

Surrey Local Heritage List Project – Outline of Project and Outcomes (September 2021)

Background and Summary

As part of the Government's 'Build Back Better' initiative, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in association with Historic England has provided funding to 22 areas to develop local heritage asset lists. Surrey is one of the areas to have received this funding, which has been used to appoint a project lead (12 months) and part fund an HER assistant post.

Epsom and Ewell Borough is one of the six Surrey districts and boroughs participating in the project, the others being Elmbridge, Mole Valley, Surrey Heath, Tandridge and Woking.

Local heritage asset lists, also referred to as local lists, are one way of identifying non-designated heritage assets for the purpose of applying national and local policy, paragraph 203 of the NPPF stating that:

'The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.'

Therefore, whilst not afforded the legal protection of nationally listed buildings (or any other form of statutory protection) identification on a local list means that an asset has a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. These lists, which are maintained and managed by the districts and boroughs, can include any building, monument, site, place, area or landscape which has heritage significance but is not recognised by another designation.

Historic England published an updated version of its advice on local listing ['Local Heritage Listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage'](#) in January 2021, and the project follows the guidance set out in this document. The aim is to identify places that make a significant contribution to local identity and distinctiveness and hold value in a heritage context for their communities. Previous lists have primarily focused on buildings and structures, but this project will seek to broaden the range of assets to include assets such as parks and gardens and archaeological areas.

The project lead is working with the partner district and boroughs to agree methodology including selection criteria, progress the review of existing local lists and produce a new draft list for each authority to be consulted on in 2022. Once adopted these lists will be used to inform owners and applicants about the heritage significance of their assets, and support the application of local and neighbourhood plan policies for non-designated heritage assets. The information collected as part of this project will also be entered on the Historic Environment Record (HER) managed by SCC.

The Selection Criteria

A set of criteria have been devised, to enable all assets to be assessed in a consistent manner. These are based closely on the Historic England guidance, and are designed to be flexible enough to be applicable to the broad range of heritage assets which may be identified as part of this project. They have also been devised such that they can be applied flexibly to take into account the diversity of the district and borough areas involved in the project, and the wide variation in character across each area, taking local context and significance into account.

Surrey Local Heritage List Project 2021/22: Project Outline

The criteria have been formulated with input from the six participating districts and boroughs, and a number of Surrey-wide heritage groups (Surrey Gardens Trust, Surrey Archaeological Society, Council for British Archaeology SE, Arts and Crafts Movement of Surrey and Surrey Industrial History Group).

On completion of the project, the districts and boroughs can decide how they wish to embed these criteria within their own processes for reviewing their local heritage lists. The draft lists will also be subject to approval by each of the districts and boroughs, following consultation which will include notifying and engaging with owners.

Scope and Outcomes

The project runs for 12 months (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022) and consists of the following stages:

1. Selection criteria developed (July - September 2021)
2. Existing local lists reviewed (July – November 2021)
3. Online nominations process rolled out (October/November 2021)
4. Selection criteria applied to all existing and new assets (September 2021 – Feb/March 2022)
5. Draft asset lists for each district and borough prepared and consultation carried out (Feb/March/April 2022)
6. Process developed for future review of lists (May/June 2022)
7. All information gathered as part of project added to Historic Environment Record (HER) (this may extend beyond the end of the project as the HER assistant is in post for 2 years)

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