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Hewitt, L.E., and Pendlebury, J. (2012) *Amenity, Community, Archives: Conducting Historical Research into Local Activism*. Project Report. AHRC Connected Communities.

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Deposited on: 30 November 2012

# Connected Communities

## *Amenity, Community, Archives: Conducting Historical Research into Local Activism*

Lucy E. Hewitt and John Pendlebury



# **Amenity, Community, Archives: Conducting Historical Research into Local Activism**

**Lucy E. Hewitt and John Pendlebury**

Amenity groups began to emerge during the nineteenth century as part of an increasing interest in the nature and quality of landscape, architecture and heritage. Their concerns were framed by an emerging conviction that landscape and the built environment can fulfil an important function in individual and social life. Though we now recognise that interconnections exist between place, history and community, the tension between urban growth and development and the built and environmental legacies of the past continue to be a focus for local voluntary activity.

In urban centres of all sizes throughout the United Kingdom, local amenity organizations contribute to making and managing place. The inherently local nature of much of this activity is a source of considerable potential, suggesting the possibility for research that can contribute to understanding the social, cultural and political dynamics that create place and community. However, the local nature of amenity activities has also led to a difficulty for research. Local activity tends to result in local records, and evidence relating to the history of amenity groups and campaigns is geographically dispersed and difficult to assess. This document, part of a project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under the Connected Communities programme, presents the results of a preliminary scoping exercise that aimed to investigate the extent and quality of surviving archival records relating to local amenity organizations and to gauge the potential for future research.

## **1. Introduction**

Over the course of the nineteenth century interest in landscape, architecture and heritage increased across Britain and much of the western world. This interest accompanied the radical transformations of urbanization and one of its manifestations was the emergence of voluntary associations concerned with the history and quality of place. Amenity groups in particular were concerned with the nature and identity of their localities. Their concerns were framed by an emerging conviction that landscape and the built environment can fulfil an important function in individual and collective life. We now recognise that close and complex interconnections exist between place, history and community, but an often visible tension still remains between urban growth and development and the built and environmental legacies of the past – including the quite recent past in some cases.

In urban centres of all sizes throughout the United Kingdom amenity organizations continue to contribute to the making and managing of place. The inherently local nature of much of this activity is a source of considerable potential, suggesting the possibility for research that can contribute to understanding the social, cultural and political dynamics that create place and community. Furthermore, historical research in this field offers the opportunity to bridge the divide between local associational culture and broader trajectories in modern social history. In particular, the work of amenity organizations provides a valuable perspective on current political emphases relating to localism and community engagement.

In addition to these sources of interest, however, the local nature of amenity activities has led to a notable difficulty for research. Local activity tends to result in local records and evidence relating to the history of amenity groups is geographically dispersed and difficult to access. This document, part of a project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under the Connected Communities programme, presents the results of a preliminary scoping exercise that aimed to investigate the extent and quality of surviving records relating to local amenity organizations and to gauge the potential for future research.

### **1.1. Background: a brief history of a local movement**

The formation and activities of national organizations concerned with the quality of the environment have already received much attention (for example, Waterson, 1994; Burton, 2005). Yet, in important respects, the proliferation of local activism offers a more extensive

indicator of increasing interest in and sensitivity to the built and the natural environment. Research on the growth of antiquarian and archaeological societies during the nineteenth century, for example, provides clear evidence of the spread of interest in the past throughout British society, while the growth of concern for civic improvement is evidenced by the proliferation of locally-driven activities over the middle and later decades of the nineteenth century (see Levine, 2003; Briggs, 1963). Amenity groups, therefore, emerged as a part of a culture of voluntary association that was often focused around a particular locality, its community and the pressures upon it.

Although concern for amenity often took shape through local action, the first national conference of amenity societies was held in 1923. More formal and permanent links between local groups were not established until 1938 when the first national body, the Central Council of Civic Societies, was formed. Local associations continued to grow throughout the following years, reaching at least seventy by the late 1940s (Hewitt, 2012). Thus, by the time the Civic Trust was founded in 1957, the local amenity movement was well established, but the additional publicity, a changing political context, continued urban transformation and a growing media debate about participation in planning and the value of conservation precipitated a surge of local society formations during the 1960s and 1970s. Numbers of local groups peaked in the late 1970s at around 1,300 and then began to decline, reaching around 900 societies in the mid-1990s (see Lowe, 1977; Larkham, 1996).

The structure of the amenity movement has changed over time. Local groups and campaigns have always formed the foundation of the movement, but various national bodies were formed with cognate interests during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. During its existence the Civic Trust provided a national focus for local activities that raised the profile of amenity bodies. The formation of separate Civic Trusts for Wales and Scotland followed, in 1961 and 1967 respectively, and linked organizations emerged in some English regions in the same period. The English Civic Trust ceased to exist in 2009 and has been superseded by Civic Voice. Recently Civic Forums, representing federations of local groups and aiming to extend civic participation in major urban centres, have been established in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

### **1.2. Researching local activism**

One implication of the local nature of amenity groups and campaigns is a lack of knowledge about the historical development of the movement as a whole. In part, this reflects an associated absence of information regarding the extent of surviving archival material. The local associations that can be collectively identified as the amenity movement have consistent and striking commonalities, and at certain points in their history many have been affiliated to 'umbrella', regional or national, organizations. However, local groups have remained autonomous and have amassed, as separate community-based societies, their own records of activities, campaigns and interests.

Documentary material relating to the history of national organizations, such as the National Trust, is also sometimes spread between different sites.<sup>1</sup> But, in important respects researching the history of local civic and amenity groups represents a more substantial challenge. The records of local associations and campaigns are widely spread throughout the country in private hands and local archives and record offices, they relate to activities conducted in varying contexts over a period that now extends into three centuries. Local groups have varying names, making a clear identification of the cohort difficult and little, if any, previous research has assessed the extent or the quality of what remains. This document is an attempt to assess whether surviving archival material that might provide the basis for future research into the history of community and associational activity related to shaping local places. The questions it addresses are:

- How much material remains?
- Where is material held?
- What sort of material has survived?
- How much potential is there for research using this material?

### **1.3. Scope of the document**

This exercise has been undertaken as part of a review and scoping study funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under the Connected Communities programme. It is a

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<sup>1</sup> The records of the National Trust used by Merlin Waterson in his history of the organization were spread between a main collection at the Trust's headquarters and material gathered by the Trust's sixteen regional offices. See M. Waterson, *The National Trust. The First Hundred Years*, London, BCA, 1994.



preliminary investigation and draws on three main sources of information. Firstly, it uses the results of an extensive search exercise conducted through online archival databases, specifically the National Archives Access to Archives (A2A) database and the Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) database. Secondly, it draws on the authors' experience of working with a number of private archival holdings in different parts of the UK and, thirdly, it uses responses to a brief questionnaire circulated to local groups affiliated to the Scottish Civic Trust and Civic Voice.

The findings represent an attempt to establish the extent and the quality of surviving archival material. It does not offer an exhaustive exploration of all remaining archival deposits, but rather focuses on providing an indication of the potential for further significant research. It is, however, also hoped that this exercise might prove interesting and useful for current members of the amenity movement and provide a point of reference for information about the history of the movement as a whole.

## ***2. Conducting an assessment of archival material***

### **2.1. Private archives**

A number of organizations maintain private collections of records relating to their history. The findings in this document relating to private archival holdings are based on research conducted by the authors over a number of years and on information generated for this exercise through a short questionnaire that was circulated to individual societies through the emailing lists of the Scottish Civic Trust and Civic Voice.

As the archival guide in this document indicates, the private holdings relating to the amenity movement are substantial and represent a significant resource for historical research. It is important to note, however, that private holdings are not automatically accessible to researchers and that societies have different approaches to maintaining their own records and different levels of resources available to support archiving work.

### **2.2. Public archives**

This exercise used Access to Archives (A2A) and the Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) to search for archival material relating to local amenity groups in public collections. The A2A database allows researchers to search the catalogues of approximately 400 local records offices, libraries and other institutions that hold collections of archives in England and Wales. In Scotland, the Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) fulfils a similar function, providing a single point of access to the holdings in over 50 local record offices throughout the country.

### **2.3. How the assessment of material held in public archives was conducted**

Using online databases requires the selection of key search terms. The terms used for this search reflect the emphasis on amenity organizations, but sought to recognise the varied names that groups adopt. The results of this exercise were generated using the following combinations of terms:

- 'civic' and 'society' or 'trust'
- 'preservation' and 'society' or 'trust'



- 'conservation' and 'society' and 'trust'
- 'heritage' and 'society' or 'trust'
- 'amenity' and 'society' or 'trust'

Given both the scale and the varied nature of the local movement over time and place, it is inevitable that some records relating to organizations that identify with the amenity movement will have been missed through this search. These terms were chosen to capture a significant quantity of relevant records, but there was no expectation that this scoping exercise could be exhaustive or final.

In addition, given that this exercise was undertaken to establish the potential for future research into the history of the movement, the initial results were sifted according to two separate criteria. Of the material relating to the history of the movement prior to the formation of the Civic Trust in 1957, all deposits identified were recorded and included in this document's archival guide. Material relating to the history of the movement after the formation of the Civic Trust in 1957 and the widespread publicity of local activism in the years immediately following exists in much larger quantities, reflecting the greater number of groups in existence. This material was recorded and included where it related to a span of at least one decade on the basis that concentrations of material covering this period at a minimum would be likely to represent the most fruitful investment of resources in the context of a research project.

### **3. FINDINGS**

#### **3.1. How much material remains?**

There is a substantial quantity of surviving archival material relating to the history of local amenity bodies. Many of the collections are partial and fragmentary, often relating to a time span of just a few years or to a particular local campaign: however the searches conducted for this study generated results relating to 84 different local organizations that have been active for various stretches of times from the late-nineteenth century to the present day.

Current knowledge of the history of civic activity tends to be focused on the formation of the Civic Trust in 1957 and the surge of local activity that followed. However, significant collections of records relating to groups and campaigns from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century also survive. A number of local associations were already active by 1920 and records documenting the existence of these remain. Among the most notable collections are those of the Cockburn Association, the Edinburgh Civic Trust (formed in 1876), the Civic Society of Glasgow (first established in 1896), the London Society (formed in 1912) and the Birmingham Civic Society (formed in 1918).

For some early groups, such as the Sid Vale Association and the Bristol Civic Society, records survive that document a continuous organizational existence though a series of changes in form and sometimes emphasis. The Sid Vale Association can trace its history back to 1846 when it began as the Sidmouth Improvement Society (it changed its name in 1907), while the Bristol Civic Society was formed as a Kyrle Society in 1905,<sup>2</sup> changing its name in the early 1940s to reflect its involvement with the first national civic body, the Central Council of Civic Societies.

There are a number of privately held collections that are notable for the extent of the remaining records. Again, the early associations formed in major cities are among the most significant (London, Birmingham, The Cockburn Association in Edinburgh). In addition, however, a number of national organizations hold substantial material relating to local amenity activity and campaigns. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings holds records reflecting its contact with local amenity bodies from the 1890s. The archive of the now defunct Civic Trust

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<sup>2</sup> Kyrle Societies were formed in some towns and cities in Britain from the mid-1870s, though few continued in the twentieth century. They were named after John Kyrle, an eighteenth-century philanthropist who invested funds and considerable energy on improving his home-town of Ross-on-Wye. They tended to emphasize the importance of traditional beauty, often seeking to bring elements of the countryside into deprived urban areas.

represents a sizable concentration of holdings which covers the history of the Trust itself and the activities of numerous local bodies from its formation in 1957.

The extent of records held in public archives is considerable, though most collections relate to a limited timescale and relatively few document an extended period of history. Those publicly held collections that do reflect a longer span of time include, for example, the Cambridge Preservation Society, whose records cover the period from its formation in 1928 to 1975, the Chichester Civic Society, whose records remain for the period from 1945-1980, the Dundee Civic Trust (1950-1994), the Lyme Regis Preservation Society (1932-2002) and the Montrose Society (1956-2000).

The most substantial concentration of surviving material exists relating to the second half of the twentieth century, reflecting the growth in numbers of local groups during the 1960s and 1970s. The majority of this material covers a period of one to three decades and the value of the material for historical research is dependent on the extent and the nature of the records held in individual locations. However, the quantity and the potential number of individual places it relates to holds the potential to support a more controlled and comparative research design.

### **3.2. Where are archives held?**

Records are geographically dispersed. The archive guide included in section 4 of this document provides an indication of where individual deposits are held, but no single location provides a clear concentration of material.

### **3.3. What sort of material has survived?**

Most collections of archives consist of a core of material relating to the history of individual groups and campaigns. Information about the motivations for group or campaign formation in different localities, constitutions, objectives and areas of interest, members, minutes of meetings and records of campaigns and community initiatives are all common. Collections also routinely contain leaflets and publications produced by groups relating to particular projects or to aspects of local history. Many collections include a range of information related to particular concerns, such as scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings, local plans, exhibitions and correspondence documenting dialogue with other groups, institutions and local authorities.

Some organizations have also gathered collections of material relating to the history of particular places, and some conduct their own research into their local area as one of their primary activities. The London Society, for example, has a significant collection of books, maps and prints of London. Both the English Civic Trust archive and the Scottish Civic Trust hold substantial collections of books, pamphlets, leaflets and other documents, many produced by affiliated local societies, others reflecting broad interests in planning, conservation and heritage, much of which is “grey literature” and not held by copyright libraries. The national bodies also hold material relating to particular national policies, legislation or campaigns and are, therefore, a resource for understanding the development of ideas about place-making more generally.

Photographs of the local environment, specific buildings and community events are also among the records of local societies. Occasionally collections also contain sound and video recording (see description of records for the Gloucester Civic Design Group and Gloucester Civic Trust). It is notable that during the late-twentieth and early-twenty-first centuries digital technologies began to impact significantly upon the record-keeping of groups. Many groups no longer hold full paper records and traditional archives are, therefore, sometimes limited to the twentieth century as no systematic process of depositing digital material has developed. Research relating to the contemporary period will encounter the transformation of record keeping in response to digital technologies. This does, however, raise other possibilities, particularly the use of online archives as a focus for research and co-production.

### **3.4. How much potential is there for research using this material?**

It is clear that a significant quantity of material exists and that this material could provide a strong foundation for historical research. The geographic dispersal of material remains a logistical difficulty, but in a number of places the extent of surviving records would support a case study approach to research. It is also possible that some regions have concentrations of archival deposits, offering the potential for research to focus on particular parts of the UK as case study regions.

The availability and depth of surviving material varies with the growth and development of the amenity movement and, therefore, the approach to selecting material will be affected by the timeframe that a research project chooses to examine. The early history of amenity groups provides a valuable perspective on the evolution of both town planning and conservation policy,

as well as documenting the history of local activism in relation to urban, technological and industrial development. However, records relating to local activity in the late-nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century are also less extensive, limiting the range of examples and the approach to study. The quantity of material available for the second half of the twentieth century, would provide a clear basis for exploring some of the key developments in planning and conservation policy from the period from a variety of approaches. The increasing profile of debates about participation in place-making from the late 1950s, for example, could be documented and explored through the experiences of local associations. Case studies of specific local campaigns could also provide the basis for comparative perspectives on community engagement and a geographically sensitive approach to exploring political processes.

It is also clear that the members of civic associations themselves, many of whom have been involved in the movement over years and sometimes decades, represent a significant reserve of knowledge. The depth of sustained commitment combined with the extent of current activity suggests the value of an approach that includes additional elements that could complement archive based research, particularly interviewing and participatory methods. This aligns with recent emphases among both archival and community researchers and there are a number of examples of community archive projects that have existed in parallel to local oral history work, some ongoing over a period of several years, enabling the development of a nuanced understanding and a record of community experiences (see Flinn, 2007; Bastian and Alexander, 2009).

#### 4. GUIDE TO ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS

The following pages provide a guide to the archives of the civic movement. Section 4.1 lists material held in private archives, section 4.2 lists records accessible through public deposits and section 4.3 includes an indication of relevant material in the archival holdings of national organizations.

Records are shown grouped by individual organization. Where possible, an indication of the nature of the material, including the size of the holdings and the archival reference number is given.

##### 4.1. Private records

<b>Name of organization</b>	Birmingham Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1918-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Substantial records dating from formation of the Society until present, documenting activities, areas of interest and particular projects, including minutes, annual reports, leaflets, publications.
<b>Repository</b>	Information from the Birmingham Civic Society
<b>Name of organization</b>	Bungay Arts and Theatre Society (The Fisher Theatre)
<b>Date range of records</b>	1997-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes of meetings, annual reports and accounts, substantial collection of photographs relation to renovation and opening of The Fisher Theatre
<b>Repository</b>	Information from Bungay Arts and Theatre Society. Contact via <a href="http://www.fishertheatre.org">www.fishertheatre.org</a>
<b>Name of organization</b>	Carmunnock Preservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1964 - 2012 (incomplete)
<b>Description of material</b>	Annual reports, minutes, historical records and photographs relating to village, publications
<b>Repository</b>	Held by the Carmunnock Preservation Society

<b>Name of organization</b>	The Cockburn Association: the Edinburgh Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1875-1975
<b>Description of material</b>	Handwritten minutes from late 1880s, bound copies of minutes and reports from 1875 to 1975. Further recent material, some electronic, including records of meetings, reports, newsletters etc.
<b>Repository</b>	Held by the Cockburn Association

<b>Name of organization</b>	Duddingston Village Conservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1960-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, administration, press cuttings, reports, records of planning appeals
<b>Repository</b>	Information from Duddingston Village Conservation Society

<b>Name of organization</b>	The Faversham Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1962-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, reports, newsletters and additional material relating to activities
<b>Repository</b>	Information from the Faversham Society.

<b>Name of organization</b>	The Finchley Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1971-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Newsletters, minutes and reports. Material relating to the history and architecture of the local area.
<b>Repository</b>	Avenue House, Finchley. Access through The Finchley Society.

<b>Name of organization</b>	Formby Civic Society (formerly the Formby Society)
<b>Date range of records</b>	1953-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, annual reports, newsletters, publications. Records from 2000 digitised. The Society also holds an extensive collection of sketches, watercolours and photographs of the area.
<b>Repository</b>	Information from Formby Civic Society



<b>Name of organization</b>	Hunstanton Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	2002-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, annual reports. The Society also hold collections of photographs and memorabilia relating to the local area.
<b>Repository</b>	Information from the Hunstanton Civic Society

  

<b>Name of organization</b>	The London Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1912-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Substantial records relating to the history of the Society and its activities over previous century. Collection includes minutes, reports, issues of The Journal of the London Society, leaflets, publications. The Society also hold a library of books relating to the history and architecture of the London area and a collection of maps and prints.
<b>Repository</b>	Stored by the Museum of London, Mortimer Wheeler House. Information from the London Society

  

<b>Name of organization</b>	Musselburgh Conservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1986 - 2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Documents relating to full history of the Society, including minutes, corresp., records of lectures, contact with other organizations, scrapbooks and photographs.
<b>Repository</b>	Information from the Musselburgh Conservation Society

  

<b>Name of organization</b>	The Newbury Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1973 - 2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, newsletters
<b>Repository</b>	Information from The Newbury Society

  

<b>Name of organization</b>	Peterborough Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1952-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Bound volumes of annual reports detailing activities of the Society.
<b>Repository</b>	Held at Peterborough Central Library.

<b>Name of organization</b>	Pollokshields Heritage
<b>Date range of records</b>	1992-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Records of meetings and AGMS, annual reports, papers, membership database, newsletters.
<b>Repository</b>	Information from Pollokshields Heritage. Newsletters archived at <a href="http://www.pollokshieldsheritage.org">www.pollokshieldsheritage.org</a>

<b>Name of organization</b>	Reading Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1961- 2012 (incomplete)
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, newsletters, financial records, corresp., meetings and outings, listed buildings, planning, campaigns, publications and leaflets.
<b>Repository</b>	Currently held by Society, to be gifted to Berkshire Record Office

<b>Name of organization</b>	Sid Vale Association, formerly Sidmouth Improvement Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1846-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, reports, including dating back to 1846
<b>Repository</b>	Stored at Sidmouth Museum. Information from the Sid Vale Association

<b>Name of organization</b>	Spalding and District Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1960-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, accounts, annual reports, newspaper cuttings, photographs and misc., relating to exhibitions
<b>Repository</b>	Information from Spalding and District Civic Society

<b>Name of organization</b>	The Strathbungo Society, formerly the Strathbungo Conservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1994-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Archive of minutes and newsletters. Information about activities shared regularly at <a href="http://www.bungoblog.com">www.bungoblog.com</a>
<b>Repository</b>	Information from The Strathbungo Society

<b>Name of organization</b>	The Thorney Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1985-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes and newsletters
<b>Repository</b>	Information from The Thorney Society

<b>Name of organization</b>	Worcester Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1958-2012
<b>Description of material</b>	Minute books, reports, members, newsletters, local projects
<b>Repository</b>	Held by the Worcester Civic Society

**4.2. Public records**

<b>Name of organization</b>	Aberdeen Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1981-2000
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, agendas, correspondence, particular subject files
<b>Deposit</b>	Aberdeen City and Aberdeen Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	Acc 547; 592

<b>Name of organization</b>	Aberystwyth Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1977-1999
<b>Description of material</b>	Records
<b>Deposit</b>	Ceredigion Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	DSO/18

<b>Name of organization</b>	Ambleside Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1973-1994
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., members, papers relating to local appeals, redevelopment and inquiries
<b>Deposit</b>	Cumbria Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	WDSO 263

<b>Name of organization</b>	Arbroath Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1971-1990
<b>Description of material</b>	Minute books
<b>Deposit</b>	Angus Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	NA7458

<b>Name of organization</b>	Bangor Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1902-4
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes
<b>Deposit</b>	Bangor University, Archives and Special Collections
<b>Record reference</b>	Gasquoine manuscripts

<b>Name of organization</b>	Barrow Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1982-1999
<b>Description of material</b>	33 files. Minutes, corresp., agendas, activities
<b>Deposit</b>	Cumbria Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	BDSO 45

<b>Name of organization</b>	Belfast Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1944-67
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, correspondence, papers
<b>Deposit</b>	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
<b>Record reference</b>	D3760

<b>Name of organization</b>	Bexley Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1970-1991
<b>Description of material</b>	82 files. Records of executive committee, historic buildings group, tree and open spaces group, pollution and waterways group and conservation advisory panel; publications.
<b>Deposit</b>	Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	CS/BCS

<b>Name of organization</b>	Bradford Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1942 - 1999
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, annual reports, journals, register of members, subject files.
<b>Deposit</b>	West Yorkshire Archive Service
<b>Record reference</b>	56D85/4-8; 97D00

<b>Name of organization</b>	Bradford-on-Avon Preservation Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1958-1985
<b>Description of material</b>	Newsletters, posters, corresp., newspaper cuttings
<b>Deposit</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	2488

<b>Name of organization</b>	Bridgnorth Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1967-1979
<b>Description of material</b>	Records relating to public enquiry and proposed bypass
<b>Deposit</b>	Shropshire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	6520/2-4

<b>Name of organization</b>	Bristol Civic Society, Bristol Kyle Society and Bristol Replanning Association
<b>Date range of records</b>	1907-1974
<b>Description of material</b>	16 files. Minutes, reports, membership, leaflets and publications
<b>Deposit</b>	Bristol Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	33199

<b>Name of organization</b>	Burton upon Trent Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1962-1990
<b>Description of material</b>	Minute
<b>Deposit</b>	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service
<b>Record reference</b>	D94

<b>Name of organization</b>	Calne Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1970-1994
<b>Description of material</b>	18 files. Minutes, publications, project papers, newsletters, colour slide and scrapbooks
<b>Deposit</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	3159

<b>Name of organization</b>	Cambridge Preservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1928-1975
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, reports, corresp., press cuttings, members
<b>Deposit</b>	Cambridgeshire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	R86/11; R91/8

<b>Name of organization</b>	Carmarthen Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1977-1988
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp.
<b>Deposit</b>	Carmarthenshire Archive Service
<b>Record reference</b>	DSO/57

<b>Name of organization</b>	Carlisle Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1965-2005
<b>Description of material</b>	17 files. Minutes, reports, corresp., press cuttings, members, photographs
<b>Deposit</b>	Cumbria Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	DSO 36

<b>Name of organization</b>	Chester Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1960-1978
<b>Description of material</b>	3 vols, 25 bundles, 18 plans, 59 other items. Minutes, corresp., plans, photographs, reports
<b>Deposit</b>	Cheshire Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	ZCR 251

<b>Name of organization</b>	Chesterfield Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	c1960-1980
<b>Description of material</b>	None
<b>Deposit</b>	Derbyshire Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	D6449



<b>Name of organization</b>	Chichester Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1945-1980
<b>Description of material</b>	Minute books, correspondence, newsletters, membership, pamphlets, special issues
<b>Deposit</b>	West Sussex Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	Mss 31364-31440

<b>Name of organization</b>	Clayton-le-Moors Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1974-2003
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, accounts and corresp.
<b>Deposit</b>	Lancashire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	DDX 2662

<b>Name of organization</b>	Cockermouth Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1967-1997
<b>Description of material</b>	19 files. Minutes, newsletters, members, programmes
<b>Deposit</b>	Cumbria Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	YDSO 29

<b>Name of organization</b>	Colchester Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1953-1983
<b>Description of material</b>	17 boxes. Minutes, lists of members, plans and reports to borough planner from Conservation Advisory and Improvement Committees, papers relating to local inquiries
<b>Deposit</b>	Essex Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	C108; C208

<b>Name of organization</b>	Colwyn Bay Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1972-1989
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, misc papers
<b>Deposit</b>	Denbighshire Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	DD/DM/923

<b>Name of organization</b>	Corsham Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1962-1999
<b>Description of material</b>	18 files. Minutes, reports, constitutions, corresp, newsletters.
<b>Deposit</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	3237

<b>Name of organization</b>	Cramond Heritage Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1971-1998
<b>Description of material</b>	Relating to Edinburgh Airport Extension Enquiry
<b>Deposit</b>	National Records of Scotland
<b>Record reference</b>	NA20922

<b>Name of organization</b>	Dundee Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1950-1994
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, publications, local projects, corresp., reports
<b>Deposit</b>	University of Dundee Archive Services
<b>Record reference</b>	UR-SF35/4

<b>Name of organization</b>	Glasgow Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1896-1907
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, related news paper reports, programmes
<b>Deposit</b>	Glasgow University Library Special Collections
<b>Record reference</b>	MS Gen 1342

<b>Name of organization</b>	Glasgow Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1926-1936
<b>Description of material</b>	None
<b>Deposit</b>	Mitchell Library Archives, Glasgow
<b>Record reference</b>	T-PM122/2/11, T-PM122/4/24

<b>Name of organization</b>	Glasgow Tree Lovers Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1933-1974
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes and agendas, reports, records of related bodies, including The New Glasgow Society, publications, photographs
<b>Deposit</b>	Glasgow City Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	TD454

<b>Name of organization</b>	Gloucester Civic Design Group, Gloucester Civic Trust and the Gloucester Federation of Amenity Societies
<b>Date range of records</b>	1958-1987
<b>Description of material</b>	135 files. Minutes, corresp, plans, maps, reports, working parties, exhibitions, sound and video recordings, various papers.
<b>Deposit</b>	Gloucestershire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	D6224

<b>Name of organization</b>	Hanwell Preservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1971-1999
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., news cuttings, campaign files
<b>Deposit</b>	Ealing Local History Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	Acc 218

<b>Name of organization</b>	Haslingden and District Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1965-2001
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, members, corresp.
<b>Deposit</b>	Lancashire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	DDX 2291

<b>Name of organization</b>	The Hastings and St Leonards Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1943-1955
<b>Description of material</b>	19 files and volumes. Minute books, reports, newsletters, photographs
<b>Deposit</b>	Hastings Museum and Art Gallery
<b>Record reference</b>	SOC6

<b>Name of organization</b>	Haverfordwest Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1961-1994
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp, newsletter, misc papers.
<b>Deposit</b>	Pembrokeshire Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	DSO/77

<b>Name of organization</b>	Hereford Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1975-2008
<b>Description of material</b>	Journals
<b>Deposit</b>	Herefordshire Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	CK10

<b>Name of organization</b>	Honley Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1984-2010
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., leaflets, local projects, photographs, historical notes, publications.
<b>Deposit</b>	West Yorkshire Archive Service, Kirklees
<b>Record reference</b>	WYK1586

<b>Name of organization</b>	Horbury Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1967-1995
<b>Description of material</b>	Administration file, corresp.
<b>Deposit</b>	West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield.
<b>Record reference</b>	C994

<b>Name of organization</b>	Hyde Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1968-1991
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., local projects, newspaper clippings, photographs.
<b>Deposit</b>	Tameside Local Studies and Archive Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	DD194

<b>Name of organization</b>	Inverness Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1965-2000
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, reports, corresp
<b>Deposit</b>	Highland Council Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	D813

<b>Name of organization</b>	Kidwelly Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1970-2007
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes and corresp.
<b>Deposit</b>	Carmarthenshire Archive Service
<b>Record reference</b>	8157

<b>Name of organization</b>	Kings Lynn Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1972-2011
<b>Description of material</b>	None
<b>Deposit</b>	Norfolk Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	ACC 2010/359

<b>Name of organization</b>	Lancaster Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1967-2010
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., local projects
<b>Deposit</b>	Lancashire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	DDX 2283

<b>Name of organization</b>	Leeds Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1918-1929
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, annual reports, corresp.,
<b>Deposit</b>	West Yorkshire Archive Service
<b>Record reference</b>	GA/C 48

<b>Name of organization</b>	Leicester Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1972 - 2010
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., local projects, scrapbooks
<b>Deposit</b>	Leicester and Rutland Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	DE7543; DE7782; DE8146

<b>Name of organization</b>	Lichfield Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1960-2008
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, press cuttings, newsletters, scrapbooks, local projects
<b>Deposit</b>	Lichfield Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	D194, D312, D440, D477, D502

<b>Name of organization</b>	Loughborough and District Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1964-1983
<b>Description of material</b>	Corresp., project files, annual reports, newsletters
<b>Deposit</b>	Leicestershire Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	DE3317

<b>Name of organization</b>	Luton Improvement Scheme and Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1942-1948
<b>Description of material</b>	Corresp., and records re. post-war reconstruction, exhibition programme, photographs, newspaper cuttings
<b>Deposit</b>	Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Record Service
<b>Record reference</b>	JN38

<b>Name of organization</b>	Lyme Regis Preservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1932-2002
<b>Description of material</b>	None
<b>Deposit</b>	Dorset History Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	D/LRS

<b>Name of organization</b>	Malden and Coombe Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1944-1973
<b>Description of material</b>	3 files. Minute books
<b>Deposit</b>	KX163
<b>Record reference</b>	Kingston Museum and Heritage Service

<b>Name of organization</b>	Malmesbury Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1966-1996
<b>Description of material</b>	37 files. Minutes, newsletters, history and constitution of society, photographs and plans
<b>Deposit</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon archives
<b>Record reference</b>	3158

<b>Name of organization</b>	Marlborough Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1969-2005
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., papers
<b>Deposit</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	3988

<b>Name of organization</b>	Milngavie Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1972-2000
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, scrapbooks, papers
<b>Deposit</b>	East Dunbartonshire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	GD323



<b>Name of organization</b>	Montrose Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1956-2000
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, agendas, awards, exhibitions, photographs
<b>Deposit</b>	Angus Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	MS 607

<b>Name of organization</b>	Newark Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1964-1998
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., papers
<b>Deposit</b>	Nottinghamshire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	7172

<b>Name of organization</b>	Northampton Civic Action; Northampton Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1966 - 1982
<b>Description of material</b>	63 files. Minutes, corresp., members, local projects, publications, leaflets.
<b>Deposit</b>	Northamptonshire Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	Acc 1983/36/1-63

<b>Name of organization</b>	Northenden Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1969-1982
<b>Description of material</b>	77 files. Minutes, reports, newsletters, corresp., history working part, members, campaigns, mics.,
<b>Deposit</b>	Manchester Archives and Local Studies
<b>Record reference</b>	M529

<b>Name of organization</b>	Nottingham Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1963-1995
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, papers, records of Society's photographic group, local projects and plans, annual reports
<b>Deposit</b>	Nottinghamshire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	DD/1508/21, DD/2118

<b>Name of organization</b>	Orkney Heritage Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1952-1977
<b>Description of material</b>	Photographs and corresp. (contained with the papers of journalist and historian, Ernest Walker Marwick)
<b>Deposit</b>	Orkney Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	D31 [NA17679]

<b>Name of organization</b>	Ovingdean Residents and Preservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1967-1987
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, agendas, reports
<b>Deposit</b>	East Sussex Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	Acc 6650

<b>Name of organization</b>	Oxford Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1969-2005
<b>Description of material</b>	None
<b>Deposit</b>	Oxfordshire History Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	Acc 5865

<b>Name of organization</b>	Oxford Preservation Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1926-2000
<b>Description of material</b>	77 boxes
<b>Deposit</b>	Oxfordshire History Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	Acc5109

<b>Name of organization</b>	Pembroke Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1969-2005
<b>Description of material</b>	Corresp., minutes, papers
<b>Deposit</b>	Pembrokeshire Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	DSO/91

<b>Name of organization</b>	Perth Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1951-1999
<b>Description of material</b>	1.75 linear metres. Minutes, annual reports, newsletters, local projects
<b>Deposit</b>	Perth and Kinross Council Archive
<b>Record reference</b>	MS160

<b>Name of organization</b>	Salisbury Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1962-2002
<b>Description of material</b>	27 files. Minutes, members, newsletters, corresp., pamphlets, local buildings
<b>Deposit</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	2263

<b>Name of organization</b>	Southampton Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1931
<b>Description of material</b>	Reports
<b>Deposit</b>	Southampton Archives Services
<b>Record reference</b>	SC/BA 2/84

<b>Name of organization</b>	St Andrews Preservation Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1937-c1999
<b>Description of material</b>	Records within the paper of Ronald G Cant, historian, preservationist and founding member of the Trust
<b>Deposit</b>	St Andrews Library Special Collections
<b>Record reference</b>	Msdep112

<b>Name of organization</b>	Stafford Historical and Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1958-1978
<b>Description of material</b>	None
<b>Deposit</b>	Staffordshire County Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	D4881

<b>Name of organization</b>	Steyning Preservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1933-1948
<b>Description of material</b>	Minute books
<b>Deposit</b>	West Sussex Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	Mss 39999

<b>Name of organization</b>	Stroud Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1966-1997
<b>Description of material</b>	20 files. Minutes, corresp., published material, photographs
<b>Deposit</b>	Gloucestershire Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	D8233

<b>Name of organization</b>	Tavistock Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1985-2000
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., papers.
<b>Deposit</b>	Plymouth and West Devon Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	Acc 3145 & 3232

<b>Name of organization</b>	Trowbridge Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1978-2000
<b>Description of material</b>	21 files. Minutes, reports, newsletters, publications, press releases, corresp., local projects
<b>Deposit</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	3146

<b>Name of organization</b>	Truro Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1982-2004
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, accounts
<b>Deposit</b>	Cornwall Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	X1312

<b>Name of organization</b>	Ullswater Preservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1932-1963
<b>Description of material</b>	20 files. Corresp., minutes, petition
<b>Deposit</b>	Cumbria Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	DSO 169

<b>Name of organization</b>	Wakefield Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1971-2001
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes
<b>Deposit</b>	West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield
<b>Record reference</b>	WYW1592

<b>Name of organization</b>	Walsall Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1959-1976
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., notes, photographs, local projects
<b>Deposit</b>	Walsall Local History Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	144/1-9

<b>Name of organization</b>	West Lothian History and Amenity Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1965-1996
<b>Description of material</b>	Minute books, reports, newsletters, corresp., members, publications
<b>Deposit</b>	West Lothian Local History Library
<b>Record reference</b>	D24

<b>Name of organization</b>	West Weymouth Preservation Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1972-2008
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes, corresp., photographs, members, papers
<b>Deposit</b>	Dorset History Centre
<b>Record reference</b>	D2237

<b>Name of organization</b>	Wigston Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1976-1999
<b>Description of material</b>	Minutes
<b>Deposit</b>	Leicester and Rutland Record Office
<b>Record reference</b>	DE6038, DE6069

<b>Name of organization</b>	Windermere and Bowness Civic Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1974-1989
<b>Description of material</b>	Newsletters
<b>Deposit</b>	Cumbria Record Office, Kendal
<b>Record reference</b>	WDSO 184

<b>Name of organization</b>	Wootton Bassett and District Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1969-1997
<b>Description of material</b>	12 files. Minutes, newslettersm corresp. Photographs
<b>Deposit</b>	3173
<b>Record reference</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon Archives

<b>Name of organization</b>	Worsley Civic Trust and Amenity Society
<b>Date range of records</b>	1963-1994
<b>Description of material</b>	None
<b>Deposit</b>	Salford City Archives
<b>Record reference</b>	U293

### 4.3. National collections

<b>Name of organization</b>	Council for the Protection of Rural England
<b>Date range of records</b>	1857-1999 (holdings pre-date formation in CPRE in 1926)
<b>Description of material</b>	Records relating to local amenity societies (c1967-1979), the Civic Trust (1957-1981) and North East Civic Trust (1965-75). The CPRE collection is substantial (199 linear metres) and may contain further records relevant to the history of the amenity movement.
<b>Repository</b>	Museum of English Rural Life

<b>Name of organization</b>	Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1957-2009
<b>Description of material</b>	Approx. 200 boxes. Records relating to the formation and history of the Trust itself. Records relating to national legislation and campaigns. Records of various civic amenity conferences. Extensive records relating to affiliated local societies. Collections of photographs. Publications, leaflets, accounts, corresp.
<b>Repository</b>	Alan Baxter Archives, Lincolnshire

<b>Name of organization</b>	Scottish Civic Trust
<b>Date range of records</b>	1967-present
<b>Description of material</b>	Records relating to the activities of the Trust and its affiliated member groups over the period of its existence. Newsletters, reports, local projects, awards scheme, corresp. The Trust also holds a large collection of publications relating to local history, conservation, heritage and planning.
<b>Repository</b>	Held by the Scottish Civic Trust

<b>Name of organization</b>	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
<b>Date range of records</b>	c1890-1960s
<b>Description of material</b>	Records relating the early amenity organizations, including the activities of the Central Council of Civic Societies.
<b>Repository</b>	Held by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings



## 5. FURTHER READING

### Histories of and/or by individual groups

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### General

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## The Connected Communities

Connected Communities is a cross-Council Programme being led by the AHRC in partnership with the EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC and a range of external partners. The current vision for the Programme is:

*“to mobilise the potential for increasingly inter-connected, culturally diverse, communities to enhance participation, prosperity, sustainability, health & well-being by better connecting research, stakeholders and communities.”*

Further details about the Programme can be found on the AHRC’s Connected Communities web pages at:

[www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Pages/connectedcommunities.aspx](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Pages/connectedcommunities.aspx)

