

Heritage Terms and Abbreviations

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The following is a list of terms and abbreviations quoted in the NSW Heritage Manual, and other terms used by those involved in investigating, assessing and managing heritage.

AACA. Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Incorporated.

Aboriginal significance. An item is of Aboriginal heritage significance if it demonstrates Aboriginal history and culture. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has the primary responsibility for items of Aboriginal significance in New South Wales.

adaptation. Modification of a heritage item to suit a proposed, compatible use.

aesthetic significance. An item having this value is significant because it has visual or sensory appeal, landmark qualities and/or creative or technical excellence.

AHC. Australian Heritage Commission.

AICCM Inc. Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials Incorporated. See *Heritage Contacts* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

amenity. Qualities of usefulness, comfort and pleasure in items and areas of the environment. Heritage arguments are often used incorrectly to defend items or areas when amenity considerations are more relevant and appropriate.

approval. Includes an authority or a consent or a permission (*Heritage Act 1977*, section 4).

APT. Association of Preservation Technology. See *Heritage Contacts* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

archaeological assessment. A study undertaken to establish the archaeological significance (research potential) of a particular site and to propose appropriate management actions.



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archaeological feature. Any physical evidence of past human activity. Archaeological features include buildings, works, relics, structures, foundations, deposits, cultural landscapes and shipwrecks. During an archaeological excavation the term 'feature' may be used in a specific sense to refer to any item that is not a structure, a layer or an artefact (for example, a post hole).

archaeological management plan. A set of management provisions that apply to particular archaeological units or zones. These units or zones are normally indicated graphically in an archaeological zoning plan. The provisions of an archaeological management plan may be included within a heritage study or environmental planning instrument.

archaeological significance. A category of significance referring to scientific value or 'research potential' that is, the ability to yield information through investigation.
See also technical/research significance.

archaeological sites. A place that contains evidence of past human activity. Below-ground archaeological sites include building foundations, occupation deposits, features and artefacts. Above-ground archaeological sites include buildings, works, industrial structures and relics that are intact or ruined.

archaeological zoning plan. A graphic plan of a place indicating the relative archaeological potential of areas or zones within this. An archaeological zoning plan is prepared by undertaking broad-scale, archaeological assessment over a large area. The plan may be incorporated into the provisions of an environmental planning instrument.
See also archaeological management plan.

archaeology. The study of material evidence to discover human past.
See also historical archaeology.

artefacts. Objects produced by human activity. In historical archaeology the term usually refers to small objects contained within occupation deposits. The term may encompass food or plant remains (for example, pollen) and ecological features.

assessment matrix. A table summarising heritage significance values and management levels. It appears on the NSW Heritage Database form.

assessment procedure. The steps used to arrive at a statement of heritage significance. The NSW Heritage Assessment Procedure refers is set out in *Heritage Assessments* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

Australia ICOMOS. The national committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. *See Heritage Contacts* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Incorporated (AACA). The professional association of archaeologists.

Australian Heritage Commission (AHC). An independent statutory authority which is responsible to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment. It administers the AHC Act and is maintains the Register of the National Estate. *See Heritage Contacts* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

BA. Building application.

building application (BA). An application under the *Local Government Act 1993* for approval to construct or alter a building.

building approval. Approval by the determining authority to alter an item or place in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, usually subject to certain conditions.

Burra Charter (and its guidelines). Charter adopted by Australia ICOMOS which establishes the nationally accepted principles for the conservation of places of cultural significance.

commission of inquiry. An independent statutory process established under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* or *Heritage Act 1977* to conduct hearings into matters such as objections to the making or revocation of a conservation instrument or appeals against decisions of the Heritage Council.

community esteem.
See contemporary community esteem.

comparative significance. In the NSW Heritage Assessment Procedure there are two values used to compare significance: representativeness and rarity.

compatible use. A use for a heritage item which involves no change to its culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible or changes which make a minimal impact.



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conjectural reconstruction. Alteration of a heritage item to simulate a possible earlier state, which is not based on documentary or physical evidence. This treatment is outside the scope of the Burra Charter's conservation principles.

consent authority. Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the local council, public authority (which includes the Director-General of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning) or Minister with the function to approve or refuse a development application. Under the *Heritage Act 1977* it is more generally defined as the person or body with whose approval an act, matter or thing may or may not be done.

conservation. All the processes of looking after an item so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may, according to circumstances, include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

conservation instrument/conservation order. A permanent or interim conservation order, or a section 130 or section 136 order, under the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW).

conservation management plan. A document explaining the significance of a heritage item, including a heritage conservation area, and proposing policies to retain that significance. It can include guidelines for additional development or maintenance of the place.

conservation plan.
See preferred term, conservation management plan.

conservation policy. A proposal to conserve a heritage item arising out of the opportunities and constraints presented by the statement of heritage significance and other considerations.

contact sites. Sites which are associated with the interaction between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

contemporary community esteem. The valuing of a heritage item by a recognised local, regional or state-wide community because it forms a strong part of their cultural identity.
See also social significance.

criteria.
See heritage assessment criteria.

cultural (historical) heritage. As distinct from Aboriginal or natural heritage.

cultural landscapes. Those areas of the landscape which have been significantly modified by human activity. They include rural lands such as farms, villages and mining sites, as well as country towns.

cultural significance. A term frequently used to encompass all aspects of significance, particularly in guidelines documents such as the Burra Charter. Also one of the categories of significance listed in the *Heritage Act 1977*.
See also heritage significance.

curtilage. The geographical area that provides the physical context for an item, and which contributes to its heritage significance. Land title boundaries and heritage curtilages do not necessarily coincide.

DA. Development application.

DCP. Development control plan.

demolition. The damaging, defacing, destroying or dismantling of a heritage item or a component of a heritage conservation area, in whole or in part.

demolition application. Application to a local council to demolish a building or other item.

demolition approval. Approval by the determining authority to partly or fully demolish an item or place in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, usually subject to certain conditions.

determining authority. Used generally to refer to a body that can approve or refuse an activity. The term has a specific meaning under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, that is, the Minister or public authority by, or on whose behalf, an activity is to be carried out; or whose approval is required.
See also consent authority.

development application (DA). An application under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for consent or permission to carry out development.

development approval. Approval by the consent authority to carry out work on an item or place, usually subject to certain conditions including the need for a building application to be submitted.

development control plan (DCP). A plan prepared by a local council to provide more detailed development controls and guidelines to accompany a local environmental plan. Often used for heritage conservation areas.



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DUAP. NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

EIS. Environmental impact statement.

environmental heritage.

See heritage item.

environmental impact statement (EIS). A report accompanying a major development proposal detailing how the development will impact on the environment, including items and areas of natural, cultural and aboriginal heritage significance.

See also statement of environmental effects, statement of heritage impact.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). The statutory framework within which State Government and local government guide and control land use and development.

environmental planning instrument (EPI). Made under the EP&A Act, it refers to a State environmental planning policy, a regional environmental plan, a local environmental plan or 'deemed' environmental planning instrument (which generally comprise land use plans that were made prior to the current Act).

EP&A Act. *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*

EPI. Environmental planning instrument.

evaluation criteria.

See heritage assessment criteria.

excavation permit. A permit issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales under section 60 or section 140 of the *Heritage Act 1977* to disturb or excavate a relic.

exclusion guidelines. A series of statements published in *Heritage Assessments*, NSW Heritage Manual, which are used to check the conclusion that an item does not meet criteria for heritage significance.

See also inclusion guidelines.

exemptions. Work on heritage items covered by conservation orders which can be exempted under section 57(2) of the *Heritage Act 1977* from the requirement to obtain the Heritage Council's consent.

fabric.

See heritage fabric.

facade. The elevation of a building facing the street. In the past the practice of retaining only the facade of buildings was regarded as a gesture in recognition of its heritage value. The Heritage Council no longer condones this practice.

HAP. Heritage Assistance Program.

heads of consideration. (*Heritage Act 1977*, section 62 and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, section 90.) The list of matters that must be taken into account when a consent authority (usually a local council) considers whether or not to approve a development proposal under the EP&A Act.

Heritage Act 1977. The statutory framework for the identification and conservation of heritage in New South Wales. The Act also describes the composition and powers of the Heritage Council.

heritage advisor. A heritage consultant engaged by a local council, usually on a part-time basis, to give advice on heritage matters to both the council and the local community.

heritage assessment criteria. Principles by which values for heritage significance are described and tested.

See historical, aesthetic, social, technical/ research, representativeness, rarity.

Heritage Assistance Program (HAP). The major heritage financial support program in New South Wales. The program is administered by the Heritage Office for the Heritage Council and includes the New South Wales component of the National Estate Grants Program. Funds are made available each year for the assessment and conservation of heritage items, studies and educational projects. Funding is mainly provided in the form of interest-free loans or dollar-for-dollar grants.

heritage conservation area. An area which has a distinctive character of heritage significance which it is desirable to conserve.

Heritage Council. The New South Wales Government's heritage advisory body established under the Heritage Act. It provides advice to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning and others on heritage issues. It is also the determining authority for section 60 applications.

heritage database matrix.

See assessment matrix.



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heritage fabric. All the physical material of an item, including surroundings and contents which contribute to its heritage significance.

heritage inventory. A list of heritage items, usually in a local environmental plan or regional environmental plan.

heritage item. A landscape, place, building, structure, relic or other work of heritage significance.

See also Heritage Act 1977.

heritage nomination. A submission seeking State or local government intervention to protect the heritage significance of an item. Nominations normally apply to items that are not currently listed as heritage items in an environmental planning instrument such as a local or regional environmental plan, or by a conservation order under the Heritage Act.

Heritage Office. The State Government agency responsible for providing policy advice to the Minister, administrative services to the Heritage Council and specialist advice to the community on heritage matters.

heritage precinct. An area or part of an area which is of heritage significance.

See also heritage conservation area.

heritage significance. Of aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, natural or aesthetic value for past, present or future generations.

heritage study. A conservation study of an area, usually commissioned by the local council. The study usually includes a historical context report, an inventory of heritage items within the area and recommendations for conserving their significance.

heritage value. Often used interchangeably with the term 'heritage significance'. There are four nature of significance values and two comparative significance values.

See heritage significance, nature of significance, comparative significance.

hierarchy of significance. Used when describing a complex heritage site where it is necessary to zone or categorise parts of the area assigning each a particular significance. A commonly used four-level hierarchy is: considerable, some, little or no, intrusive (that is, reduces the significance of the item).

Historic Houses Trust. The State government instrumentality responsible for maintaining and managing house museums.

historic shipwreck. A shipwreck that has been protected under the terms of the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*.

Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976. The national statutory framework that deals with the identification and conservation of shipwrecks in coastal waters. In New South Wales the Act is administered by the Heritage Office.

historical archaeology. The study of the human past using both material evidence and documentary sources. In Australia, historical archaeology excludes Aboriginal archaeology prior to non-indigenous occupation, but may include contact sites.

historical context report. A report by a qualified historian outlining the background to the historical and geographical context and development of a heritage item. It will usually develop a number of historical themes to be used to highlight areas for investigation, and to assess the significance of individual items.

historical significance. An item having this value is significant because of the importance of its relationship to the evolving pattern of our cultural history.

historical themes. Arise out of an historical context report and give guidance to further research into the nature of heritage significance. Local and regional historical themes can be related back to 35 State historical themes.

HO. Heritage Office.

ICO. Interim conservation order.

ICOMOS. International Council on Monuments and Sites.

inclusion guidelines. A series of statements published in *Heritage Assessments* in the NSW Heritage Manual, used to check whether an item has heritage value as it can meet one of the four nature of significance criteria and one of the two comparative significance criteria outlined. *See also exclusion guidelines.*



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industrial archaeology. The study of relics, structures and places involved with organised labour extracting, processing or producing services or commodities; for example, roads, bridges, railways, ports, wharves, shipping, agricultural sites and structures, factories, mines and processing plants.

initial assessment. (In archaeology.) A basic overview study, sometimes referred to as a 'baseline assessment', undertaken to determine whether a particular site or group of sites warrants further investigation. Initial assessments are used to determine the need for a full assessment for a specific site and to identify sites that should be subject to an environmental planning instrument or to the provisions of an archaeological management plan.

integrity. A heritage item is said to have integrity if its assessment and statement of significance is supported by sound research and analysis, and its fabric and curtilage are still largely intact.

interim conservation order (ICO). An order made under section 26 of the Heritage Act to control demolition and development. The order lasts for one year or until it is revoked or a permanent conservation order is made.

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). An international organisation linked to UNESCO that brings together people concerned with the conservation and study of places of cultural significance. There are also national committees in sixty countries including Australia. See *also* Australia ICOMOS.

inventory.
See heritage inventory.

item. A building, structure, work, relic, place or group. The generic term used to describe objects structures or places under consideration for heritage significance.

LEP. Local environmental plan.

level of significance. There are three management levels for heritage items in New South Wales — local, regional and state. The level is determined by the context in which the item is significant. For example, items of state heritage significance will either be fine examples or rare state-wide or will be esteemed by a state-wide community.

local environmental plan (LEP). A statutory plan prepared by a local council in accordance with the EP&A Act. Following its exhibition in draft form for public comment, it is made by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, then gazetted. An LEP regulates the carrying out of development within a local government area and controls the use and development of land and the conditions under which change may occur.

local significance. Items of heritage significance which are fine examples, or rare, at the local community level.

maritime archaeology. The study of the material remains of human interaction with the sea. It includes shipwrecks and other underwater relics.

maritime sites. Shipwrecks, deposits and structures associated with maritime activity.

master plan.
See plan of management.

matrix.
See assessment matrix.

measured drawing. A technical or architectural record of a heritage item to scale, analysing the heritage significance of the fabric (for example, dates of construction and materials).

moveable heritage. Heritage items not fixed to a site or place (for example, furniture, locomotives and archives).

NEGP. National Estate Grants Program.

National Estate.
See Register of the National Estate.

National Estate Grants Program (NEGP). Federal funding to each of the states for heritage projects through the Australian Heritage Commission. In New South Wales the program is administered by the Heritage Office as part of the Heritage Assistance Program.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act). Statutory framework for the care, control and management of natural areas and Aboriginal relics in New South Wales.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). An organisation which administers the NPW Act. It acquires and manages national parks in New South Wales.



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National Trust of Australia (NSW). A community organisation which maintains a register of heritage items and provides advice on heritage issues. The trust also owns and manages heritage properties throughout the state and the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney. See *Heritage Contacts* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

natural heritage significance. Natural areas and items (as opposed to cultural items) may have natural heritage significance for their evolutionary, aesthetic, technical/research and social values. The National Parks and Wildlife Service should be consulted regarding items of natural heritage significance.

nature of significance values. There are four nature of heritage significance values used in heritage assessments: historical, aesthetic, social and technical/research significance.

nomination.

See heritage nomination.

NPW Act. *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1977.*

NPWS. National Parks Wildlife Service.

NSW Heritage Assessment Procedure. The assessment process outlined in *Heritage Assessments* in the NSW Heritage Manual. It forms step two of the NSW Heritage Management System.

NSW Heritage Database. A computer database summarising all known facts about heritage items to be used as a management tool by state and local government, other agencies and the community.

NSW Heritage Management System. The three-step process for identifying, assessing and managing heritage items, as outlined in the NSW Heritage Manual.

NSW Heritage Manual. Comprises a series of publications explaining the three steps of the NSW Heritage Management System and how they can be applied.

occupation deposits. (In archaeology.) Accumulations of cultural material that result from human activity. They are usually associated with domestic sites, for example, under-floor or yard deposits.

oral histories. Historical research carried out by interviewing people associated with a heritage item, in a planned manner to answer questions, which is archivally recorded on audio equipment so that it can be transcribed and analysed.

PCO. Permanent conservation order.

permanent conservation order (PCO). An order made under section 44 of the Heritage Act to protect a significant heritage item in NSW. This order remains in place indefinitely, unless revoked.

PHA. Professional Historians Association.

place. A site, area or landscape or group of works, together with associated structures, contents and surrounds.

plan of management. Establishes a framework for maintaining the heritage significance of an item. In association with a conservation management plan, a statement of cultural significance and a conservation policy for the item, the plan of management gives guidance on how a conservation policy can be implemented in relation to future developments.

post-contact. Used to refer to the study of archaeological sites and other heritage items dating after European occupation in 1788 which helps to explain the story of the relationship between Aborigines and the new settlers.

post-excavation. The stage of an archaeological investigation that occurs after completion of an on-site excavation. The post-excavation phase may include further research, artefact cataloguing and analysis, physical conservation, synthesis of findings, presentation and reporting.

precinct.

See heritage precinct.

preservation. Maintaining the fabric of an item in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Professional Historians Association (PHA). Professional association of historians. See *Heritage Contacts* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

proponent. The person or organisation who proposes building or development activity at a site or to a heritage item. The proponent is usually the owner of the site or item.



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protected zone. An exclusion zone declared around an historic shipwreck that prevents access without a permit from the management authority (in New South Wales this is the Heritage Office).

protecting. In reference to a heritage nomination means including a heritage item on a statutory list and/or making decisions about its future that ensure its heritage significance is maintained.

RAHS. Royal Australian Historical Society.

RAIA. Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

RAPI. Royal Australian Planning Institute.

recognising. In reference to a heritage nomination means acknowledging an item's significance and noting this in a register or statutory list.

Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS). A community organisation promoting the study of Australian history. See *Heritage Contacts* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

rarity. An item having this value is significant because it represents a rare, endangered or unusual aspect of our history or cultural heritage.

reconstruction. Returning a place as nearly as possible to a *known* earlier state by the introduction of new or old materials into the fabric (not to be confused with *conjectural* reconstruction).

regional environmental plan (REP). Prepared by the Director-General of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and made by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning following public exhibition. It deals with matters important to a specific region such as land use, development and the conservation of heritage places.

regional framework. (In archaeology.) A coordinated approach to archaeological research and investigation developed for a large area or precinct incorporating research questions and themes that apply to a number of sites.

regional significance. Items of heritage significance which are fine examples, or rare, at the regional community level.

Register of the National Estate. The register kept by the Australian Heritage Commission listing those places of natural, Aboriginal or historical significance which are part of Australia's heritage.

relic. The *Heritage Act 1977* defines relic as: '...any deposit, object or material evidence relating to non-Aboriginal settlement which is more than fifty years old.' The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* defines a relic as: '...any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to indigenous and non-European habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation both prior to and concurrent with the occupation of that area by persons of European extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.'

REP. Regional environmental plan.

representativeness. Items having this value are significant because they are fine representative examples of an important class of significant items or environments.

research design. (In archaeology.) A set of questions which can be investigated using archaeological evidence and a methodology for addressing them. A research design is intended to ensure that archaeological investigations focus on genuine research needs. It is an important tool which ensures that when archaeological resources are destroyed by excavation, the information they reveal can be preserved and can contribute to an understanding of the place and its history.

research potential. (In archaeology.) The ability of a site or feature to yield information through archaeological investigation. The significance of archaeological sites is assessed according to their ability to contribute significant information in response to properly designed research questions.

restoration. Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without introducing new material.

Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA). Professional organisation of architects. See *Heritage Contacts* in the NSW Heritage Manual.

Royal Australian Planning Institute (RAPI). Professional organisation of planners.

section 60. The Heritage Act requires an application for approval to alter or demolish an item protected by a permanent conservation order made to the Heritage Council on a prescribed form and accompanied by a prescribed fee.



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section 60 application. Application made under the Heritage Act, to make changes to an item covered by an ICO or PCO.

section 60 approval. Approval under the Heritage Act to carry out works on an item of environmental heritage, usually subject to certain conditions. Approval from the local council or other approval authorities may also be required, particularly if the item is listed in the heritage schedule to an LEP.

section 117 Direction (G21). A general direction issued by the Minister administering the EP&A Act, requiring local councils to address heritage issues when preparing LEPs.

section 130 order. An order made under the Heritage Act to control demolition. This order normally lasts for one year unless revoked.

section 132 notice. A notice of intent to demolish or harm an item covered by a section 130 order under the Heritage Act.

section 136 order. An emergency order made under the Heritage Act to halt or prevent demolition. This order lasts for 40 days unless revoked.

section 140. The Heritage Act requires applications for excavation permits to the Heritage Council to be made, on a prescribed form and accompanied by a prescribed fee.

section 167 certificate. A certificate issued by the Heritage Council specifying the conservation instruments under the Heritage Act applying to a property.

section 170 register. The Heritage Act requires each New South Wales government agency to prepare and maintain a register of heritage items in their ownership or under their control.

scientific significance.
See technical/research significance.

SEE. Statement of environmental effects.

SHIP. State Heritage Inventory Program.
(Obsolete.)

SEPP. State environmental planning policy.

social significance. Items having this value are significant through their social, spiritual or cultural association with a recognisable community.

standard heritage conservation provisions.

Standard clauses for an LEP or REP. These specify when consent for work to a heritage item is required and the matters a council must consider in determining such an application.

State environmental planning policy (SEPP). A statutory document that addresses matters of State significance, or which deals with issues where the state-wide application of policy is necessary. SEPPs are prepared by the Director-General of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and are made by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, usually following consultation with local government, the community and public authorities.

State heritage inventory. A list of heritage items of state significance developed and managed by the Heritage Office. The inventory is part of the NSW Heritage Database.

State Heritage Inventory Program (SHIP).
Obsolete. Replaced by the NSW Heritage Management System and the NSW Heritage Database.

state historical themes. Thirty-five state historical themes that have been developed to connect local issues into the broader history of New South Wales. The themes provide a context within which the criteria for assessing how and why an item is significant are applied.

state significance. Items of heritage significance which are fine examples, or rare, at a state community level.

statement of environmental effect (SEE). A series of statements looking at the impact a particular development proposal will have on a variety of environmental issues including heritage conservation. A SEE usually accompanies a development application. For major development proposals an EIS is usually required.

statement of heritage impact. Analyses the impact of proposed works on the significance of a heritage item. It normally forms part of a SEE accompanying a development application.

statement of heritage significance. A statement, usually in prose form which summarises why a heritage item or area is of importance to present and future generations.



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statutory. Those matters which occur as a result of an Act of Parliament (for example, statutory instruments such as environmental planning instruments) and thus have legal force.

technical/research significance. Items having this value are significant because of their contribution or potential contribution to an understanding of our cultural history or environment.

thematic history.

See historical context report.

urban conservation area.

See heritage conservation area.

