



## **Historic parks and gardens**

### ***What are historic parks and gardens?***

Historic parks and gardens are 'heritage assets' in planning terms. They are landscapes with a deliberate design and may range in age from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They may be private gardens, parkland, estates, public parks, hospitals, industrial and new town landscapes. As with other heritage assets, their significance should be conserved and they should have policies for their protection.

As well as their intrinsic importance as a heritage asset, historic designed landscapes make a significant contribution to local character. The NPPF states that this is a key component that Neighbourhood Plans should conserve and enhance (paragraphs 17 and 58).

Cheshire Gardens Trust (CGT) exists to promote awareness, understanding and conservation of historic parks and gardens and it works with the Gardens Trust as the national statutory consultee. For further information see

<http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/conservation-publications/>  
and <http://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/?Aims>

### ***Are they designated?***

Historic parks and gardens can be Registered or undesignated. Historic England maintains the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest; these are historic designed landscapes in England and Wales of national importance. There are seven in Cheshire West. For Grade I and II\* sites, "substantial harm.... should be wholly exceptional" (NPPF paragraph 132). Undesignated sites may be as significant as Registered ones but have yet to be recognised as such. These sites are intrinsically supportive to local and regional character, identity, and to the quality of life. They also have protection under the NPPF e.g. paragraphs 135 and 139.

### ***Are there historic parks and gardens in your NDP area?***

You should consider whether there are any historic designed landscapes within the area of your NDP.

- Registered sites can be found by searching the Historic England website <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>.
- CGT's draft lists of sites are at <http://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/?Research-Parks--Gardens---CHESHIRE-WEST--CHESTER>

For undesignated sites the Cheshire Historic Environment Record holds our reports for the sites we have researched and they can be contacted on 01244 973667 or 01244 973997 or by email: [hbsmradmin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:hbsmradmin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk).

CGT have a small group of volunteers with hundreds of sites to research and we have not investigated the area of every emerging NDP. However this does not mean that there are no historic parks and gardens in your area, and it is likely that there are.

***Should you include historic parks and gardens in your policies?***

You should therefore consider including policies in your NDP for the conservation and enhancement of historic parks and gardens, particularly in relation to potential development, as for any other heritage asset.

You should consider your policies in relation to those of the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan e.g. Policies ENV5 of the Local Plan (Part One) and DM42 and 43 Local Plan (Part Two) Preferred Approach. CGT would like to see NDPs including more specific protection of historic designed landscapes than the Local Plan, because NDPs can demonstrate a more detailed understanding of the local area and the way in which these sites contribute to local character such as creating important or cherished views.

Should any development be proposed within or near historic parks and gardens (designated or not designated), the proposals should be in accordance with the policies of the Local Plan and NDP. The impact of the development on the landscape should be assessed by the developer and local planning authority, and the landscape conserved and enhanced.