



# Heritage and Stewardship

Design Principles

Claire Pudney – Head of Heritage and Stewardship

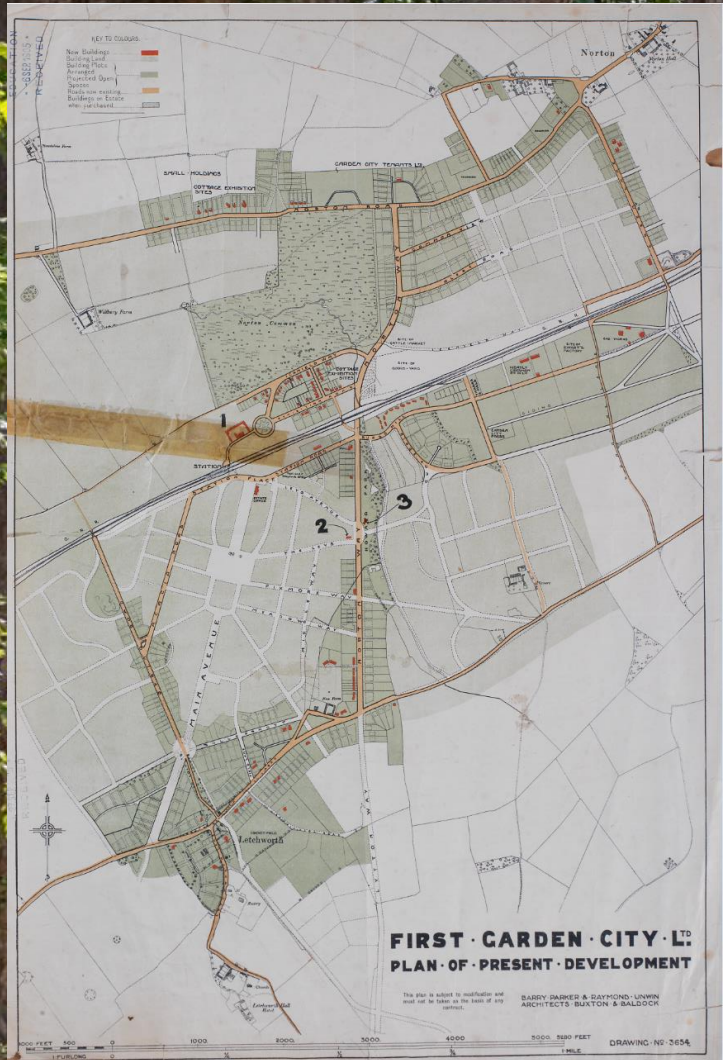
Letchworth  
Garden City

Heritage Foundation

[www.letchworth.com](http://www.letchworth.com)



# Heritage and Stewardship



First Garden City Ltd began construction in 1903. The company appointed architects Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin to design the masterplan for the new community. Central to the Company's ethos was a commitment to repatriate all profits back into the Estate.





PLANS FOR COTTAGE  
AT LETCHWORTH  
FOR  
T. TUDOR POLE ESQ.  
SCALE 8 FEET  
TO 4 INCH

ROBERT DE'ARRETT  
R. WILSON BIRWELL  
ARCHITECTS  
LEITCHWORTH

WEST ELEVATION

SECTION A.A.

SOUTH ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION

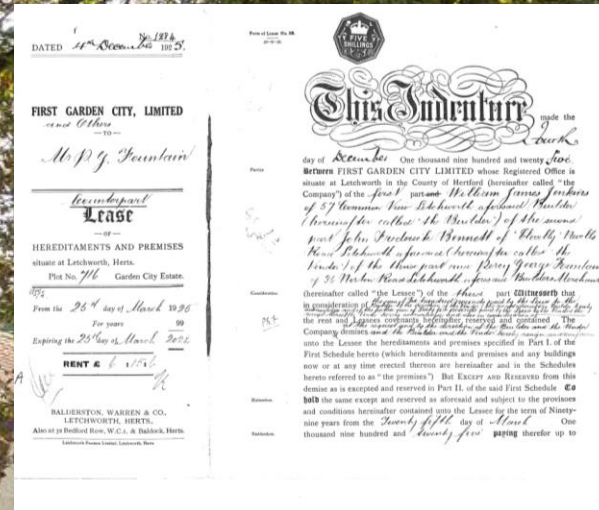
GROUND PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

BLOCK PLAN  
SCALE 1/2000

FIELD LANE

27/01/2016



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# Heritage and Stewardship— Leasehold Reform Act 1967



heritage  
foundation  
Letchworth Garden City

## Scheme of Management

Managed by Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation

An Industrial and Provident Society, with charitable status,  
registered number 28211R (formerly Letchworth Garden City Corporation).

Foundation House, Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 1GD

### **Object 2 -**

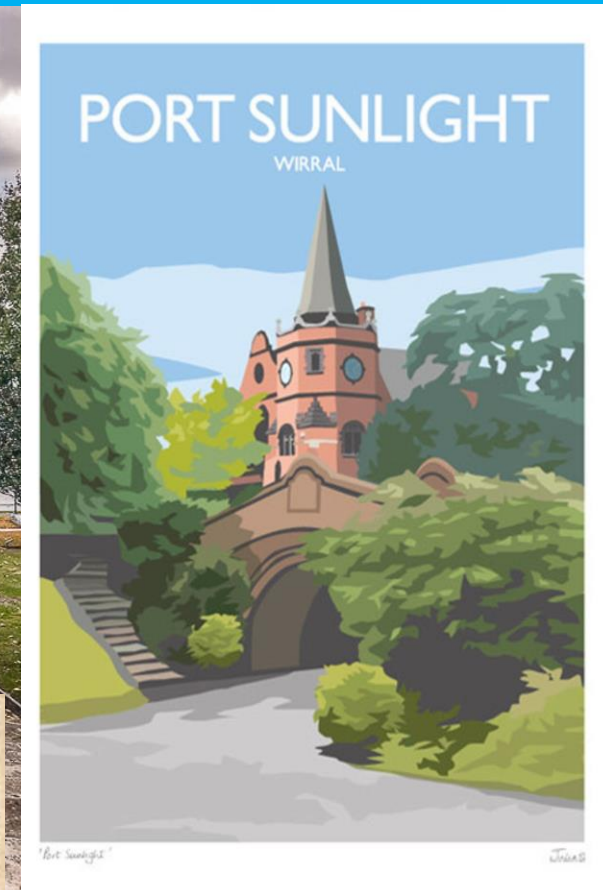
The object of the Scheme is to ensure for the benefit of tenants of houses buildings and land on the Estate (whether tenants holding under long tenancies at low rents within the meaning of the Act or not) and of freeholders of such houses buildings and land that the Estate and the standards of appearance and amenity (whether existing or in future) on the Estate shall be preserved and not deteriorate by reason of any tenant of a house in the Scheme area acquiring the freehold of the house either under the enfranchisement provisions of the Act or otherwise

### **Clause 6 – Restriction on future development**

Any owner shall not carry out any development redevelopment or alteration materially affecting external appearance of the enfranchised property or of any building or structure thereon save with the written consent of the Corporation (which shall not be unreasonably withheld) and in accordance with plans drawings and specifications previously submitted to and approved by the Corporation. Any such development redevelopment or alteration shall be made in accordance with the approved plans drawings and specifications and shall be carried out in a good substantial and workmanlike manner with sound and proper materials.



# Heritage and Stewardship - Section 19 Towns

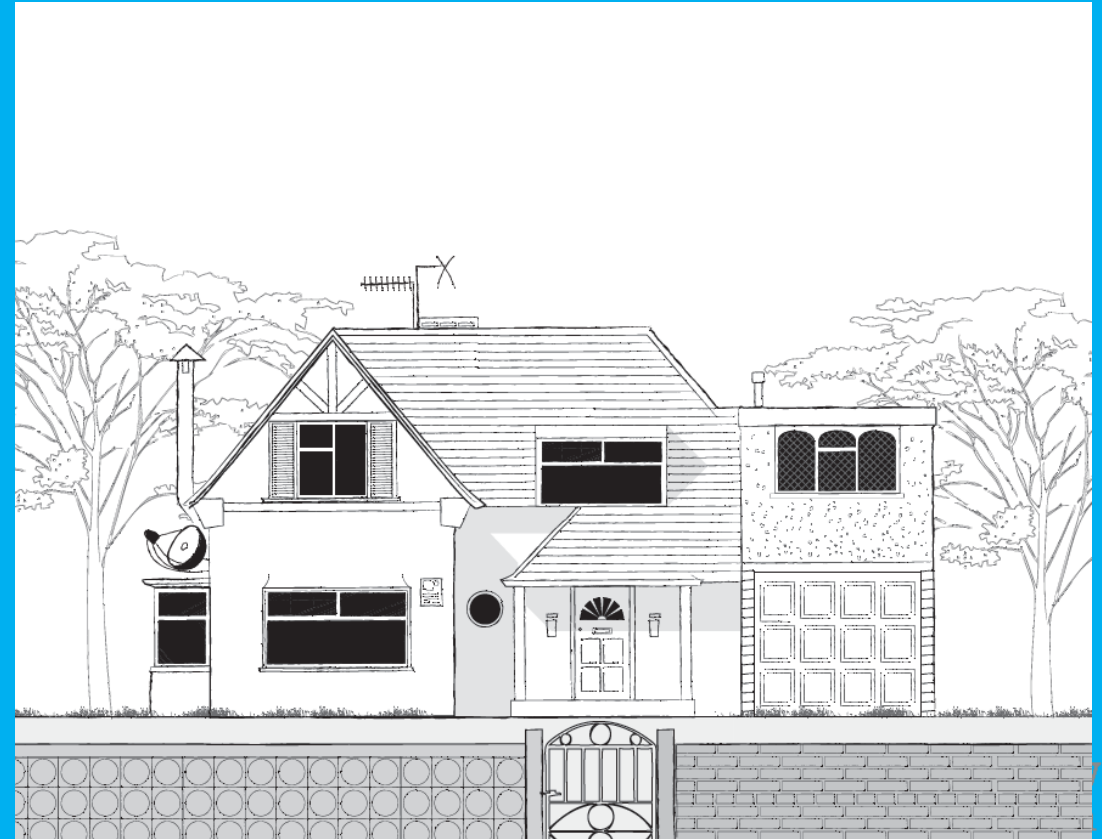


# Heritage and Stewardship

Original Letchworth House



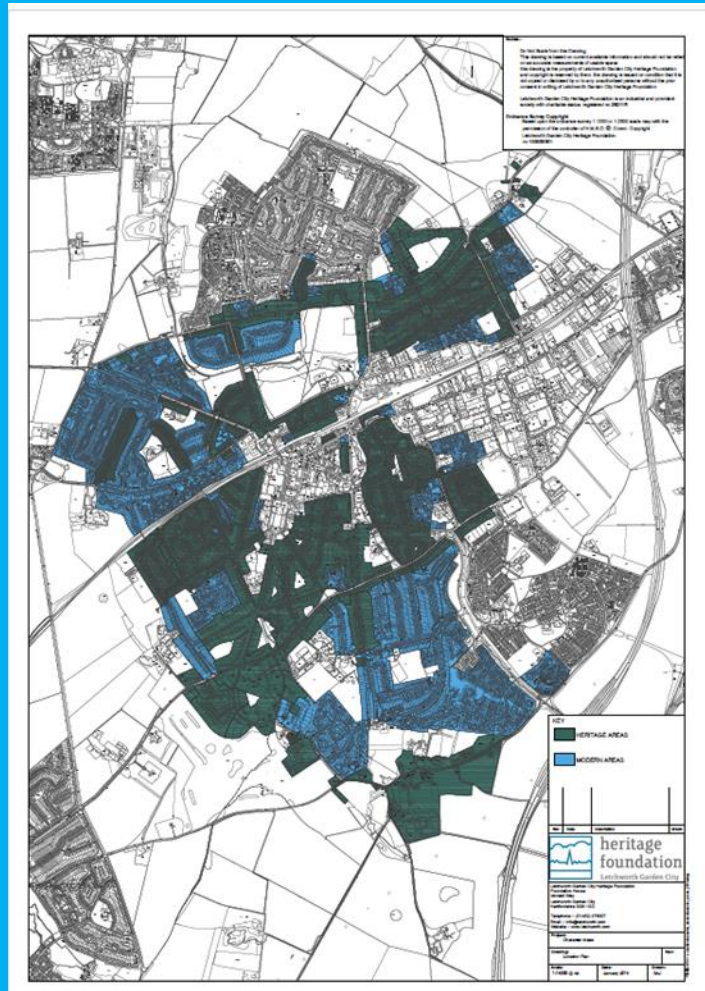
Cumulative impact of minor changes



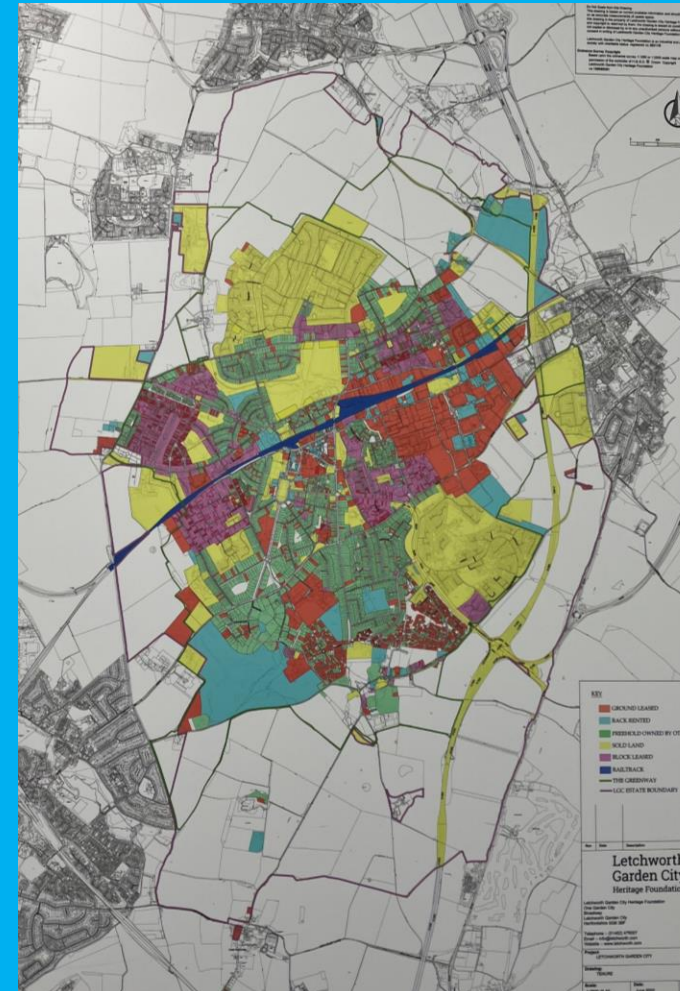


# Heritage and Stewardship

## DESIGN PRINCIPLES CHARACTER AREAS



## ESTATE MAP





# Heritage and Stewardship - Heritage Character Area





# Heritage and Stewardship – Homes of Special Interest



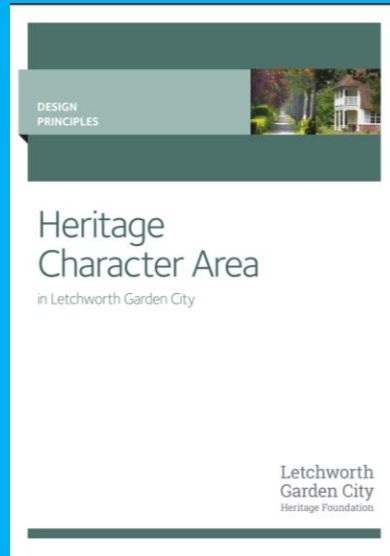


# Heritage and Stewardship – Modern Character Area





# Heritage and Stewardship

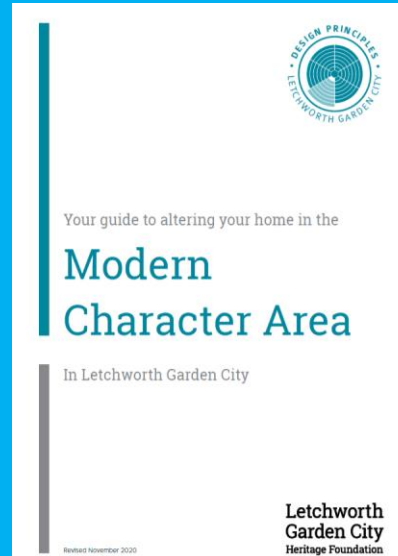


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<https://principles.letchworthgardencity.gov.uk>

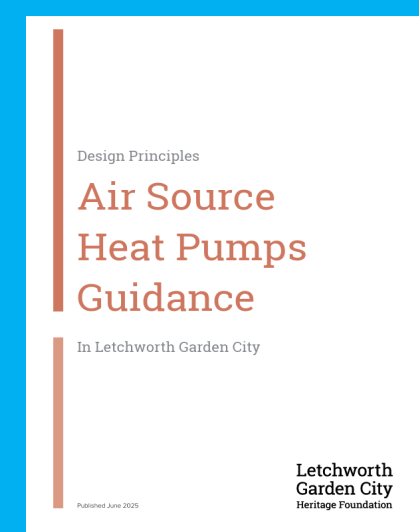
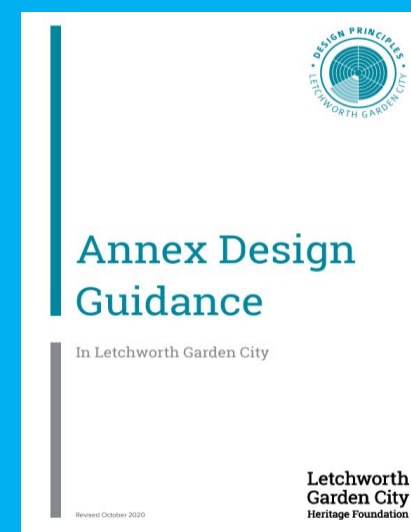
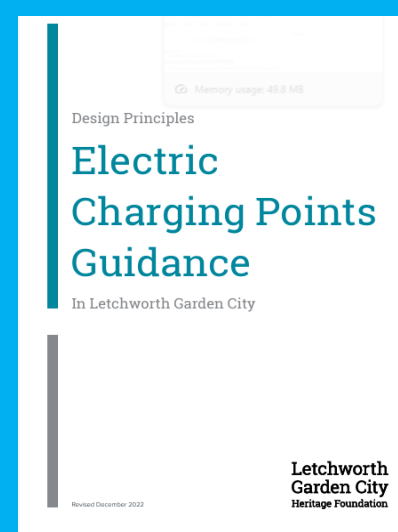
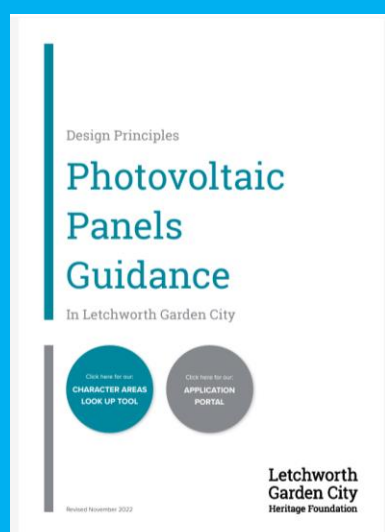
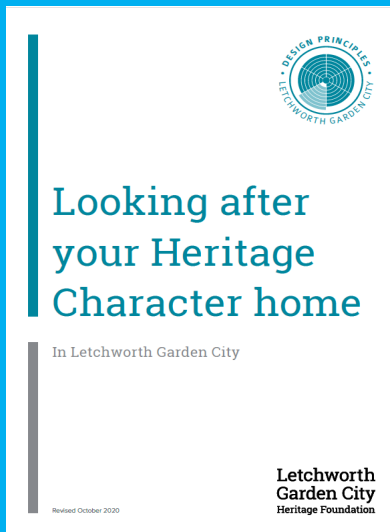
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# Heritage and Stewardship Design Principles

## Less Common Building Elements

Although many of the houses in Letchworth were built in the first half of the 20th century using similar methods, there are plenty of older and more unusual properties which add to the richness of the town. These may have some of the following building materials:



Thatch is naturally a good thermal insulator so it is rarely necessary to add any insulation beneath the thatch. It is extremely important not to put impermeable insulations (or plaster) under the thatch as that could lead to rapid decay of the lower levels of thatch. A bigger challenge in a thatched building is often stopping draughts entering through gaps between the wall heads and the thatched eaves – use permeable membranes and lime-based

**Timber Frames:** Buildings that contain elements of a structural timber frame need very careful treatment. The timbers are susceptible to decay if they are subject to prolonged dampness. The panels within the timber frame are often quite thin, of poor insulation value, and draughty.

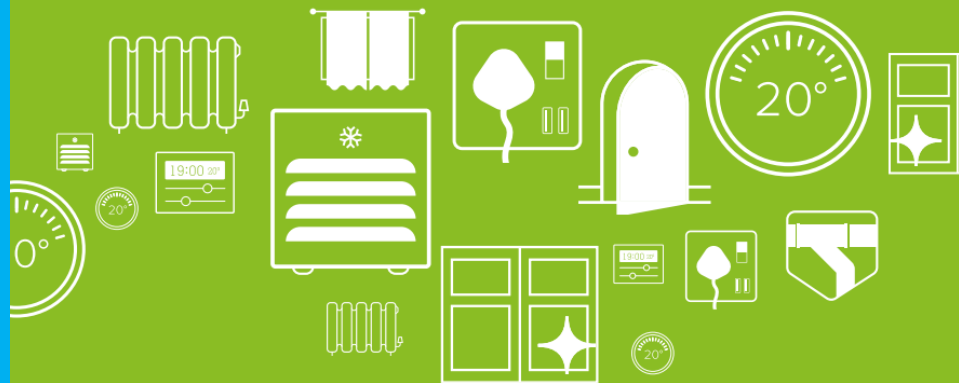
## House Anatomy

- 1 Draught proofing**
    - Chimney balloon installed instead of fireplace 
    - Brush seals to doors and windows 
  - 2 Floors**
    - Insulate suspended timber ground floors 
    - Replace suspended floor with insulated solid floor 
  - 3 Windows & Doors**
    - Draught excluders 
    - Thick curtains and thermal blinds 
    - Secondary glazing 
    - Well proportioned replacement double glazing 
  - 4 Brick Walls**
    - Cavity wall insulation 

Letchworth  
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# Energy Efficiency Guide

for Letchworth Garden City residents

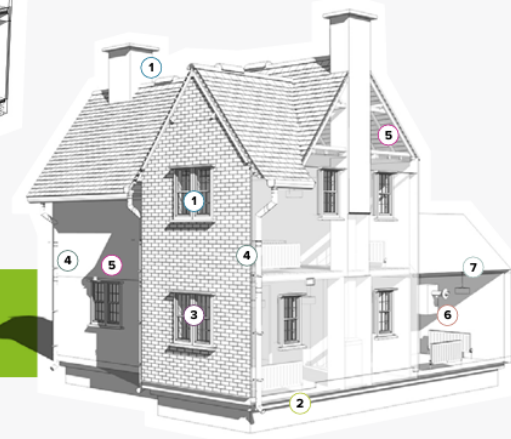


Think before you print.

## Modern House



## Older House





# Heritage and Stewardship - Maintenance



## Looking after your Heritage Character home

In Letchworth Garden City

Revised October 2020

**Letchworth  
Garden City  
Heritage Foundation**

### Roofs



#### Roof Structure

##### What to look for:

- Uneven tiles
- Slipped tiles
- Bulging or dips to ridge line

##### Advice & Requirements:

- Some movement and changes to the roof structure are tolerable but if in doubt seek specialist professional advice

#### Dormers

Dormers are a traditional architectural feature of the Garden City with either gabled or flat roofs.

##### What to look for:

- Roofs (as above)
- Lead flashings at junctions with the roof plane
- Cheeks (dormer sides) for wear and tear

##### Advice & Requirements:

- Dormers are very important architectural features and any work to them will require Landlord's Consent



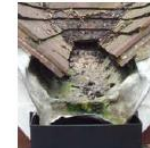
Slipped roof tiles



Dormers



Blocked hopper head



Prevent by checking valley gutters and keep them clean



Saw toothed barge boards add interest to the building

- Timber fascias need to be monitored for water damage and flaking paint work

##### Advice & Requirements:

- Decorative bargeboards should be maintained and repaired as these add to the character of the Garden City

### External Walls

#### Render

Inspired by the Arts & Crafts Movement returning to traditional materials, render finishes are mainly roughcast. It is advisable to check the constituents of the render as some may still be of lime.

##### What to look for:

- Hairline cracks
- Blown render

##### Advice & Requirements:

- Re-rendering will require Landlord's Consent, however patch repair may not. Please do contact our team for advice

#### Pebbledash

Pebbledash can also be seen around the Garden City. Originally this would have been unpainted, however some houses have since been painted.

##### Advice & Requirements:

- The debate about retaining unpainted pebbledash is fuelled by the difficulties in matching it when areas are repaired such as when windows are replaced
- The Heritage Foundation would like to see any original unpainted pebbledash to remain



Damaged render



Blown pebbledash


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Garden City  
Heritage Foundation**



# Heritage and Stewardship Air Source Heat Pumps

## Air Source Heat Pumps




[Visit a heat pump](#)[Find a heat pump](#)[For hosts](#)[For installers](#)[Sign in](#)[Sign up](#)

# Visit a heat pump near you

See one in action and get your questions answered by heat pump owners.

Search your area



## Design Principles

# Air Source Heat Pumps Guidance

In Letchworth Garden City

Published June 2025

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation



# Heritage and Stewardship– Frontages

## Hardstandings

The design of the early Garden City recognised that the needs of people sometimes compromise the qualities of the environment.

The successful natural green and leafy assets of Letchworth Garden City rely on mature street trees, green verges and in particular green front gardens. However, with modern living has come the need for car parking – a requirement never envisaged by the original designers. The town's success in maintaining a green environment while accommodating car ownership is a very real.

The retention of a minimum of 50% soft planted landscaping in front gardens helps to maintain the green character of the Garden City and allows for natural water absorption through the soil.

Good design is crucial when planning hardstandings. There are many innovative and creative solutions that achieve the 50% of the frontage as green rule.

Artificial grass is not acceptable on property frontages.

When creating hardstandings on a frontage, at least 50% of the original frontage area shall normally be maintained as soft planted landscaping. The width of opening in existing front fences and walls to serve new hardstandings should be increased.

For smaller plots (less than 6 metres wide) the 50% restriction may not be applicable. Runners (see diagram) may be an acceptable option when there is:

- A depth of at least 3 metres between the front building line and the front boundary.
- Landscaping hard landscaping to less than 1 metre wide runners separated by a 1 metre gap of low planting, and
- Provision for substantial landscaping.

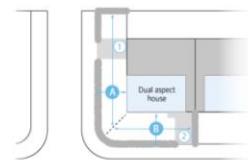
For large frontages exceeding 100 square metres, the hardstanding area shall be no greater than 50 square metres.

A Hertfordshire County Council approved crossover and dropped kerb is usually required. For works to be issued with a Final (PFI) Approval until the crossover and dropped kerb are constructed.

For these living on a main road a reduction between the 50% restriction of green space may be acceptable, in order to create a turning space, provided there is substantial landscaping screening.

Very small front gardens with frontages less than 5 metres deep will not be suitable for a hardstanding as a standard parking space (2.4 metres x 4.8 metres) cannot be accommodated.

In the case of corner plots or dual aspect properties, 50% of the entire frontage as hardstanding may not be acceptable (see diagram).



Hardstanding 1 is up to a maximum of 50% of the area.

Hardstanding 2 is up to a maximum of 50% of the area.

26/

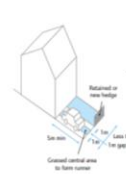
## Hardstandings continued

The materials used should be carefully considered.

### Materials

- Porous materials and permeable paving that reduce the impact of surface water run-off into water courses are encouraged.
- Although gravel is not acceptable for soft landscaped areas, it may be used for hardstandings, but should include measures to stop it spilling onto the highway.
- Neutral coloured concrete block paving, slabs and setts are acceptable.
- Mass concrete and brightly coloured pavements are not acceptable. Patterns, motifs or symbols should be avoided.

### EXTENDED PARKING - NARROW PLOTS



### EXTENDED PARKING - WIDE PLOTS



### SOMETHING TO NOTE...

Many properties in the Heritage Character Area have no capacity for on-site parking. It is not compulsory to build the required parking spaces at the time of adding an extension, but consideration needs to be given to the need to provide two parking spaces.

To reduce surface water pressure on drains, a soakaway underneath the paved area of hardstanding is encouraged.

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## Hardstandings

The materials used shall be carefully considered.

The principles of the Garden City attempted to achieve a balance between these then and country living.

The natural green and leafy assets of Letchworth Garden City rely on mature street trees, green verges and in particular green front gardens. However, with modern living has come the need for car parking – a requirement not envisaged by the original designers. The balance between maintaining that green environment while accommodating car ownership can be challenging.

The retention of a minimum of 50% soft planted landscaping in front gardens helps to maintain the green character of the Garden City and allows for natural water absorption through the soil.

Good design is crucial when planning hardstandings. There are many innovative and creative solutions which achieve the 50% of the frontage as green rule.

When creating hardstandings on front gardens, at least 50% of the original frontage area shall normally be maintained as soft landscaping, free of car parking, footpaths, lawns for bin storage etc.

For smaller plots (less than 6 metres wide) the 50% restriction may not be applicable. Runners may be an acceptable option when there is:

- A depth of at least 3 metres between the front building line and the front boundary.
- Landscaping hard landscaping to less than 1 metre wide runners separated by a 1 metre gap of low planting, and
- Provision for substantial landscaping.

For frontages exceeding 100 square metres, the hardstanding area shall be no greater than 50 square metres (excluding an access driveway no wider than 3 metres).

A Hertfordshire County Council approved crossover and dropped kerb is usually required. Works will not be issued with a Final (PFI) Approval until the crossover and dropped kerb are constructed.

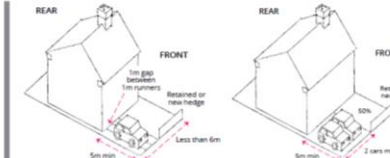
Very small front gardens with frontages less than 5 metres deep will not be suitable for a hardstanding, as a standard parking space (2.4 metres x 4.8 metres) cannot be accommodated.

Although gravel is not acceptable for soft landscaped areas, it may be used for hardstandings, but should include measures to stop it spilling onto the highway.

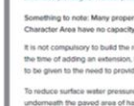
Porous materials and permeable paving that reduce the impact of surface water run-off into water courses are strongly encouraged.

Neutral coloured concrete block pavements are acceptable. Patterns, motifs or symbols that are not incorporated.

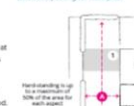
Artificial grass is not supported on property frontages.



### Extended parking for narrow plots



### Extended parking for wide plots



### Hardstandings



## Design Principles

# Electric Charging Points Guidance

In Letchworth Garden City

Memory usage: 40.8 MB

Revised December 2022

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation



Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation



# Heritage and Stewardship PV Panels

## Photovoltaic Solar Panels Heritage Character Area (HCA)

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation is supportive of Letchworth residents' wishes to install renewable technologies in order to power their homes. To ensure the continued maintenance of the Garden City's character, we have issued the following guidance.

Your application is more likely to be approved if you follow the guidelines.

The installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels is usually acceptable providing that they adhere to the following guidelines:

### Acceptable Installation in the HCA

- ✓ Panels should be positioned on rear roof pitches, on rear outbuildings, or as a ground array in back gardens.
- ✓ The design of the array must be balanced and symmetrical; rectangular and straight-lined installations will be required.



The above represents good installation in the HCA. It is located on the rear roof pitch with a balanced, rectangular design.



Installations placed on outbuildings, like this, represent viable alternatives to an unsuitable rear roof pitch in the HCA. As with main roof arrays, balanced design is key.

Panels may not be appropriate for Homes of Special Interest. Contact a member of the team to discuss options for the property at: [home@letchworth.com](mailto:home@letchworth.com)

When considering a rear extension or a new rear outbuilding, PV panels could be factored into the design.

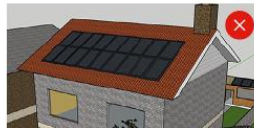
If your proposal does not fit within the criteria stated below, please contact the Heritage Advice Service on: 01462 530335 or [home@letchworth.com](mailto:home@letchworth.com)

### Unacceptable Installation in the HCA

- ✗ Panels should not be located on any street facing roof pitches
- ✗ Panels should not overhang the roof slope



The Foundation discourages L-shaped installations such as the example above.



This (above) installation is also unacceptable in the HCA. Though the array is proportioned and rectangular, it is located on the street-facing roof pitch.



## Photovoltaic Solar Panels Modern Character Area (MCA)

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation is supportive of Letchworth residents' wishes to install renewable technologies in order to power their homes. To ensure the continued maintenance of the Garden City's character, we have issued the following guidance.

Please note that rear slopes or rear outbuildings would be the preferred locations for a PV installation before side/front facing roof pitches are considered.

The installation of Photovoltaic (PV) Panels is usually acceptable on any roof pitch in the modern character area, providing that:

### Acceptable Installation in the MCA

- ✓ The design of the array is tidy and balanced with rectangles and/or straight lines.
- ✓ The colour/design fits subtly into the site of installation and is as complementary to the street scene as possible.



Providing that the installation is balanced (rectangular or straight-lined), it is permissible to introduce PV panels to both the rear and street-facing roof pitches (see above).



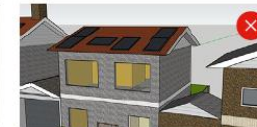
The installation directly above represents an acceptable PV installation on a rear outbuilding.

Your application is more likely to be approved if you follow the guidelines.

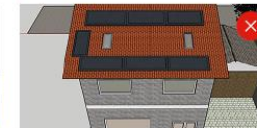
If your proposal does not fit within the criteria stated below, please contact the Heritage Advice Service on: 01462 530335 or [home@letchworth.com](mailto:home@letchworth.com)

### Unacceptable Installation in the MCA

- ✗ The panels do not overhang the roof line on any roof pitch



This array would not be acceptable in the MCA. Although installation is permitted on the front, street-facing roof pitch, the design itself is poor. The panels are disconnected, facing different directions, and unbalanced.



The Foundation discourages L-shaped installations such as the example above.



# Heritage and Stewardship External Wall Insulation



## External wall insulation

Many Heritage Character Area homes do not have cavity walls. Insulation can sometimes be applied to the internal or external faces of the external walls of the house, to reduce heat loss and make homes more efficient.

External wall cladding can also have a negative impact on the appearance and character of a historic building.

Heritage Character Area homes are often characterised by detailing, for example string courses, window head and sill detailing, corncicing and decorative plaques. Applying wall insulation externally can cover up these important features or alter reveals and the relationship of the roof with the house. Therefore, present systems are normally damaging to the character of the property and its context.

Even the appearance of a relatively plain house can be affected by deeper window

Therefore, external cladding of Heritage Character Area homes will only be supported when:

- the detailing and features of the property, including the brick and render finish, string courses, window and door reveals, are maintained or carefully recreated;
- the house is detached;
- all of the properties in a pair of semi-detached, terrace or group, collectively and simultaneously implement the works.

## External features - Wall insulation, guttering & pipes & balconies.

### External wall insulation

External wall cladding can also have a negative impact on the appearance and character of a building.

Applying wall insulation externally can cover up important features and detailing, for example; string courses, window head and sill detailing, corncicing and decorative plaques.

Even the appearance of a relatively plain house can be affected by deeper window and door reveals. Current external wall cladding systems are approximately 50mm thick when applied to a single house in a pair of semi-detached, a terrace or a group, the effect can be detrimental to the appearance and cohesion of the group.

External wall cladding can also have a negative impact on the appearance and character of a building and will normally be resisted.

Many modern Character Area homes have cavity walls and insulating the cavity is the best option to improve insulation.

### Guttering and pipes

- Careful positioning of replacement guttering, soil, vent and downpipes and the use of the original colour, can help to minimise the impact on the street scene
- New soil pipes to the front elevations shall normally be avoided.

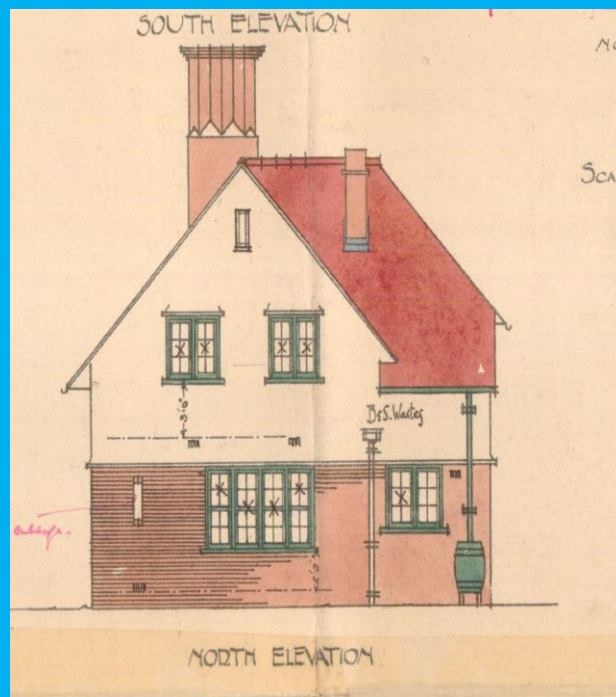
### Balconies

Balconies may be acceptable but can upset the balance and scale of buildings and therefore the design shall be carefully considered

- The design would need to reflect the size and design of the existing house
- All balconies shall generally be located at the rear of the building
- 'Juliet' balconies are generally acceptable
- Full balconies which create an amenity leisure space at a first-floor level or higher may be acceptable, but regard to the privacy of the neighbours will be a major consideration



# Heritage and Stewardship – Rain water harvesting



## Rainwater harvesting & grey water recycling

Re-using rainwater and recycling grey water can make a positive contribution to sustainable living, embraced by Letchworth Garden City pioneers.

Finding a balance between sustainability and aesthetics can be challenging. Underground tanks can create ideal water storage conditions while the location of bulky water containers needs careful consideration. There are, however, sympathetic water butts available, which have less of an impact.

- Design shall complement the overall character of the building
- Size of the storage area shall not dominate the existing house



## Rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling

The re-use of rainwater and recycling grey water can be a positive contributor to sustainable living.

Finding a balance between sustainability and aesthetics can be challenging. Underground tanks can create ideal water storage conditions, whilst the location of bulky water containers needs careful consideration.

- Design should complement the overall character of the building.
- The storage area should not dominate the existing house.
- Water butts must be in an inconspicuous position, preferably to the rear of the property and out of view from the street.

### HOMES OF SPECIAL INTEREST – PLEASE NOTE

Should your house be included in the list of special interest homes on page 38, please contact the Heritage Advice Service for guidance in making sympathetic alterations.

## Guttering, pipes and hopper heads

The simple, functional and unadorned façades of early Letchworth buildings are significant for the character of the street scene of the Garden City.

- Guttering, soil and vent pipes and downpipes in contrasting colours to the body of the house were often an integral part of the original design. The retention of this characteristic is important to the integrity and value of individual properties, groups of houses and neighbourhoods.
- Careful positioning of replacement guttering, soil, vent and downpipes and the use of the original colour, can help to minimise the impact on the street scene.
- Unless replacing existing, new soil and downpipes to the front elevations should normally be avoided.
- Original hopper heads should be retained where possible.
- Replacement cast iron guttering and downpipes will usually be required, although UPVC cast iron replicas may also be acceptable.

### HOMES OF SPECIAL INTEREST – PLEASE NOTE

Should your house be included in the list of special interest homes on page 38, please contact the Heritage Advice Service for guidance in making sympathetic alterations.



# Community Energy Fund



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero



Greater  
South East  
**Net Zero Hub**

**ASBP** The Alliance  
for Sustainable  
Building Products

**PEOPLE  
POWERED  
RETROFIT**

Letchworth  
Garden City  
Heritage Foundation



# Heritage and Stewardship – First Garden City Retrofitting Reimagined

## Healthy, Comfortable and Affordable - Home improvements in Letchworth Garden City

30 June 2025

[Home](#) / [News](#)

On a cold Tuesday in February, 23 people met at the Garden City Brewery with the promise of snacks from Vutie Beets and information about home energy saving from [People Powered Retrofit](#).

A recording of the session and Q&A can be watched below. Slides can be downloaded here:

[Download the session slides](#)

### Session Recording



### Q&A



Letchworth  
Garden City  
Heritage Foundation

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## Retrofitting the first garden city: A Feasibility Study

18 June 2025

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### Introduction

In 2024 we received the grant funding agreement for £40,000 from the Community Energy Fund. We would like to formally acknowledge and thank the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, acting as the Accountable Body for the Grant on behalf of the Greater South East Net Zero Hub, for their support.

The project we undertook was to assess the opportunities for making homes in Letchworth Garden City more energy efficient, comfortable and communicate this information clearly to residents. To understand the specific barriers to residents through consultation, and to identify innovative financial model(s) that might assist the able to pay market in the absence of Government subsidy.

We selected two project partners to deliver the project in collaboration with us. The organisations were [Alliance for Sustainable Building Products \(ASBP\)](#) and [People Powered Retrofit \(PPR\)](#).



# Heritage and Stewardship – First Garden City Retrofitting Reimagined

PEOPLE  
POWERED  
RETROFIT



## Home Retrofit Scenarios

**Prepared for**  
Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation

**Report by**  
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**Issued**  
04/04/2025

**Local Authority Area**  
North Hertfordshire

**Assessment visit**  
21/02/2025

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Retrofit Suggestions

### Scenario 1: Basics

- Estimated net budget cost of this scenario £15400 + VAT and on costs
- Estimated net budget cost of all works to this point **where scenarios are additive:** £15400 + VAT and on costs

Where scenarios are additive, especially for works that might be phased over a number of years, we may suggest items in one scenario that are then replaced in a future scenario. This is likely to apply to ventilation systems in particular - where a simpler and cheaper option is installed to address immediate air quality concerns, but this is then replaced as part of deeper or more extensive works in future. It may also apply to smaller fabric elements that protect the building fabric or your health. In these cases the costs of both are included in the total for all scenarios. This is because where works are phased we don't know how much time might be taken between phases of work, good ventilation and building physics is important throughout the whole process to protect your health and wellbeing. With careful planning you can bring forward the more advanced works, if you know you will be doing more extensive work in future and can plan works to fit. In this case you can omit the cost of the 'temporary' works from your project budget planning.

ID	Name	Label/location	Performance target	Benefits (in order)	Cost	Completed By	Disruption
1.1	Insulation to solid wall to unheated space (constrained)	To rear entrance and stairs - unheated space	0.7 W/m <sup>2</sup> K	comfort, fuel bills	£550	DIY or general contractor	medium/high
1.2	Loft insulation (Bregs)	Main loft	0.16 W/m <sup>2</sup> K	Comfort, fuel bills, carbon emissions	£1900	DIY or General Contractor	minimal
1.3	Pitched Roof Insulation (constrained)	Skelling	0.35 W/m <sup>2</sup> K	Comfort, fuel bills, weather proofing, carbon emissions	£1650	Roofing Contractor/ General Contractor/ DIY	high/medium
1.4	New insulated loft hatch.	First Floor Landing	0.7 W/m <sup>2</sup> K	comfort, fuel bills, fabric protection	£600	DIY/ General Contractor	minimal



# Heritage and Stewardship – First Garden City Retrofitting Reimagined

<https://letchworth-retrofit-house.co.uk/>

[Home](#) / [Your Home](#)

## Discover the Letchworth Interactive Retrofit House...

The aim of the Letchworth Interactive Retrofit House website is to help homeowners and landlords in Letchworth with guidance on retrofit measures.

This website has been developed by the [Alliance for Sustainable Built Environment](#) for [Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation \(LGCHF\)](#) with support from [Powered Retrofit](#), and thanks to funding from [Greater South East Net Zero Energy Fund](#).

[Launch the Interactive Retrofit House](#)

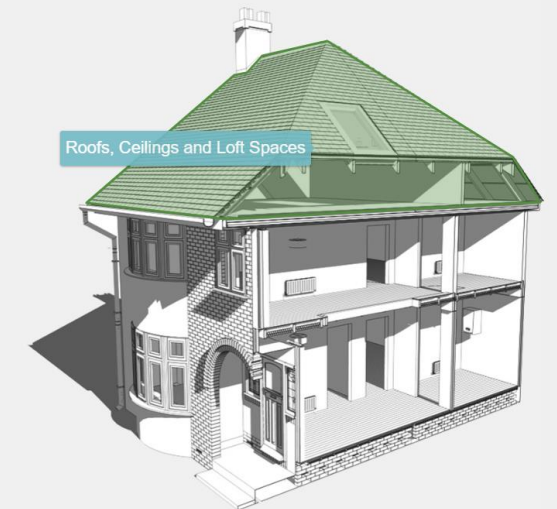
[← Go back: FAQs](#)

### Letchworth Interactive Retrofit House

#### Interactive House

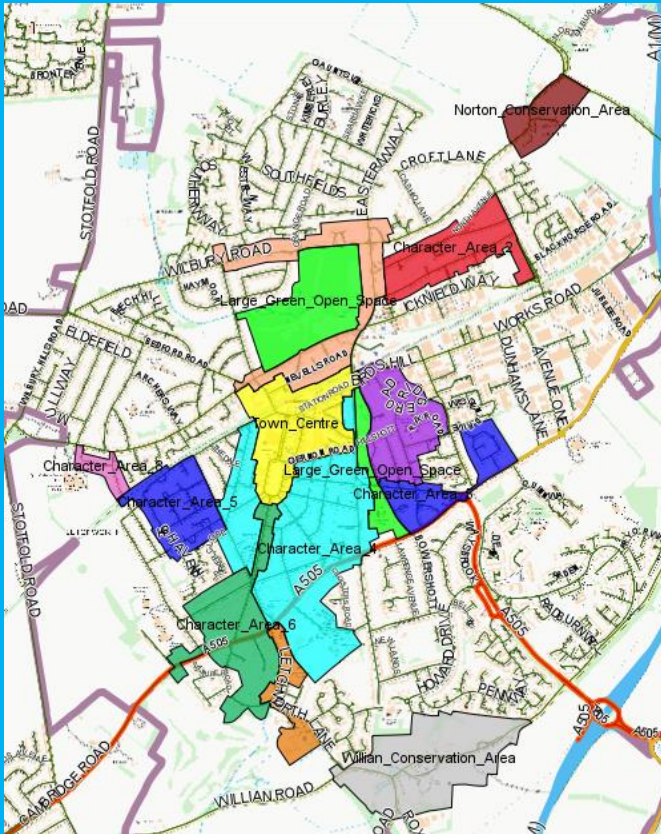
Click an area of the house to see guidance on retrofit measures.

Or [click here](#) to see a full directory of retrofit measures for all areas of the house.

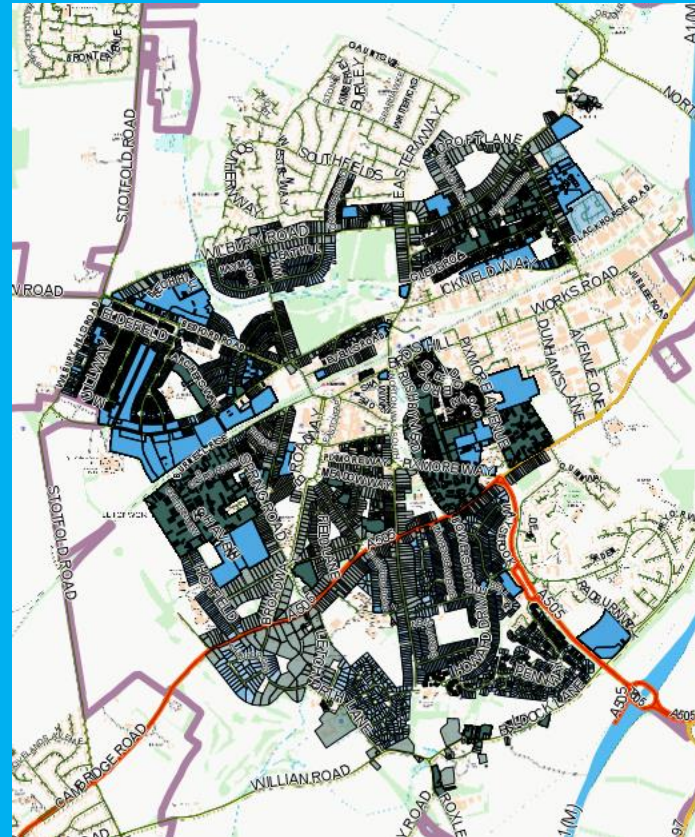




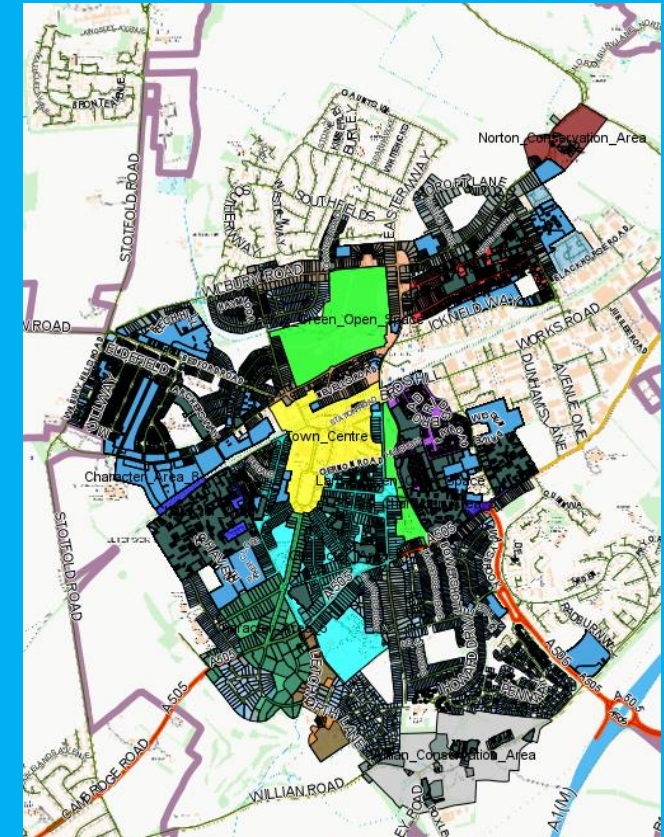
# 1. NHC Conservation Areas should replace the Heritage Area



Conservation Areas in  
Letchworth – not  
including Croft Lane



Heritage Character Area  
(Green)  
Modern Character Area  
(Blue)



Combined



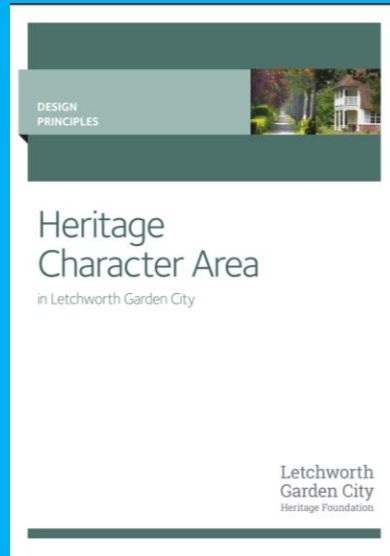
## 2. Heritage Assets are Listed Buildings or Locally Listed Buildings



Selection of Homes of Special Interest



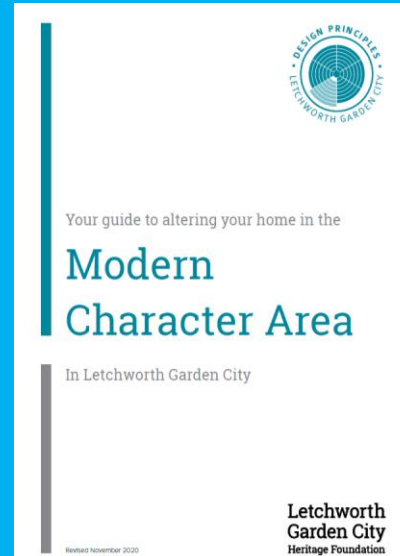
# 3. Return to One Design Principles document



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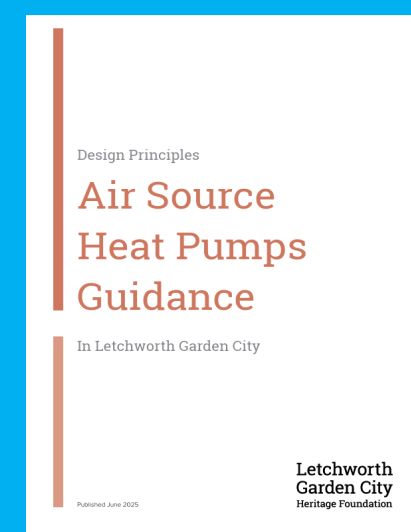
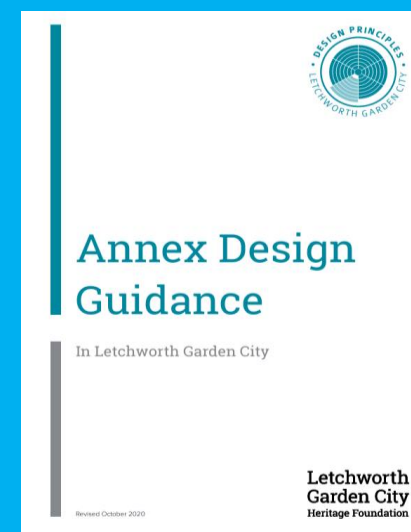
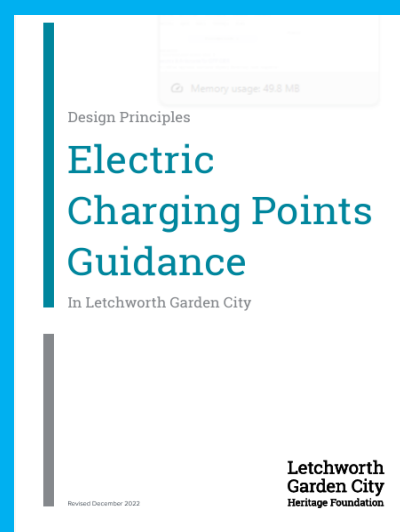
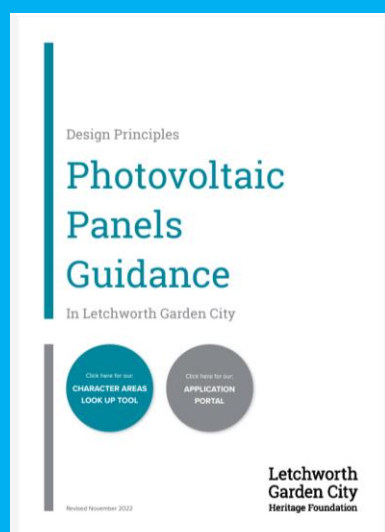
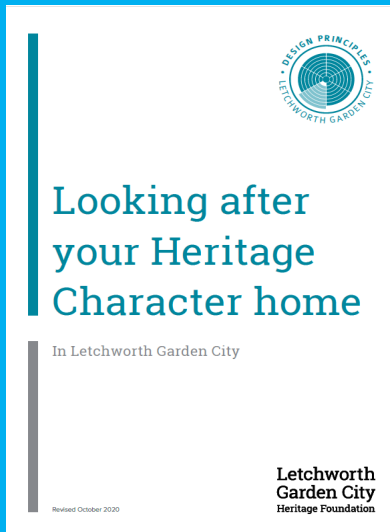
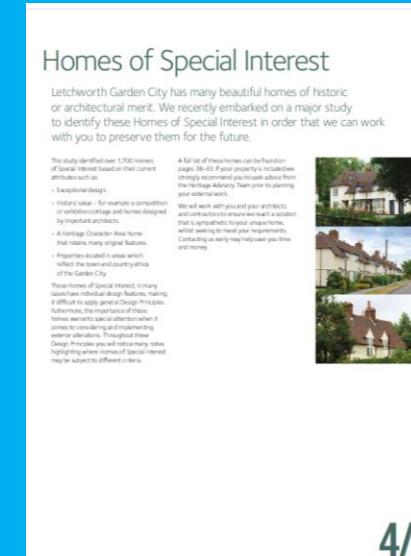
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## 4. Remove requirement discouraging external insulation

**MSE News**

**Government finds 'systemic failure' with solid wall insulation fitted under official schemes – here's updated info if your home's affected**



Clare Casalis | Senior Energy & Utilities Analyst  
21 July 2025

Save Share

**GOV-UK**

Home > Environment > Climate change and energy > Energy efficiency

Press release

**Action taken to protect households with poor-quality insulation**

The government has taken immediate action after checks found widespread cases of poor-quality solid wall insulation installed under inherited ECO4 and GBIS.

From: [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#) and [Mattia Fahbulleh MP](#)  
Published 23 January 2025



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**30,000 homes fitted with botched insulation under government schemes, ministers admit**



Mohammed's bedroom wall in Luton is covered in damp and mould as a result of botched insulation





## 5. Ease restrictions on solar panels, encourage micro-generation







# Thanks, any questions

Contact the team on [home@letchworth.com](mailto:home@letchworth.com)

Letchworth  
Garden City

Heritage Foundation

[www.letchworth.com](http://www.letchworth.com)