

The Built Environment – Research Agenda Priorities, Early Medieval to Modern Periods

1 **Castles, Military Buildings and Great Houses**

1. Can we identify local typologies of castles and country houses and how should changes of use be recorded?
2. Was there any continuity of location between castles and country houses? How can we be certain to identify earlier structures concealed in later buildings?
3. What were the social relationships between the occupants of these buildings and between country estates?
4. How were country estates managed?
5. How can we classify and record the military built environment?
6. What local resources were used to build and maintain all these buildings?
7. What was the impact of all these buildings on the local economy and environment?

2 **Ecclesiastical Buildings**

1. How can we ensure that the earliest phases of medieval and post-medieval buildings are identified?
2. How can we better understand and classify the significance of non-Anglican buildings?
3. Can the significance of church-related buildings be determined, including rectories, presbyteries, manses and schools?
4. How should we study and classify the importance of building interiors, decorations and monuments?
5. Can the typology of local and regional building styles be established?
6. What is the relationship of church-related buildings, including closes, precincts and granges, to their environs?

3 **Industrial and Transport Buildings**

1. What was the importance of transport systems to the development in the built environment, and how did these evolve?
2. How did gender differentiation in work and technological diversification and innovation affect the built environment? Does the form of a building reflect its function?
3. What the effect of industrialisation of agriculture?
4. What was the effect of industrialisation on settlement patterns?
5. Can we characterise municipal pride and progress?
6. Can we establish building typologies and is there a regional and chronological dimension?
7. How do we study the challenging 20th century landscape?

4 **Townscapes**

1. How were towns organised and planned and how did this change over time?
2. Can we determine how towns evolved and expanded from the medieval to modern period?
3. How should the extent, condition and status of Conservation Areas be assessed to reflect local, regional and national importance?
4. What was the importance of squatter settlements, suburbs and modern estates to town fringes?
5. How did peripheral greens, market places and enclosure influence the expansion and morphology of towns?
6. Can we define the range and relative importance of urban buildings?
7. How should the significance of unlisted buildings, buildings concealed within later structures, and groups of buildings be determined?
8. Can we classify and record the significance of cellars and caves, and document changes in their use over time?

5 **Vernacular Architecture**

1. How do we assess the extent of the built environment resource?
2. Can regional building typologies be established and is there a regional and chronological dimension?
3. What is the local and regional character of buildings?
4. What was the importance of local building materials?
5. How should these buildings be dated and recorded?
6. How can buildings at risk be protected in an informed manner?

6 **Rural Built Environment**

1. How can we identify, classify and define the function and significance of traditional farm buildings including barns, farmsteads and small holdings?
2. Can we classify the most important parkland structures such as dovecotes, pump, ice and boat houses, and identify those at risk? How do these differ from urban examples?
3. What was the relationship of buildings to the development of parkland in this region?
4. Can we establish a typology for alms houses, estate villages and cottages?
5. How should we classify and determine the importance of structures used for recreation such as fishing lodges, kennels and hides?
6. What is the importance of water management features in the landscape, such as drainage and features associated with water meadows?