



Coventry City Council

City of Coventry Local List of Heritage Assets – nomination form

Name and location of your candidate heritage asset (if necessary, please provide a photograph and a map showing its location):

DRINKING FOUNTAIN, TOP GREEN,
EARLSDON, COVENTRY.

1. WHAT IS IT? Is it one of the following? (tick one):

- a building or group of buildings
- a monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)
- a place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)
- a landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)

2. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED? Indicate what is it about the asset that provides its interest, and why it is valued locally. Please complete one or more of these categories.

Evidential interest: It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history. This might include *archaeological interest* firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study.

Historic interest: It is important to understanding an association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry. This might be an *illustrative interest* (it illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character), or an *associative interest* (it connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area).

The fountain provides an illustrative interest for the parkland of Top Green contributing to its identity as an area of Victorian parkland. A Victorian structure, most likely from the 1870's, it was donated to the city as a gift by Mrs Alice Hill, a former Mayoress of the city.

Aesthetic interest: It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously. This might include *artistic interest* (it includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including landscape design) to enhance appearance) or *architectural interest* (an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials).

The structure enhances its surrounding environment and creates a more positive and formal setting by its design and position within the park. It is made of cast iron, with a stoop for dogs to drink water. The spout is formed from the lions head which sits beneath an original valve which operated the flow of water. There is a hole to the top of the fountain where some of its features have been sheared off - possibly a ring holding a container? A bronze plaque features at the top featuring the inscription 'A gift by Mrs Alice S Hill - Mayoress of Coventry 1915-1918'.

Communal interest: It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community. This might include *commemorative or symbolic interest*, that reflect meanings of a place for the people who relate to it.

Earlsdon as a suburb was laid out in Victorian times and Top Green park dates from this period. It is important to both the identity and history of Earlsdon the park being laid out on a historic major trunk route south of the city towards Kenilworth. Victorian planners and designers created large formal spaces and the fountain is a rare survivor of an item of street furniture that is all but lost in Coventry.

3. WHAT ELSE COULD MAKE ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL? Indicate why any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment:

Age ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	Constructed c 1870's, features in Top Green park of Victorian origin but possibly moved here in early 1920's?
Rarity ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	A rare surviving example of a Victorian drinking fountain, of which Coventry had many in the city centre.
Integrity ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	It is largely complete but has damage to its top half.
Group value ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	It is part of a small group of water features, the other being the neighbouring fountain situated on Earlsdon Avenue South, which was moved there in 1921.
Coventry's identity ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it? (see the Local List Criteria)	It is important to Coventry's civic character and heritage. Donated to the city by a former Mayor, it shows an aspect of Coventry's civic past being an attractive rare feature that was once functional to Coventry's citizen's. It provided enjoyment for many people who visited the park.
Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	It is in a prominent location on a major route into the city from the south, highly visible to road users and can be seen as a local heritage landmark that can be enjoyed and observed.

Local Listing

Candidate:

Drinking Fountain

at Top Green,

Warwick Road





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