

# SOMERSET'S LOCAL LIST: Q&A

## What is the List?

The Local Heritage List (LHL) records the 'heritage assets' – buildings, structures, and places – which have cultural significance in Somerset and Exmoor National Park. It's a way to recognise the rare, valuable, and threatened places which enrich the county – even if they don't meet the strict requirements for [national listing](#). Buildings on the LHL are meaningful at a local level – and this project will make sure they don't stay overlooked.

This is your chance to have a say, because individuals and community groups will help to choose what gets listed by identifying candidates. Nominate a site – whether it's a factory or a front doorstep – and help shape heritage across Somerset and Exmoor.

## How do I submit a nomination?

There are different ways to send it to us:

1. Use **Know Your Place**, an interactive website mapping South West heritage. Go to <https://swheritage.org.uk/local-heritage-list> and click 'Know Your Place Guide'.
2. **Download the form** available at <https://swheritage.org.uk/historic-environment-service/local-heritage-list/nominations/> – great for nominating a single property and adding lots of detail.
3. If you have multiple assets to put forward, **request a nomination spreadsheet** by emailing [hl@swheritage.org.uk](mailto:hl@swheritage.org.uk).

4. Send a **letter or postcard** to:

Local Heritage List  
Somerset Heritage Centre  
Brunel Way  
Norton Fitzwarren  
Taunton  
TA2 6SF



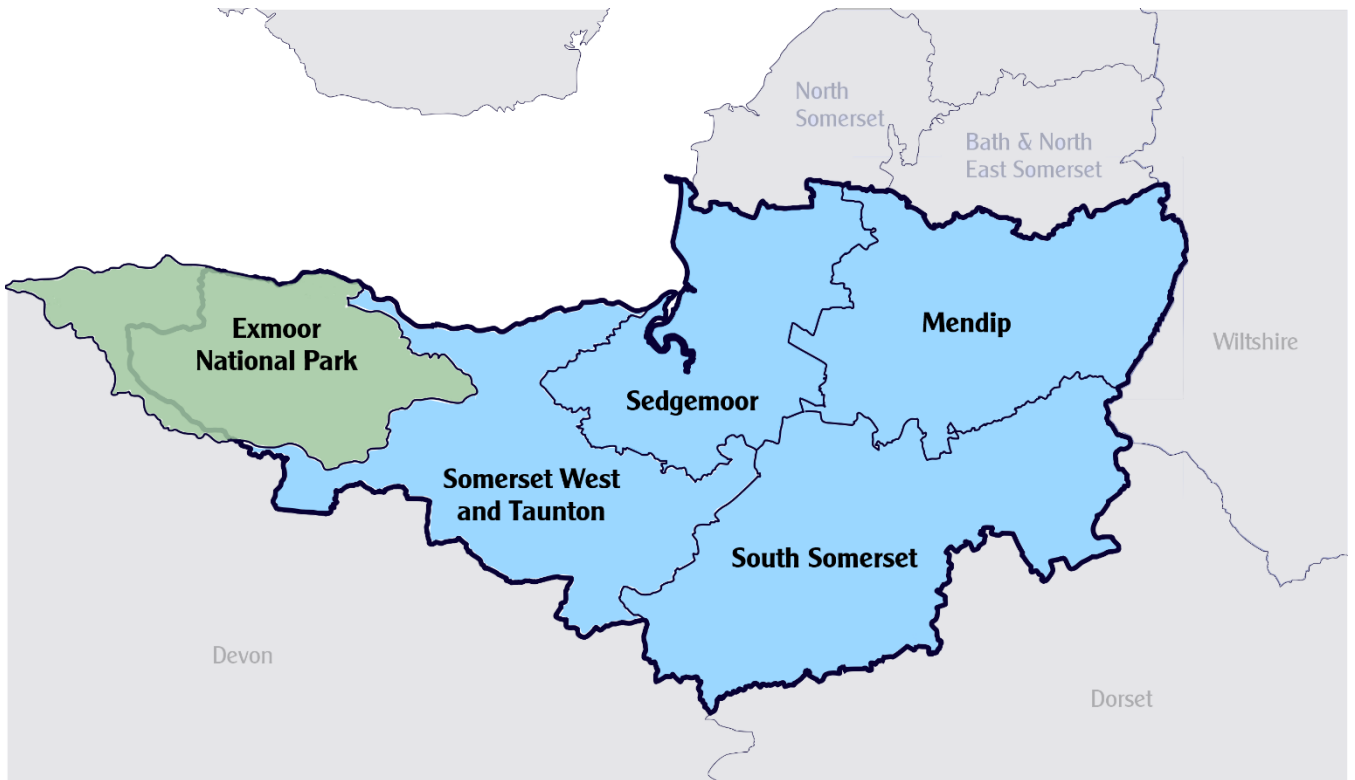
## What kind of places can I nominate?

A wide range of buildings, structures, and man-made environments count as heritage assets and can go on the List. You could tell us about a house, a war memorial, a public artwork – if it's part of Somerset and Exmoor's diverse heritage, we're keen to hear about it.

Think about whether your nomination meets one or more of these criteria:

- **Age** – this gives an asset substantial value (but newer places will be considered too).
- **Rarity** in a structure's purpose, type, or features. It might be rare within a region, or a very local area.
- **Distinctive design** – for instance construction using local materials, rare crafting techniques, or by a noteworthy architect.
- **Group value** – multiple structures connected to each other by history or design, such as terraced houses or the parts of a factory complex.
- **Evidential value** – material evidence of past human activity which shows how people and places have developed. This might be buried archaeology or above ground. A preserved garden layout, a gravestone, or an abandoned village would all qualify.
- **Historical association** – for example with a famous person, a powerful memory, or a story from the past.
- **Social and communal value** – places of treasured local identity, including where community interactions, acts of worship, and cultural events have taken place; or where strong group memories were made. They can be valuable without wide recognition.

Places on the Local Heritage List don't necessarily have to be grand or famous. Their significance to you might even be very personal. There's a more detailed explanation at [our website](#).



Heritage assets in these five areas can be nominated.

### What information should I try and provide?

- The asset's name, address, and type of place (e.g. 'war memorial').
- A detailed description. Consider:
  - The asset's appearance and noteworthy features or history
  - Its age (or a rough estimate) and condition
  - Any risks to its survival
  - Why it's important to our heritage: who values the site, how it meets the selection criteria
- Your name, organisation, and contact details (optional). Used solely to contact you if we need more info.
- Any images and website links you have.

## Does the list give buildings legal protection from changes?

Local listing is very different to national listing, and does not impose restrictions or responsibilities. The main intention is to celebrate local culture and encourage good management.

If a building is added to the Local Heritage List, it will be recognised as a culturally significant heritage asset. This will not (in itself) give the structure any additional protection, but it will inform decisions by owners and public bodies. Early recognition is important when submitting or deciding a planning application as it avoids late interventions and delay.

## Is there a selection process?

Yes. A team of heritage professionals at the South West Heritage Trust will assess all entries against the criteria, then make decisions about which to add to the final List. The project team will also look at other sources (such as the [Historic Environment Record](#)), to identify appropriate sites. Difficult cases will be referred to experts. Assessment of Exmoor National Park nominations will be led by the Exmoor National Park Authority.

## What's the outcome?

The main project lasts a year. After this, we will have an extensive catalogue of locally important heritage assets. This collection will be visible as a map layer on Know Your Place, and as a database. A Local Heritage List can never be complete, so we will add to and review it periodically in years to come.

The project is managed by the South West Heritage Trust.  
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