

ABOUT THE



People often think of 'archaeology' as stuff buried in the ground. This is a bit simplistic. Archaeology is really the process of looking at evidence from the past to work things out about how people used to live from the traces they left behind.

When you understand archaeology in these terms it's easy to understand how it is all around us; above and below ground. Our built environment is full of traces of how people lived in the past, some using the same buildings, streets and roads as we do today.

Taking an archaeological approach to looking around you there are lots of traces of how successive generations have adapted their environment to suit changing needs.

Put your archaeology hat on and see how many of these places, spaces, changes and structures you can find around you. You will likely notice just how long some of these have existed and how people's attitudes and priorities about their local place have changed over time.



Exploring your local heritage: how many can you find?



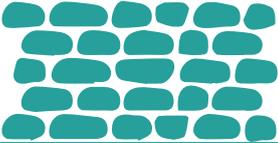
Share your discoveries with us! Tag @archaeologyuk or social media or email Festival@archaeologyuk.org to show off what you've found. Not quite sure what you're looking for? Check out our handy glossary below. Find out more at

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/resources/local-explorer-challenge-2021-city-and-country-1623316944>.



Signpost

Dry stone walls



A building which has been extended over time



PATH OF INTENTION



Bird feeder, bee box or bug hotel



STILE



Reused bathtub / other domestic item in an agricultural setting



STONE BRIDGE

EXTERNAL STEPS ON A BUILDING



Milk Churn stand



LOCAL PUB



POST BOX



Ridge and furrows

MARKET CROSS



Industrial structure



A castle or a defensive building

A barn (or agricultural building) that has been converted into a house



A village green



Derelict farm buildings



Well / water pump



MILESTONE

STABLES



A place named after a person



Star item:
Dovecote

Town & country

1. Signpost

- A sign or milestone which directs you to a place

2. Dry stone walls

- Walls built without mortar, just using the shapes of the stones fitted together. It could be at a field boundary or as part of a building.

3. A building which has been extended over time

- Lots of buildings of all sorts grow over time as more space is needed. You can often spot this by a difference in building materials or style. Can you tell the ages of the different parts? Or perhaps which order different parts were built in?

4. Path of intention

- Where people aren't directed to walk a particular route but do so because it's the easiest way to their destination, a path is eventually created through wear. These are called "paths of intention", and they are a way to see the impact of human movement on our environment.

5. Bird feeder, bee box or bug hotel

- Find the ways in which people encourage wildlife near them.

6. Stile

- A set of steps in a boundary wall, fence or hedge, usually to allow humans to pass but stop animals escaping.

7. Reused bathtub / other domestic item in an agricultural setting

- Waste not want not – can you find an old bath tub serving as a water trough, or another "indoor" item serving an agricultural use?

8. Stone bridge

- Hardwearing stone is a good material to use for a bridge, since it copes with both water erosion and wear from traffic.

9. External steps on a building

- Agricultural buildings are sometimes split into two storeys to allow separate uses – often housing animals below. Can you find a building where a set of steps on the outside of the building leads to the upper storey? Or where there were clearly external steps in the past, which are still discernable from scarring on the building.

10. Milk churn stand

- These are roadside platform structures beside dairy farms, where milk churns were placed to be collected and transported by car or lorry - until milk began to be transported in tankers in the later twentieth century.

11. Local pub

- A traditional social hub, where is your nearest pub – and can you figure out where its name comes from?

12. Post box

- The classic red post-box design is a well known part of the British streetscape. Can you tell the age of one near you?

13. Ridge and furrows

- In the medieval period, ploughs were not reversible (as they are now), so instead of creating a flat surface repeated ploughing created a regular pattern of ridges and troughs in fields. If they have not been ploughed out since, this pattern is still visible, called "ridge (or "rig") and furrow".

14. Market cross

- Market crosses were used to mark the sites of the market or fair in a town, which would have contributed to its economic success. They can range from the simple to the very elaborate.

15. Industrial structure

- Any building or structure connected with industry – maybe a mill, factory or mine.

16. A castle or defensive building

- It can be standing, ruined or the site where one used to stand. Can you find a castle, tower, or defensive wall intended to protect people in case of conflict?

17. A barn (or agricultural building) that has been converted into a house

- As farming practices have changed and the population has grown, some buildings which used to have agricultural uses have been turned into houses. Look for large houses with wide barn doors.

18. A village green

- A common open area in settlements historically allowed residents of the town to graze and water small numbers of animals. Now it's mostly valued aesthetically and as a recreational open space.

19. Derelict farm buildings

- Unlike in towns where there is pressure for space, farms buildings are often allowed to decay naturally rather than being converted or demolished. Can you tell what it used to be used for?

20. Well / water pump

- Before the mechanisation of water provision, it had to be drawn up from underground reservoirs using a manual pump, or a different kind of power like a wind-powered pump.

21. Millstone

- These great round stones with a hole in the centre were used to grind down grain into flour, often turned by water or wind power. Many are now stood on their side and used decoratively.

22. Stables

- A building originally built to house horses, often with a hay loft above so food or bedding could be pitched directly down. While modern stables are often largely recreational, horses used to be a key source of power for farming, and a main method of transport.

23. A place named after a person

- Saints, local celebrities, ancient kings – can you find a town, street or building near you which is named after a person?

24. Star: Dovecote

- Dovecotes (or doocots in Scotland) are structures intended to house pigeons or doves, and can be found free-standing or attached to a barn or house. Until the seventeenth century, keeping doves was an elite privilege, so look near old high-status houses or castles.