



Construction and the Built Environment – Unit 1

1.3 Types of Buildings and Structures

Infrastructure construction

links the places we live to our workplaces, welfare services, and recreational destinations. It also delivers and enhances essential services, including energy, water, and telecommunications.

- Roads
- Motorways
- Pedestrian and cycle paths
- Railways and tramways
- Gas and electricity supply
- Telecommunications
- Water supply and sewage
- Bridges and tunnels

Residential dwellings

provide places of habitation and are often constructed using block or timber frame methods. They are typically smaller in size compared to other types of buildings.

- Detached houses
- Semi-detached houses
- Terraced houses
- Flats

Commercial buildings

accommodate business activities that provide services such as banking, insurance, and telecommunications, or sell products, including food, clothing, petrol, and household goods.

- Retail and service shops
- Cafés, restaurants and takeaways
- Public houses
- Banks and building societies
- Office buildings
- Call centres

Industrial buildings

are typically large structures designed for specific industrial functions. They are often situated away from town centres, in purpose-built industrial parks with convenient access to rail and road transport networks.

- Factories
- Warehouses
- Processing plants

Agricultural buildings are associated with the farming and agricultural industry. Their purposes include providing shelter for animals, storing crops and machinery, and cultivating plants.

- Barns
- Sheds and shelters
- Grain stores
- Stables
- Battery farms
- Greenhouses
- Grain silos

Community buildings range from day centres for the elderly or homeless to surgeries, schools, and hospitals. These buildings are intended for use by the local community and should be situated in convenient locations.

- Community centres
- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Doctor surgeries
- Schools
- Colleges

Religious buildings are primarily intended as places of worship for a specific religion.

- Christian churches
- Hindu temples
- Islamic mosques
- Jewish synagogues
- Sikh gurdwaras

Recreational buildings vary widely in size and style, ranging from small public houses to purpose-built sports stadiums and leisure centres, where customers can engage in a variety of activities under one roof.

- Gyms and health clubs
- Leisure centres
- Swimming pools
- Sports clubs
- Public houses
- Sports stadiums