

## **COTAC Insight 2a:**

# **The Need to be Aware of the Built Heritage**

Exploring ICOMOS Education and Training Guideline

(a): Read a monument, ensemble or site and identify its emotional, cultural and use significance



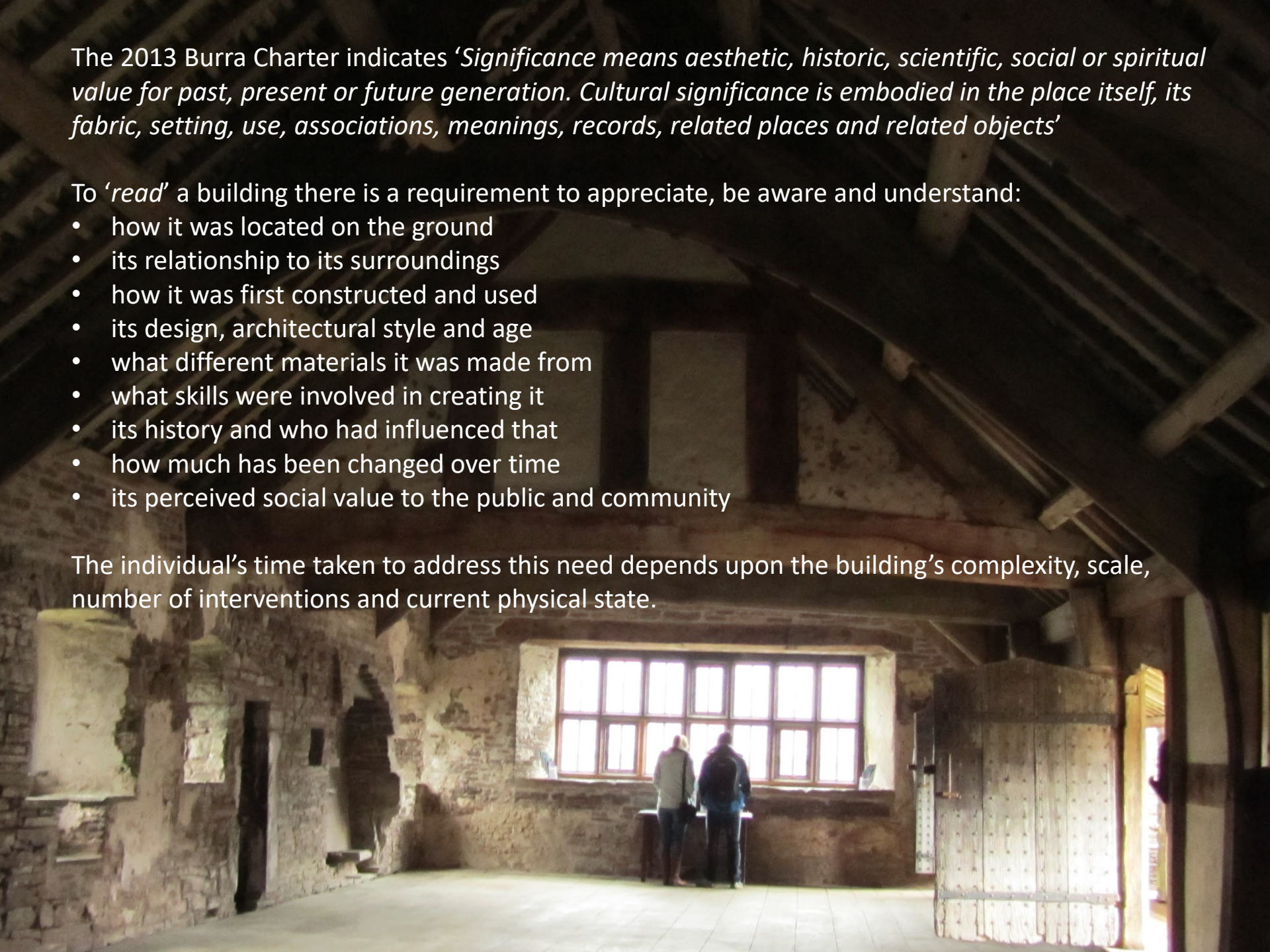


The 2013 Burra Charter indicates '*Significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generation. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects*'

To '*read*' a building there is a requirement to appreciate, be aware and understand:

- how it was located on the ground
- its relationship to its surroundings
- how it was first constructed and used
- its design, architectural style and age
- what different materials it was made from
- what skills were involved in creating it
- its history and who had influenced that
- how much has been changed over time
- its perceived social value to the public and community

The individual's time taken to address this need depends upon the building's complexity, scale, number of interventions and current physical state.





The significance of Newgrange lies in its large kidney shaped mound covering an area of over one acre, retained at the base by 97 kerbstones, some of which are richly decorated with megalithic art. The 19m long inner passage leads to a cruciform chamber with a corbelled roof. The amount of time and labour invested in its construction suggests a well-organized pre-historic society with specialised groups responsible for different aspects of construction. <https://www.newgrange.com/>





Crannogs are significant loch-dwellings built to accommodate individual extended families in Scotland, Ireland and elsewhere in Europe. The earliest is 5,000 years old although re-used crannogs existed until the 17<sup>th</sup> C. in Scotland. Between 1994-1997 this reconstruction was built as an archaeological experiment.





The earthwork fortifications of Barnard Castle were rebuilt in stone by Bernard de Balliol I during the latter half of the 12<sup>th</sup>C. The Castle is Grade I and the Outer Ward Chapel Grade II listed, both in the care of English Heritage.





Significance can be defined as: *“The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic.”*

## Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS 5) (Annex 2)





Significance calls for an interpretation of complexity and scarcity: its management can be challenging, with an array of inherent and imposed values impinging on its identity and cultural value



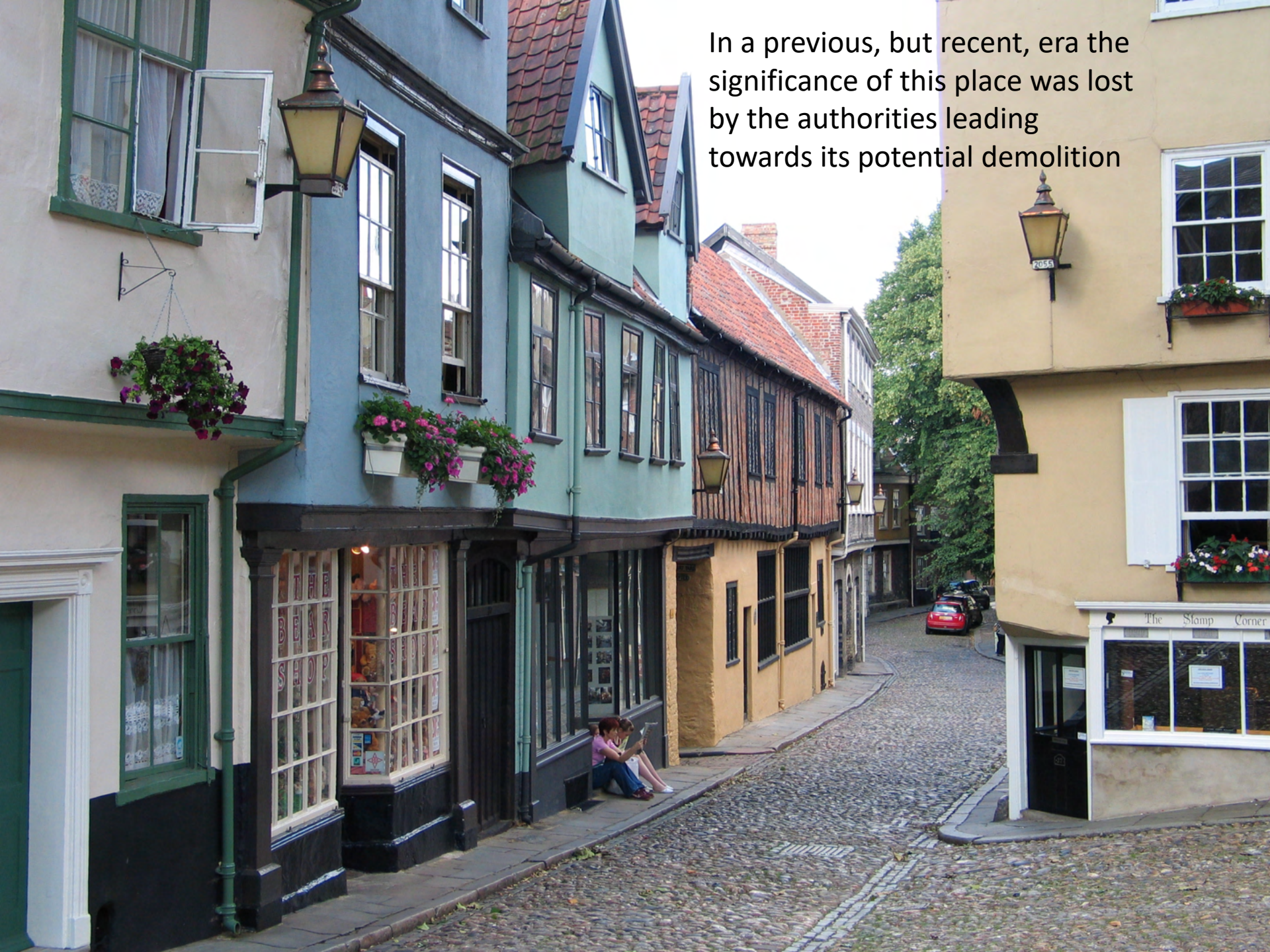




A significant symbiotic relationship between building and nature, occasioned by a functional need requiring a direct link between land and sea



In a previous, but recent, era the significance of this place was lost by the authorities leading towards its potential demolition





A high degree of anticipation might be instilled through an approach passed the ornate gate piers and the significant architectural style of the gate guardian Lodge building into the estate policies







The Art Nouveau Old England original department store in Brussels was constructed in 1898–99, now houses the Musical Instruments Museum, founded in 1877. The design's industrialised methods of construction, of steel frame and large-scale infill glass panels, became a model for the future construction of retail shop windows and department stores; thereby encouraging the practice of window-shopping.



Significance is a collective term for the sum of all the heritage values attached to a place, be it a building, an archaeological site or a larger historic area such as a whole village or landscape.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles/>





During the Cold War this nuclear control bunker held an ultimate significance in its defence of the realm. Here, a nearby Cathedral could have been sacrificed as being of a lesser significance in the event of hostilities





Design by architect Sir Robert Matthew, construction of the Cockenzie coal-fired power station began in 1959 on the site of the former Preston Links Colliery. Due to significant changes in operating policies it ceased generating in 2013 and was demolished by 2015.





In pursuing the need to appreciate ‘*Guideline (a): Read the monument, ensemble or site and identify its emotional, cultural and use significance*’, amongst other sources, accessing a number of UNESCO publications can be revealing as to the diversity of what might be considered and taken into account. See: <http://whc.unesco.org>

In addition a number of Guideline-specific URL links are offered on the COTAC Global website under the Menu tab ‘*Digital Bibliography*’ at ‘*a. Reading and Identifying*’. See: [http://www.cotac.global/digital\\_bib/](http://www.cotac.global/digital_bib/)

