

Policy and Resources Committee	
Meeting Date	4 th February 2026
Report Title	Local Heritage List
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins - Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Joanne Johnson – Head of Place
Lead Officer	Jhilmil Kishore – Principal Heritage Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. To agree the schedule of heritage assets proposed to be designated as Local Heritage Assets based on the outcome of the Selection Panel meeting. 2. To note that the schedule of heritage assets proposed to be designated as Local Heritage has been developed in line with best practice guidance published by Historic England and will afford protection to a range of non-designated heritage buildings and structures within the Borough.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Policy and Resources Committee's approval of the schedule of heritage assets recommended to be designated as Local Heritage Assets, as set out in **Appendix I**.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Swale Heritage Strategy was adopted in April 2020. Developing a Borough wide Local Heritage List is one of its objectives.

- 2.2 The main purpose of the proposed Swale Borough Local Heritage List is:
- To raise awareness of the borough's local heritage assets and their importance to local distinctiveness.
 - To inform developers, owners, council officers and members about buildings within the borough boundary that are desirable to retain and protect.
 - To help inform guidance and specialist advice to owners with the objective of protecting the character and setting of those buildings, structures, sites and landscapes.
 - To help the council in its decision making when developing local plan policy and in determining planning applications.
 - To record the nature of the local historic environment more accurately.

3 Proposals

3.1 The recommendation is:

- To agree the schedule of heritage assets proposed to be designated as Local Heritage Assets based on the outcome of the Selection Panel meeting.
- To note that the schedule of heritage assets proposed to be designated as Local Heritage has been developed in line with best practice guidance published by Historic England and will afford protection to a range of non-designated heritage buildings and structures within the Borough.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 One option would be to not take this designation work any further. This is not recommended because it would risk the appropriately sensitive and positive management of Swale's heritage assets that are of local significance and would be a poor conclusion to the robust process of determining the list which has been undertaken to date.
- 4.2 Another possible option would be to suspend the work on Local Heritage Listing until some point in the future. This option would result in wasted officer time and could lead to (a) a number of heritage assets of local significance being lost (b) reputational damage to the Council and/or (c) development and associated infrastructure provision decisions being made for the locality without an appropriate understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of non-designated heritage assets/local heritage.
- 4.3 To agree an alternative list. Members may choose to amend by removing one or more of the sites recommended for listing or add to the list.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 A public consultation was undertaken from 25th May 2021 to 9th July 2021, based on which Listing Criteria for Local Heritage List was adopted. (Appendix II).
- 5.2 150 heritage assets have already been designated as Local Heritage following the first round of Selection Panel in October 2024.
- 5.3 A protocol for urgent designation of assets on Local Heritage was adopted at the June 2025 Policy & Resources committee.
- 5.4 Parish/Town Councils, local amenity societies and members of the public were invited to nominate assets for the Local Heritage list in summer of 2025, that would meet the criterion as set out in the adopted listing criteria.

Approximately 100 nominations were received, and officers prepared a supplementary list of approximately 15 assets from the recently concluded Conservation Areas review work

- 5.5 On 13th January 2026, a Selection Panel was invited to agree the final list out of the shortlist created from the nominated assets and the Conservation Area Review work.

A total of 115 assets were discussed by the Selection Panel, and the final list includes 80 heritage assets.

- 5.6 The Selection Panel comprised of:

Swale Borough Council

- Design & Heritage Manager
- Principal Heritage Officer

Representatives from:

1. Historic England – Ross Crayford
2. Kent Gardens Trust – Karen Emery
3. Faversham Society – Jonathan Carey
4. Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne – Richard Emmette

Members:

1. Heritage Champion – Cllr. Mike Baldock
2. Area Committee representatives – Cllr. Paul Stephen (Western Area Committee), Cllr. Dolley Wooster (Sheppey Area Committee)

All Area Committees were invited to nominate a representative.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The proposed Local Heritage List would support the Economy priority from the Corporate Plan: <i>‘To develop the borough’s second Heritage Action Plan that reflects in-house and partnership capacity, to support and promote our outstanding assets.</i>
Financial, Resource and Property	No additional financial implications are envisaged. The current process of designating a Local Heritage List is being managed by the Principal Heritage Officer using in-house resources with no additional funding.

	Additional in-house support will be needed from the Planning Technical Team to map out the designated Local Heritage List for public access, but this can be accommodated within their work programme.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	There is a statutory obligation on Local Planning Authorities to consider the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas, listed buildings, and designated heritage assets in determining development proposals
Crime and Disorder	The Borough Council is a founding member of Heritage Watch, which is an affiliation of heritage focussed organisations set up in liaison with the police force to tackle and reduce the growing problem of heritage crime (e.g. theft of artefacts and lead roof sheeting from churches). This issue is covered in the Heritage Strategy document. A borough-wide Local Heritage List will further this initiative.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	One of the three dimensions of sustainable development is its environmental role: contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment.
Health and Wellbeing	The health and wellbeing aspects of interaction with heritage assets and heritage related projects are referenced in the adopted Heritage Strategy which underpins this review work.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.
Local Government Reorganisation	No Impact on Local Government reorganisation, because designating Local Heritage List comes under management of the area's heritage and is guided by best practices as set out by Historic England and NPPF.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Proposed Local Heritage List as recommended by the Selection Panel on 13th January 2026.
- Appendix II: Listing Criteria for Local Heritage List adopted in October 2021.

8 Background Papers

A Heritage Strategy for Swale 2020-2032 Adopted March 2020