

Definitions of Key Heritage Terms

Heritage	“A widely used term that has come to stand for everything that is inherited, including structures, objects, images, ideas, sentiments, and practices. Not all of this need be very old, although some of it is. Distinctions are sometimes made between cultural heritage and natural heritage, although the boundaries are far from clear-cut. All heritage, however, is constructed in the sense that people or communities have selectively assembled, defined, and validated those things that they wish to consider components of the heritage. Scale is often important here, and the appropriation of a heritage is often linked to the creation of global, national, or local identity. Once defined, in whatever way, the material that is taken as being the heritage is often commodified and exploited for educational, economic, or political gain, or simply as diverting entertainment” (Darvill 2008)
Historic Environment	“All the physical evidence for past human activity, and its associations, that people can see, feel, find, and understand in the present world. It is the habitat that the human race has created through conflict and cooperation and the consequences of human interaction with nature. The term first appeared in the mid 1970s as archaeology was gradually integrated with the spatial planning system, found favour in academic and professional circles as a useful if broad concept, and by the mid 1990s was used in government guidance in preference to terms such as heritage or ancient monuments.” (Darvill 2008)
Cultural Heritage	The part of heritage that relates to human activities. Often used more narrowly to refer to physical heritage assets.
Built Environment	The surviving physical elements of the human environment that have been created by human activity (usually on purpose)
Natural Environment	The surviving physical elements that have been created without (deliberate) human activity
Heritage Asset	Term used in England for buildings, sites, and monuments of value because of their historic significance
Historic Asset	Term used in Wales and Scotland for buildings, sites, and monuments of value because of their historic significance
Site	An area of past human activity of which there is no visible trace on the surface (usually restricted to those with some form of evidence below the surface)

Designated Heritage Asset	A building or monument enjoying statutory protection (Scheduled Ancient Monument or Listed Building) (England)
Designated Historic asset	A building or monument enjoying statutory protection (Scheduled Ancient Monument or Listed Building) (Wales/Scotland)
Building	A structure built by human activity (usually used to mean a monument that is still roofed and/or used)
Monument	In common usage the term is taken to mean any large artificial structure of archaeological interest. In England, Wales, and Scotland, however, there is also a legal usage. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 defines a monument as being: 'any building, structure or work above or below the surface of the land, any cave or excavation; any site comprising the remains of any such building, structure or work or any cave or excavation; and any site comprising, or comprising the remains of, any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other...' (Darvill 2008)
Portable Antiquity	An artefact
Intangible Cultural Heritage	"Living traditions that might be manifest through oral histories and expressions, language, music, song, dance, theatre, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and craftsmanship. The depository of this heritage is the human mind, the human body being the instrument for its enactment or embodiment. Intangible cultural heritage is transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly being re-created in response to environmental conditions and interactions with nature and history, and provides communities with a sense of identity and continuity." (Darvill 2008)
Historic Landscape	An area meriting special protection as a result of the sites and monuments it contains, or cultural significance
Scheduled Ancient Monument	A monument with statutory protection
Guardianship Site	A historic site owned or managed by Historic Scotland, English Heritage or Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
Listed Building	A building with statutory protection
Historic Park and Garden	An area meriting special protection as a result of the sites and monuments it contains, or cultural significance, relating to the design and use for leisure purposes
Material interest	An asset requiring consideration when planning authorities are deciding on development proposals

Heritage cycle	"A heuristic model of archaeological value proposed in 2006 by English Heritage as a way of understanding emotional attachment and public support for conserving and managing the historic environment. The four phases to the cycle run: By understanding the historic environment people value it; By valuing it they will want to care for it; By caring for it they will help people enjoy it; From enjoying the historic environment comes a thirst to understand it. " (Darvill 2008)
Heritage Impact Assessment	A short statement of the expected impact of a development or management proposal on historic assets
Setting	The area around a site, monument or building whose use might affect the understanding or appreciation of the historic asset
Historic Environment Record	A database of all sites, monuments and finds within an administrative area primarily used for planning purposes
National Monuments Record	A database of sites, monuments and finds

Darvill, T. (2008). The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology. : Oxford University Press. Retrieved 12 Nov. 2019, from <https://www-oxfordreference-com.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/view/10.1093/acref/9780199534043.001.0001/acref-9780199534043>.