Glossary

1. Bridge

A bridge is a structure that is built over a body of water like a river, or a busy road or railway. It allows people, cars, and trains to cross safely. Lots of bridges have their date of construction on - can you find one?

2. Gravestone or memorial for someone born elsewhere

Graves and memorials often tell a little about people's life journeys in the past. Can you find someone who was born a long way away?

3. Stables

Before cars and buses, people travelled by horse. A stable is a building that allowed these horses to rest safely after a long journey. Clue – have a look round the back of main streets or look for long low buildings with rows of doors on a farm.

4. Traffic light

Traffic lights help direct cars, buses, cyclists, and people. The first traffic light was set up in 1868 outside the Houses of Parliament to control the busy London traffic but exploded after a year of use!

5. Railway

The railways introduced a fast network for trade and passenger travel in the 19th century. Where railways were built, there was often Victorian urban expansion. If there are railways near you, is there terraced housing?

6. Market

Markets are bustling spaces where people come to sell food and products from all over the world. They are often found in the centre of villages, towns, and cities, and local bus timetables and shop opening times still sometimes reflect the local market times.

7. Signpost

Signposts often point travellers in the right direction and sometimes tell them how far they have to go. In the Second World War, lots of old British signposts were taken down in case they helped lost Germans to invade!

8. Weathervane

When people travelled by boat, or even on horseback or by foot, it was important to know the direction of the wind and what weather might be blowing in. Can you spot a weathervane on a roof – and what's on top, pointing out the wind's direction?

9. Food from a different country

When people travel, they bring with them their favourite recipes. In the past imported ingredients, like spices or exotic fruit, were rare and expensive, but today they are more common. Can you find a restaurant or shop with food from a different country?

10. A boat

Boats have been used for travel for over a million years! They can be found in ports, on canals, at the beach, and even drawn on signs and posters.

11. Post Office

Post offices are places you can send post to countries all over the world. A postal system to make sure everyone in Britain could send and receive mail was first set up by Cromwell in 1657!

12. Garage / Petrol station

Older garages had a dual function of repairing vehicles and selling fuel, but often now they only do one or the other. Newer petrol stations are often outside urban centres, part of the network of car-centred infrastructure that only sprang up in the past century.

13. Coaching inn

Coaching inns provided a resting place for travellers and their tired horses, providing food and accommodation when slow transport meant a journey often took multiple days. Coaching inns had stabling round the back, and many are still pubs. Clue - look for an open or filled in archway.

14. Coffee or tea shop

Coffee and tea have been drunk in the UK for hundreds of years, after they were first imported in the seventeenth century as trendy new luxury products. Without global trade, the British would not be tea drinkers!

15. A road named after the place it takes you to

Many roadways in Britain are centuries old and mark the easiest route between two historic settlements. These are often named after their destination to keep things simple. Why not see if you can spot the road you've found on an old map?

16. A path on an old railway, road or towpath

Old travel infrastructure like railways and canals often turn into scenic footpaths when they fall out of use.

Are there long, flat paths near you which used to be roads or train tracks?



Explore your area: how many can you find?



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