

Listed Buildings

What is a listed building and why are they listed?

Buildings designated by the Secretary of State for culture, media and sport as being of 'special architectural or historic interest'.

Recommendations for, and, records of, listed buildings are maintained by Historic England (used to be called English Heritage), the government's lead body for the historic environment, which acts as the government's advisor on all additions and other alterations to the statutory list.

You cannot alter or demolish a listed building without permission!

Listing is not meant to fossilize a building. Its long term interests are often served by putting it to good use!

But listing ensures that the architectural and historic interest of the building is carefully considered before any alterations are agreed.

How are they chosen?

- Age, rarity, architectural merit, methods of constructions.
- Building played a part in the life of an important person.
- A group of buildings - an individual building may not merit listing but if it is part of an overall plan then they are listed for their group value. Imagine the terrace of houses in the Royal Crescent in Bath – individually, each house may not merit listing but altering just one, would affect the look of all the others.
- Age - all buildings built before 1700 which have more or less survived in anything like their original condition are listed, as are most built between 1700 and 1840. After that date, the criteria becomes tighter with time, so that post-1945 buildings have to be exceptionally important to be listed.,

Grades

- Grade I - buildings of exceptional interest
Weston on the Green does not have any Grade 1 buildings. The nearest examples are Kirtlington Park Country House, St Edberg's Church, Bicester, St Nicholas' Church, Islip and the medieval cross in the churchyard at Somerton.
- Grade II* - particularly important and more than of special interest.
There are two buildings of that category in Weston on the Green – St Mary's Church and Weston Manor
- Grade II - special interest warranting every effort to preserve them.
In England 90% of listed buildings are Grade II. In Weston on the Green there are 31 buildings of that category. They include some "non-buildings" – the Village Stocks, the Milestone on the verge of the B430 approximately 100 metres of the junction with North Lane and two Chest tombs in the churchyard.