setting. It may relate to conscious design or style, adherence to tradition, to quality of craftsmanship or technology of construction. High-quality conscious design — so-called ‘polite architecture’ often associated with named architects — and vernacular building according to clear regional traditions (and perhaps unconscious design) are both important. For both, composition, plan, method of construction, materials, finish and detail — including interior detail — are the essential elements of design. The relationship of a building to its setting, whether a designed landscape, a working agricultural or industrial landscape, or a townscape, may be an important aspect of its aesthetic appeal.
- **Communal value.** This derives from the meanings that an asset has for the people who relate to it. It includes social and economic value, as well as commemorative, spiritual or symbolic value. The contribution that a building is able to make to the well-being of its community is particularly relevant in any assessment for grant-aid.

Cadw expects schemes that it helps to fund to preserve or enhance the significance of historic buildings, for example, by conserving historic fabric, promoting the use of traditional materials and techniques, and encouraging greater understanding and access.



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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.