

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>.

<p>Building of 4 or more storeys</p> 	<p>Concrete structure</p> 	<p>A structure which has changed use</p> 	<p>NARROW STREETS, PASSAGES, GINNELS, ALLEYS</p> 
<p>Gaslight fittings/old street lights</p> 	<p>A fire hydrant sign</p> 	<p>Building with columns / piers / pilasters</p> 	<p>SOCIAL DISTANCING ↑↓ MEASURES</p>
<p>A place or street name which indicates what activity used to happen there</p> 	<p>A building which has been extended over time</p> 	<p>A religious building that's not the official national church denomination</p> 	<p>DORMER WINDOW</p> 
<p>INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE</p> 	<p>Public loos</p> 	<p>ROAD WORKS</p> 	<p>TOWN HALL</p> 
<p>Signal box</p> 	<p>Gargoyle</p> 	<p>A street / place name named after AN ANIMAL</p> 	<p>POST BOX</p> 
<p>A Dragon</p> 	<p>A railway station</p> 	<p>Museum / heritage attraction</p> 	<p>Star item: Public memorial for a woman</p> 

City

1. Building of 4 or more storeys

- Can include basements and loft conversions

2. Concrete structure

- Any building or structure which uses concrete as a building material. Look for more modern buildings
- Although concrete originated in Roman times, it's mostly seen in 20th century buildings.

3. A structure which has changed use

- A phone box which houses a defibrillator, a bank which is a pub – what has stayed the same but changed its use near you?

4. Narrow streets, passages, ginnels, alleys.

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

5. Gaslight fittings/old street lights

- The Georgians first introduced systems for lighting public areas – first using candles, then gas. Old lamp posts are often made of cast iron and have decorative features.

6. A fire hydrant sign

- Fire hydrants let fire fighters connect to a water supply. Unlike in the USA, UK fire hydrants are usually below ground, with a yellow H nearby to mark the spot. Can you find the company name on the cover?

7. Building with columns / piers / pilasters

- These are a popular neoclassical feature in architecture, often used on high-status buildings. Columns have a round shaft, piers have a square shaft, both are generally structural (supporting an upper story or roof). When they are attached to a wall, so decorative rather than structural, they are pilasters.

8. Social distancing measures

- Our local environments have adapted over the last year. What new safety measures can you spot?

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

- Street names offer lots of clues to the past history of the area. Can you find one which tells you what people did nearby – Butcher's Lane, Baker Street, Candlemaker Alley...?

10. 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?

11. A religious building that's not the official national church denomination

- Often the oldest religious buildings in Britain belong to the state denominations – Church of England, Church of Scotland, and Church in Wales. Can you find a building used by a different Christian denomination or religion?

12. Dormer window

- Dormer windows are roof windows which project out from the main angle of the roof, with small roofs over the extra space created. They're often used as part of attic conversions to add head height inside the loft.

13. Industrial structure

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

14. Public loos

- Like public fountains, the Victorians provided many of the public loos in the UK, in response to increasingly crowded and filthy urban areas – though originally they were only open to men! Are there any near you, and are they still open?

15. Road works

- Our environments are constantly being repaired, updated and changed. Find roadworks near you –

what's being done?

16. 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.

17. Signal box

- Near current or former railways, signal boxes are raised structures which housed the controls for a section of railway. Some have been converted since the modern centralisation of these controls.

18. Gargoyle

- Most often seen in gothic architecture, gargoyles are a way to decorate a downspout (where the water runs off a building), usually in the shape of a grotesque animal or face. If it doesn't have a water spout, it doesn't count!

19. A street / place name named after an animal

- Animals and humans historically lived much closer together. Can you find a street or place which is named after the housing or trading of animals?

20. 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?

21. A dragon

- Dragons live all over our buildings, often perched on the roof or decorating a crest!

22. Railway station

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

23. Museum / heritage attraction

- Find out more about history and archaeology at a museum or historic site.

24. Star item: Public memorial for a woman

- 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!