

# CAMRA Pub Heritage Group

## Local Inventories Selection Criteria

### Summary:

- **Local Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors:** pubs which are not of special national interest but have a degree of intactness in their original layout and/or some of their original internal fittings.
- ▣ **Local Inventory of Historic Pub Exteriors:** pubs where the historic interior has been entirely destroyed. However, the pub retains an exterior which has high quality aspects.



### Introduction:

Local Inventories are the lowest tier in our structured statement of national pub preservation priorities. Above it is the National Inventory which identifies the country's best preserved historic pub interiors: pubs within it are graded in three tiers (Three, Two and One Star): all are considered to be of special national interest.

There are many pub interiors where the level of change has been too great for the National Inventory (NI) to be considered appropriate. However, they do retain parts of their traditional planform and/or some historic features. Such fragments are of heritage interest. They deserve recognition and respect in any alteration or refurbishment schemes that may be proposed. To that end, and to aid understanding, they should be recorded and catalogued.

In addition, many pubs retain much of their original exterior despite their interior having had substantial change. For example, they may have original brickwork, entrance doors, plasterwork, stained windows and/or tiling.

Hence, the development of Local Inventories as a means of raising such awareness. The expectation is that LIs will be driven by individual CAMRA Branches, with PHG maintaining arms-length oversight and setting the inclusion criteria.

### Local Inventories - Criteria:

As with the NI, the 'cut off' point for LI pubs is 50 years ago: the interior must contain some elements that originated before that date. However, whilst NI pubs are expected to retain significant elements that are more than 50 years old, with LI pubs that criterion is more relaxed and just a few features or aspects of old plan-form can suffice. LIs can also include pubs whose historic interior is no more, but which have historic exteriors.

### Applying the Criteria:

When considering a pub for LI inclusion, things to look for are 'fragmentary survival': historic features and/or a historic plan:

**Historic features:** for example: seating, counter and bar back (gantry), doors and windows, wall-tiles, a mosaic floor in the entrance hall (vestibule), panelling, fireplaces, bell-pushes, decorated ceilings, original loos, screens and so forth. In an LI pub, it would be rare for more than a few of these features to survive, otherwise it would be a candidate for the NI. Given that this is the lowest tier of the Inventory project, the bar can be set quite low. A room with old bench seating (even if recently upholstered) and some wall-



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panelling could be regarded as having enough to qualify.

**Historic plan:** Are some elements of the historic layout intact or readily discernible? Comments on the pub should aim to demonstrate how much of its internal plan has, or hasn't, changed. For instance, it might still be obvious to the trained eye that the pub was once multi-roomed even though several walls have been removed and spaces rearranged. However, if the interior has been comprehensively remodelled then historic interest in the layout will have gone.

**Historic exterior:** Typically, the original multi-room layout is transformed into a single open plan area with a single bar. However, the pub retains an exterior which has high quality aspects.

### Agreeing Entries:

NI entries have to be agreed by specified numbers of Pub Heritage Group (PHG) members. It would be unrealistic for such approval methods to extend to LIs. The expectation is that compilation of LIs will be driven by individual CAMRA Branches. It should be their decision, using these criteria, as to which interiors to include on the list. However, PHG will maintain quality control oversight. LIs should be made available to PHG who may wish to comment.

### Coverage:

The basic building blocks should be CAMRA Branch areas. However, Branches may wish to combine their findings into larger areas such as a whole County or a city such as Birmingham, Manchester or London. Alternatively, a Branch may wish to look at a specific part of their area. For example, a single Local Authority or a series of adjacent areas.

### Format:

In a similar manner to the NI, the description for each LI pub should include its name and address, the name of the local planning authority and whether it is Listed. The main text should make clear the reasons why the interior merits inclusion. If appropriate, reasons can also be given as to why the interior is not up to NI standard. Mention should also be made of any significance regarding the exterior.

### Recording:

- Each branch should maintain a list of the pubs on their LI (via their branch website)
- Each local listing will be linked from the LI page on the PHG website
- In time, all LI pubs should have an entry which is accessible from the national pub heritage database.

*Agreed: PHG meeting, Birmingham, October 2024  
To be reviewed October 2029*