



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BROADGATE SQUARE

We are of course disappointed that the Secretary of State has declined our recommendation to list Broadgate Square, but we respect his decision and welcome the public debate that the case has prompted. We are pleased that in his decision letter the Secretary of State acknowledged the comprehensive analysis given to the case by English Heritage. It is the role of English Heritage to offer impartial, expert advice to the Government on the architectural and historic merit of a building but Ministers are democratically accountable for the final decision.

There has been some suggestion that listing stunts investment or creates 'streetscape museums'. This is to entirely misinterpret the purpose and effect of listing. Listing is a marker of special architectural and historic interest and ensures an appropriate balance is struck between the desirability of keeping that interest and the need for change. Every year, consent is given for change and adaptation to thousands of listed buildings. It would have been entirely possible to consider significant alteration to the inherently flexible Broadgate Square buildings while enabling the original scheme's intrinsic qualities to shine as an exemplar of commercial development in the City. The retention and adaptation of the buildings would of course have been the sustainable option.

In any city, change is vital to success. Broadgate Square may not be everyone's idea of heritage, but every decade has its architectural high points, and the 1980s are no different. The timeline for assessing our built environment moves on, and English Heritage will increasingly be asked to consider buildings of the 1980s for listing. As with all listing cases, we will apply our usual rigorous approach to identify the very best and most representative buildings of the decade.

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