

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.

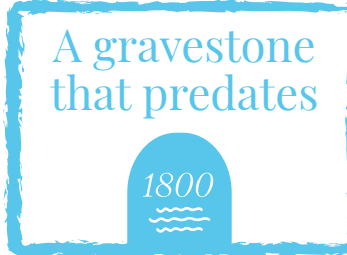
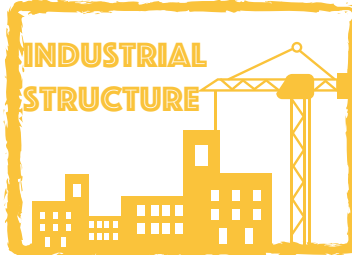
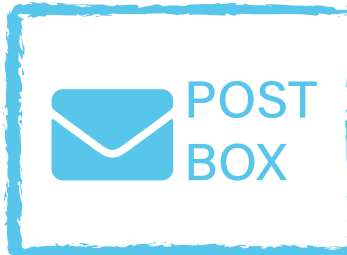
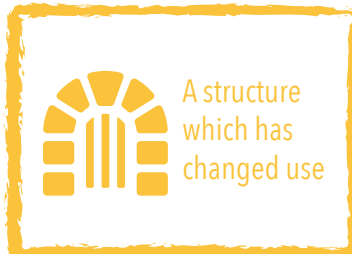


Exploring your local heritage: how many can you find?

Share your "star item" finds with us by email at festival@archaeology.org.uk or share them online using the #LocalExplorerChallenge hashtag (get an adult to do this for you if you're under 16) to be entered into our prize draw. Prizes include a satchel of archaeological tools, a book token, and a free YAC pass. All entries must be received by the 6th September to be entered into the prize draw. Not quite sure what you're looking for? Check out our glossary below.

Find out more at

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/resources/local-explorer-challenge-2021-young-persons-1626095495>



Young Explorer Glossary

1. A structure which has changed use

A phone box which houses a defibrillator, a church that's now a theatre – what has stayed the same but changed its use near you?

2. Narrow streets, passages, ginnels, alleys

Small pedestrian routes through towns and cities – what are they called where you live?

3. Victorian school sign

Victorian schools were often split into two sides and boys and girls would enter via separate gates.

Many school buildings of that era still have boys and girls signs over each entrance.

4. Painted playground floor games

Like hopscotch, snakes and ladders or a racetrack for example.

5. A place or street name which indicates what activity used to happen there

6. Town hall

A town hall, city hall or guildhall was often the centre of administration and local government.

These civic buildings were often designed to impress. It still counts if it has been converted to a different use since.

7. 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?

8. Railway station

In the nineteenth century, railways changed transport forever. How old is your closest railway station?

9. Skateboard, rollerblade or scooter ramp

10. Blue plaque

Blue plaques on buildings mark places with a connection to famous historical people, for example where they lived or worked, or were born or died. They recognise all kinds of different people: authors, inventors, politicians, sports people, actors and more.

11. Street art, mural, statue, graffiti or modern mosaic featuring children

12. Bird feeder, bee box or bug hotel

Find the ways in which people encourage wildlife near them.

13. Industrial structure

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

14. 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?

15. A gravestone that predates 1800

Finding gravestones is an easy task – finding one that dates earlier than 1800 is a bit more of a job! Make sure you take an adult with you when exploring a graveyard.

16. Women's contributions to history can be overlooked.

Can you find a statue, blue plaque, or other public memorial which commemorates a woman? If so, share your photo with us by email or on social media – we'd love to see!