

## Built Heritage FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

**Q: How do I know if my building is listed or in a Conservation Area?**

Please check our interactive [Maps of the Conservation Areas](#).  
Please check our interactive [Maps of listed buildings](#).

**Q: I live in a Conservation Area, can I replace my windows?**

We always recommend historic wooden windows to be repaired (and secondary glazed if required). The wood in windows made before the First World War is much better quality than modern wood and will last much longer with minimal repair. Where historic windows are beyond repair and planning permission is required to replace windows, we would ask for like for like replacements (design and materials). Where insensitive modern windows are being replaced, good historic replicas which match the house should be used. UPVC windows are unlikely to be acceptable in a Conservation Area. Please contact [planning@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:planning@leicester.gov.uk) with your address and an indication of the current window design, and position on the property and we will provide further advice.

**Q: I'm thinking of buying a listed building, what do I need to know?**

Listed building ownership can be extremely interesting and rewarding. However you need to be aware that there are more restrictions on what you can do with a listed building than an ordinary property. Repairs also need to be undertaken with careful consideration as modern methods are often not compatible with the traditional construction of these buildings and can end up causing more harm in the long term. The main thing before purchasing is to do your research, [English Heritage](#) has lots of advice on owning and working on listed buildings. Also see our pages on [Listed buildings](#) have more information. A good introduction for anyone thinking of purchasing a historic property is '[Look before you leap](#)' which is published by SPAB (The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings).

**Q: I'm thinking of buying a building in a Conservation Area, what do I need to know?**

External alterations may require Planning Permission. Internal alterations don't need consent unless the building is listed. The demolition of buildings (including some boundary walls) would require Planning Permission. General maintenance and repair work is usually permitted without the need for Planning Permission. Please see our pages on [Conservation Areas](#) for more information.

**Q: What is an Article 4 Direction?**

An Article 4 Direction is put on properties to protect their historic character. You would need Planning Permission to change doors, windows, roof slates etc. Please see our pages on [Article 4 Directions](#) for more information.

**Q: Is my house covered by an Article 4 Direction?**

Please check our interactive [Maps of Article 4 Directions](#).

**Q: What consents do I need to carry out work to my Listed Building?**

All alterations to any grade of Listed Building require Listed Building Consent, this applies to external alterations to any elevation and internal alterations. If the work is internal, only Listed Building Consent is required. For external alterations, Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent will be required. For more information please check our [Planning Application](#) pages.

**Q: What consents do I need to carry out work to my building in a Conservation Area?**

Unless there is an [Article 4 Direction](#) covering your property then generally the normal planning rules apply. However there are some exceptions. Please see the [planning portal interactive guides](#) for more information. Planning permission is required for the demolition of buildings over 115 square metres in volume or for walls over 1 metre in height which face a highway or over 2 metres in other areas. For more information please check our [planning application](#) pages.

**Q: How do I report when I think work has been done without consent?**

If you suspect a crime is taking place, for example lead theft, please call the Police. Otherwise view our pages on [planning breaches](#) for more information.

**Q: Are there any grants available?**

We have a small amount of Historic Building Grant money available for the restoration or reinstatement of historic features. Application forms are available, please email [planning@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:planning@leicester.gov.uk).

**Q: What is the Local Heritage Asset Register (the Local List)?**

The Local Heritage Asset Register, more commonly known as the Local List, is a register of local heritage assets that may not meet the strict requirements of national designations, but nonetheless make a significant contribution to the historic environment of Leicester.

The register identifies the significance of these local heritage assets, informing all current and future planning decisions.

Local heritage assets on the register can include:

- Buildings and structures
- Parks and gardens
- Archaeological sites

Please see our page on [Local Heritage Asset Register](#) for more information.