

## NOTES ON BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

The Secretary of State for the Environment is required to compile lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest for the guidance of local planning authorities. Conservation policies are often based on the lists, which are being revised within a national resurvey programme.

### How the buildings are chosen

The principles of selection for these lists were originally drawn up by an expert committee of architects, antiquaries and historians, and are still followed. Buildings that qualify for listing are (a) All buildings before 1700 which survive in anything like their original condition, (b) Most buildings between 1700 and 1840, though selection is necessary, and (c) between 1840 and 1914 only buildings of definite quality and character; the selection being designed to include the principal works of the principal architects. Selected buildings of 1914 to 1939 are also considered.

In choosing buildings, particular attention is paid to:

Special value within certain types, either for architectural or planning reasons or as illustrating social and economic history (for instance, industrial buildings, railway stations, schools, hospitals, theatres, town halls, markets, exchanges, almshouses, prisons, lock-ups, mills).

Technological innovation or virtuosity (for instance cast iron, prefabrication, or the early use of concrete).

Group value, especially as examples of town planning (for instance, squares, terraces or model villages).

Association with well-known characters or events.

A survey is carried out by the Department's Inspectors of Historic Buildings, for each local authority area, and buildings are classified in grades to show their relative importance.

**Grade I.** These are buildings of exceptional interest (less than 5 per cent of the listed buildings so far are in this grade).

**Grade II.** These are buildings of special interest, which warrant every effort being made to preserve them. (Some particularly important buildings in Grade II are classified as Grade II\*).

(Note: There was previously a Grade III which did not form part of the statutory list. Since the adoption of current standards, many buildings originally shown as Grade III qualify for selection, particularly when they possess group value, and are situated in the revised lists accordingly).

### Listed Buildings and Ancient Monuments

'Listed buildings' as described in these notes are buildings listed by the Secretary of State for the Environment as being of special architectural or historic interest, and are often occupied buildings.

'Scheduled ancient monuments' are buildings or other structures scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts. They are usually unoccupied. In any case where a listed building is also a scheduled monument the control provisions of the Ancient Monument Acts supersede those in the Town and Country Planning Acts.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- a. Each entry in the schedule shows the following information (as appropriate) set out in the form here described.

National Grid  
Reference No

Civil Parish/  
Town/City

Village/  
Street Name

Serial Number  
of list entry

Address of  
Building(s)

Date when building  
was first listed

Group Value note

Grade of  
Building

Descriptive notes

- b. The descriptive notes in each entry have no legal significance and are intended primarily for identification purposes and should not be treated as a comprehensive or exclusive record of all the features which are considered to make a building worthy of listing.
- c. The following abbreviations may be found in the descriptive notes:-

C = Century

AM = Ancient Monument

NMR = National Monuments Record

RCHM = Royal Commission on Historic Monuments

VCH = Victoria County History

other, more recognisable, abbreviations may also be found eg RH (Right hand), LH (Left hand), PH (Public House) etc.

- d. The same serial number may be shown as referring to more than one item particularly if the properties concerned are in close proximity.