



Historic England

Listing Data Download - Frequently Asked Questions -

What is Listing?

'Listing' is the all-encompassing term for the legal protection given to a building, monument, structure or site through the planning system. It is recognition of historical, architectural or archaeological significance, intended to ensure that the character of the asset in question is preserved for future generations. The main types of Listing are:

- Listed Buildings
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Registered Battlefields
- Protected Wreck Sites
- World Heritage Sites

Listed Buildings

When a building is recognised as being of special architectural or historic interest it is added to the statutory 'List'. This is compiled by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on advice from Historic England.

Buildings on the List are given one of three grades which denote their level of importance, Grade I being the highest and Grade II the lowest:

- Grade I (one) - of exceptional interest
- Grade II* (two star) - particularly important
- Grade II (two) - of special interest

Structures that might not be classified as 'buildings' - such as railings, gate piers, walls, war memorials, gravestones, post boxes and telephone boxes - can all be Listed Buildings.

The dataset is added to on a regular basis and currently comprises over 377,500 entries.

Related to Listed Buildings are Certificates of Immunity (COI) and Building Preservation Notices (BPN).

Certificates of Immunity (from listing)

A COI is a legal guarantee which prevents a building from being listed during a specified five year period. The issue of a certificate also prevents the local authority from serving a Building Preservation Notice (see below) on the respective property during this period.

Building Preservation Notices

This is a form of 'temporary' listing. Local authorities have the power to serve a BPN on the owner of a building which is not listed, but which is of special architectural/historical interest and in danger of being demolished or altered. A BPN lasts for a period of six months and in effect makes an unlisted building subject to the same rules as if it were listed. This allows time for a formal assessment to be carried out.

Scheduled Monuments

Historic buildings and archaeological sites of national importance are given legal protection by being placed on a 'Schedule' of monuments. Historic England identifies and advises on these monuments, which are placed on the Schedule by the DCMS.

Examples of Scheduled Monuments are Roman remains, burial mounds, castles, bridges, earthworks, the remains of deserted villages, and industrial sites. Scheduled Monuments can not include ecclesiastical or residential buildings (except for associated caretaker's dwellings), and unlike Listed Buildings they are not assigned grades.

The dataset currently includes over 19,850 entries.

Registered Parks and Gardens

The 'Register' of Historic Parks and Gardens was established in 1983, with the emphasis placed on protecting 'designed' landscapes rather than those with botanical importance.

The Register safeguards a broad range of planned open spaces, including public parks, cemeteries, the grounds of private houses, and town squares. Like Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens are assigned one of three grades to indicate their significance.

The dataset currently includes over 1,650 entries.

Registered Battlefields

The 'Register' of Historic Battlefields, established in 1995, offers protection to the sites of English battles, as well as promoting a better understanding of their historical significance. These landscapes are of vital importance, as they provide archaeological and topographical evidence of major turning points in England's history.

The dataset currently has 46 entries.

Protected Wreck Sites

The Government has the power to safeguard the site of any shipwreck in English territorial waters. Historic England manages the licensing scheme that enables access to the wreck sites. It is a criminal offence to interfere with a protected wreck without a licence. Wreck sites are identified as being likely to contain the remains of a vessel, or its contents, which are of historical, artistic or archaeological importance.

The dataset currently has 52 entries.

World Heritage Sites

World Heritage Sites are part of the World Heritage Convention, established in 1972 by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). They are landscapes, cities, monuments or buildings of exceptional natural or cultural value.

The World Heritage List includes the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids, the Great Barrier Reef and the City of Venice. Sites in England include Stonehenge and Avebury, Canterbury Cathedral, the Tower of London, Hadrian's Wall and the whole of the City of Bath. The dataset for England currently has 19 entries, nine of which have 'buffer' zones.

Please note: this dataset represents Historic England's interpretation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site boundaries for sites wholly in or crossing into England.

Heritage at Risk 2016

The Heritage at Risk (HAR) register identifies those designated sites that are under threat as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. The HAR dataset incorporates:

- Listed Buildings at risk
- Scheduled Monuments at risk
- Registered Parks and Gardens at risk
- Registered Battlefields at risk
- Protected Wreck Sites at risk
- Conservation Areas at risk (incomplete due to availability of Conservation Area spatial data)

For more information about Heritage at Risk, please visit:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/>

Are there any restrictions on how the data can be used?

A PDF copy of the relevant licence agreement is included with each dataset. Please refer to this for terms of use.

Why are the Listed Buildings depicted as points?

The three main GIS datasets relating to Listed Buildings – i.e. Listed Buildings, Certificates of Immunity, and Building Preservation Notices – are all supplied as 'point' features. This is in order to comply with the terms of our Ordnance Survey licence, which states that these datasets should indicate the *location* rather than the *extent* of properties. We are unable to supply these GIS datasets as polygons.

How up-to-date are the datasets?

The latest datasets are uploaded to the website on a fortnightly basis. To see how current the data is, please refer to the 'Upload Date' alongside each of the dataset names.

Have Historic England undertaken Positional Accuracy Improvement (PAI)?

If Ordnance Survey (OS) map data is affected by the PAI programme, any spatial data will appear to slightly 'shift' in position away from its underlying OS background. For example, a Listed Building point may be placed just outside of the actual building to which it is referring, or a Scheduled Monument boundary may be seen to be slightly away from the line it should be following.

At present, we have not edited our data as a direct result of any PAI process.

Our data has been captured over many years, with a variety of digital software packages and to the most appropriate OS background mapping that was available. All spatial records include an attribute field indicating the scale of the background mapping used at the time the feature was originally drawn.

For further information, please refer to the Ordnance Survey's PAI programme page at:

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/business-and-government/help-and-support/navigation-technology/undertaking-pai.html>

Further information about our data

If you need any further information about our data, please contact us at:

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Alternative versions of this document

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