

20 Intriguing Places

Listed in 2017



Historic England



Foreword



The distinctive, diverse character of England and its people is marked in the fabric of the country's historic buildings and places. Across the land we have a wealth of them. They have borne witness to national and global history. Listing allows us to protect them for future generations to enjoy, and records why they are architecturally or historically important enough to receive protection.

Listing isn't about freezing places in time and preventing change. It is a marker of the special interest of thousands of places, and ensures they continue to tell stories of England's extraordinary past. The best way of securing their future is to ensure that they remain used, relevant and loved.

The first powers to protect historic sites were established in 1882 but this year marks 70 years since the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947, which was the birth of the listed building system we know today.

In 2017 there have been 1041 additions to the National Heritage List for England. Some have really caught the attention of the public and the media, such as the listing of the Humber Bridge at Grade I, which, along with the homes of Philip Larkin and J Arthur Rank, helped us celebrate the heritage of Hull during their City of Culture year.

Six structures at Jodrell Bank, the radio astronomy site that revolutionised understanding of the Universe, were listed in August on the 60th anniversary of when the Lovell Telescope was first used to collect radio signals from the Universe.

Historic England is very keen to ensure that previously hidden histories are recognised by inclusion on the List, and this July we re-listed the homes of 20th century artists and writers including Vita Sackville-West and Hannah Gluckstein to mark the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality as part of our on-going Pride of Place campaign.

The programme to list 2500 First World War memorials over the centenary period continues and includes this year 13 new and upgraded war memorial listings for the Battle of Passchendaele.

Alongside strategic approaches to listing, we are also asked to assess hundreds of individual cases each year. We take care when recommending sites for listing and DCMS accepts 99.8% of our recommendations.

We hope you enjoy reading about this collection of 20 intriguing places. Remember, you can get involved in recording our history through Enriching the List. We invite you to share your knowledge and pictures of listed places you care about, at [HistoricEngland.org.uk](https://www.historicengland.org.uk) so we can record and share your insights.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duncan Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Duncan Wilson

**Chief Executive
Historic England**

Cover image: The Dorset Martyrs memorial, Dorchester, Dorset

Left: Lovell Telescope, Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics, Goostrey, Cheshire



The Eliza Adams Lifeboat Memorial, Wells-Next-The-Sea, Norfolk

On 29 October 1880, after successfully rescuing the crew of the Brig Sharon's Rose, the Eliza Adams RNLI lifeboat turned out immediately afterwards to help the Brig Ocean Queen. The vessel had run aground and the RNLI crew could not therefore assist. They turned back, only to be capsized by a large wave. Twelve of the crew were washed from the boat and eleven lost their lives leaving behind them ten widows and 28 children. More than 2000 people attended the unveiling of the monument in 1906. The memorial has an evocative design with its chain, anchor and lifebuoy and commemorates the lives lost from the RNLI crew.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1446566](#)



Crisp Street Market Clock Tower and The Festival Inn, Poplar, London

This snazzy landmark and icon of 'Festival style' was designed by Frederick Gibberd as part of Crisp Street Market, England's first pedestrianised shopping precinct. The market was the commercial heart of the new Lansbury estate and at the centre of the Live Architecture Exhibition held as part of the Festival of Britain in 1951. At a time of austerity and strict building restrictions, the clock tower was a purposeful symbol of civic pride and urban renewal for this pocket of war-damaged East London. Also built as part of the precinct was The Festival Inn, England's first modern, permanent, post-war pub. The exterior was by Gibberd, with the interior designed by the brewery's designer, R W Stoddard who wished to make it cheery. The little-altered scheme blends traditional finishes such as timber panelling, with big windows and open plan areas. It also features a panelled darts alcove and a mirror over the mantelpiece which bears the Festival of Britain insignia.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1450866](#) and [1444269](#)



Skegness Esplanade and Tower Gardens, Lincolnshire

The gardens where Billy Butlin opened his first Butlin's holiday camp in 1936 have been protected this year. Skegness Tower Gardens (formerly Pleasure Gardens) was part of the new town plans of 1868. Esplanade Gardens dates from 1922. The original design and layout survive for both.

The opening of the holiday camp followed Butlin's success in developing amusement parks. Having arrived in Skegness at the height of the foreshore development with his hoopla stall, he went on to build and operate the new amusement park. He also bought the UK franchise for Dodgem Cars, bumper cars manufactured in the US, and introduced them to Britain in the 1920s at the Skegness resort.

**Registered Grade II
List Entry [1443891](#)**



Leaf Hall, Working Men's Institute, Eastbourne, East Sussex

Leaf Hall was built in 1863-1864 as a working men's institute. It was funded by William Laidler Leaf, a London Merchant, philanthropist and supporter of the Temperance Movement, who was appalled by the lack of social provision in Eastbourne's fishermen's quarter. The foundation stone stated the building's purpose was 'to promote the social, moral and spiritual welfare of the working classes of Eastbourne'. It included a coffee room, lending library and reading room, smoking room, a lecture room to accommodate 200 with an orchestral gallery, and a skittle yard. At the time it was built there was no local theatre so the large hall was also used for visiting drama companies and lectures. It is an impressive building in Continental Gothic style with a landmark circular corner tower.

Image © Anthony Woolfenden/Victorian Society.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1447081](#)



Acoustic Mirrors, Fan Bay, Dover, Kent

The use of aircraft as offensive weapons in the 20th century was a significant development in the history of warfare, and provoked new systems of strategic air defence. Acoustic detection is where the receiving mirror reflected the sound of distant aircraft engines onto a focal point where it was detected by a listener, or later, by microphones. The examples at Fan Bay are particularly unusual for surviving as a pair, and for being carved from the cliff face, as opposed to freestanding. The eastern mirror is one of the earliest surviving examples, dating from about 1916; the western mirror dates from about 1920-1923. The development of Radar by 1936 rendered the mirrors obsolete. These examples offer a valuable insight into the development of early warning systems. They were covered over in the 1970s, as part of an effort to remove any evidence of obsolete military installation and excavated in 2014 after the land was purchased by the National Trust.

Scheduled

List Entry [1442235](#)



Sir Thomas White Building, St John's College, Oxford

The growth in numbers of university students in the 1960s meant that additional accommodation was needed. Philip Dowson at Arup Associates won a competition for the design of a hall of residence for St John's College, Oxford in 1967. The college needed 154 flats, enabling all of the students to be housed for three years. The building has remarkably narrow circulation spaces – though Dowson defended the design, stating that students would no doubt choose that over smaller bedrooms. He had an awareness of the potential loneliness and isolation of new students, and incorporated design features such as projecting bedroom windows to allow glimpses between rooms and sliding lattice screens allowed them further privacy. The modular concrete frame is cleverly engineered and has full-height, metal-framed windows.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1439624](#)



Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Therese, Painswick, Gloucestershire

Built in warm Cotswold limestone and surrounded by buildings dating from the 15th to the 19th century, it's surprising that this church only took on its present form in 1956, when a fine classical entrance bay and neat cupola were added. The building has been in use as a church since 1931 yet has a much longer history. It originated as a row of four Tudor cottages, was later used as a slaughterhouse and was converted for worship in 1931-1934 by Miss Alice Howard. She wanted to demonstrate that a Catholic church could be very simple, sincere, and in keeping with the Cotswold traditions of stone, wood, wrought iron and good craftsmanship, in accordance with the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement. In 1941, a stray stick of bombs fell from the sky, one of which landed directly on the church, resulting in the loss of one end of the building. The church was remodelled in 1954-1956 in a classical style.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1438752](#)



Alchester Roman Parade Ground, Merton, Cherwell, Oxfordshire

The site of the Roman town of Alchester, which lies buried to the south-west of Bicester, was scheduled in 1984. However, a further archaeological survey identified crop marks outside the previously-identified area as that of a parade ground with an access camp. Few Roman military parade grounds have been found, but they were essential elements for training infantry and cavalry, located at some distance to the fort to allow for warming up before exercises. The parade ground and access road are defined by V-shaped ditches; a gravel surface across the parade ground provided a stable surface. This is a very rare type of site in Britain and may be one of the earliest examples in the Roman Empire. Alchester was founded in the mid-1st century AD partially on the site of an earlier Roman fortress associated with Augustan Legion, commanded by Vespasian during the Claudian invasion of Britain in summer 43AD. Vespasian became Roman Emperor in 69AD.

Scheduled

List Entry [1443650](#)



Gravestone of Blackie the war horse, Knowsley, Merseyside

During the First World War over eight million horses were killed by enemy action, disease or starvation.

Blackie served in most of the major battles, including Ypres (where he suffered severe shrapnel wounds), Arras, Somme and Cambrai. Blackie was one of only a small number of horses to be brought back to England after the war, and was bought by the mother of his master, the wartime poet Leonard Comer Wall. Blackie returned home to Liverpool where he served at the Territorial Riding School and led the city's May Day Horse Parades before retiring at the former Horses' Rest in Halewood where he is buried with his master's medals.

His gravestone is a poignant and rare memorial to the remarkable story of a war horse that served its country and survived against all the odds.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1436263](#)



Bridge House, Condover, Shropshire

The architect Mervyn Seal designed and built Bridge House for his young family in 1958-1959 when he was an architect working for Shropshire County Council. A plot of land became available in the village which overlooked the landscape of Condover Hall and sloped down to the brook. Although clearly an attractive location, the site had problems due to its steep slope and there was a limited budget. Seal devised a linear plan that placed the service rooms, entrance and garage at the lower, semi-basement level and the living rooms and bedrooms above, where they could look out over the parkland through large windows. Various techniques helped to extend the flow of space in this small house both internally and outwards, including a car port that cut through the building, interconnecting living rooms and a wall of frosted-glass. The exterior use of burnt bricks and green slate facings, connects the house to its natural location.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1437448](#)

Japanese Garden at Grantley Hall, Ripon, North Yorkshire

Interest in Japanese-influenced gardens developed from the late Victorian period, but became highly fashionable following a major exhibition in the summer of 1910 at White City, London. This showcased life in Japan and included two large gardens, attracting more than eight million visitors during its six month run. Around this time, a flat area of flood plain adjacent to Grantley Hall was converted into an intricate area of rocky canyons, woodland dells, and water features. This forms an enclosed, intimate garden that is naturalistic in appearance and inspired by Brimham Rocks, a local natural beauty spot which was then owned by the estate. The garden follows authentic Japanese design principles. It has informal paths designed for contemplative walks and its clever layout, with its many varied routes, view-points and features of interest, feels deceptively large.

Registered Grade II

List Entry [1442593](#)





Gasholder No 13, Old Kent Road, London

Among the most prominent landmarks for Victorian gasworks were gasholders. These stored the gas made on site, rising or falling as they filled or emptied. This one, built in 1879-1881, was the world's largest gasholder when built. It was an important milestone in civil engineering, one of the highest achievements of Sir George Livesey, the outstanding gas industry engineer who spent his life at these gasworks, carrying out innovations that ensured gas became commonplace across the country. It was a pioneering structure, built to a radical new concept that meant the gasholder had to be built up tier-by-tier. The wrought-iron standards were exceptionally thin, the bell used mild-steel for the first time and the tank was one of the deepest ever built. It was at the forefront of technology and proved a highly influential prototype, widely copied across the world.

Listed Grade II
List Entry [1446329](#)



Milestones, B4073 between Painswick and Gloucester

The twisting, up-and-down route running for six miles between Painswick and Gloucester (now the B4073) was turnpiked in 1726: a properly metttled toll road was laid out and tolls were collected for the maintenance of the road. Of the handsome milestones which were erected along the route, those at three, five and six miles from Gloucester still survive in situ. Milestones, though a familiar part of the street scene, are inherently fragile and subject to loss, theft and damage, particularly from traffic and ever-larger vehicles, which now use these pre-motorisation routes. The milestones are unusually tall, and stand proudly with white-painted cast-iron plates whose inscriptions, in a fine font using the characteristic long 's' of the 18th century, are picked out in black paint.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1447092](#), [1447094](#), [1447095](#)



Whipsnade Tree Cathedral, Dunstable, Bedfordshire

The site is a 1930s First World War memorial landscape with trees planted in a conceptual design in the form of a medieval cathedral. The planting was carefully thought out, with poplars in the nave for their pillar effect, laurels used to represent walls, and a silver birch to depict the High Altar. The owner built the memorial to commemorate three of his friends who died in the war and later donated it to the National Trust. It is a very rare design; the only other tree cathedral in England is a 1986 example at Newlands, Milton Keynes based on Norwich cathedral; but this is not in commemoration of the First World War.

Registered Grade II

List Entry [1439326](#)



The Dorset Martyrs memorial, Dorchester, Dorset

This memorial sculpture marks the site of the former gallows in Dorchester. Roman Catholic martyrs were hanged here in the 16th and 17th centuries as a result of their beliefs. Dame Elisabeth Frink was commissioned as part of the Arts Council 'Art for Public Spaces' scheme. Dorset Natural History and Archaeology and the Catholic Community in Dorset approached Frink, who was herself a Catholic and lived in Dorset. The memorial she designed and built was unveiled in 1986. It features three, larger than life bronze statues in a triangular arrangement, looking inward. They stand on a circle of stone setts with a bronze plaque at its centre which is inscribed 'FOR CHRIST AND CONSCIENCE SAKE'. The subject matter of the memorial was well suited to Frink's talents. Her depiction of monumental figures which nonetheless have an element of fragility, and the form with its empty centre, lend the monument a sensitive dignity and poignancy.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1439805](#)



Former Admiralty Boat House, Newlyn, Cornwall

Coastguards were established in the 1820s to combat smuggling and to provide a watch around the coast, later developing a role in life-saving. When the Admiralty constructed this boathouse at Newlyn in 1901, The Cornish Telegraph reported: "It is said to be one of the most convenient, well-built and imposing of the boat houses in the division." It is constructed in an artful way using Cornish granite and designed with some handsome architectural flourishes. It features a first-floor watch room and has remained a key local building on the harbourside, having served as a post office for most of the 20th century. Originally it housed a rocket wagon that would be pulled out onto the beach to fire a line to a distressed or sinking ship, enabling the crew and passengers to be brought safely to the shore. It recently became home to the Newlyn Archive, which records and celebrates the town's history.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1447147](#)



Jewish Burial Ground, Plymouth, Devon

By 1745 there were sufficient people in the Jewish community to allow regular religious services to be held in Plymouth. Deaths amongst the community however might mean transport to London for burial, a lengthy and expensive journey. In about 1740 Sarah Sherrenbeck, as a demonstration of 'charity of loving kindness', allowed a burial in her garden, as there is no requirement for Jews to be buried in consecrated ground. The ground was expanded in 1752 and again in 1811. An ohel, or prayer hall also appears to have been built. In all, some 256 tombstones were raised between 1740 and the 1870s. Many of the inscriptions on the earliest are now illegible due to weathering, but fortunately two rabbis recorded them in the early and mid-20th century. The walled ground is terraced and tombstones face east and are mostly in Hebrew script. This is the third oldest surviving Jewish cemetery in the country and the earliest to survive outside London.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1448469](#)

PEMBROKE

STUDIOS



Pembroke Studios (Nos 1-13), Kensington and Chelsea, London

Pembroke Studios are a compact, beautifully-tailored and unique group of artists' studios dating back to 1890-1891. The gabled decorative red-brick building nestles in the heart of Kensington in a calm grassy enclave. The double-height studios are north-lit, with large windows to capture the light. Many artists have worked from here, most notably David Hockney who has featured the studios in a number of his paintings. Artists flocked to Kensington and Chelsea in the late 19th century and there was a sharp rise in the number of artists' studios. The design of purpose-built studios incorporated separate entrances and gatehouses for models (at the time a profession of ill repute) and facilities for the storage of large canvasses. The occupants also included Leonard Rosoman and Isadora Duncan, whose brief and turbulent occupation at the end of the century may have inspired the wall painting of studio 2.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1442898](#)



Neolithic trackway and platform, Lindholme, Hatfield, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Preserved in peat for over 4,500 years, the 45m Lindholme trackway is a rare and remarkable trace from our past. It's the earliest example of 'corduroy construction' – so called because the closely spaced roundwood timbers resemble corduroy fabric. It was carefully designed and crafted, hinting that it may have had a ritual rather than utilitarian use. The trackway runs northwards into an area of what would have been shallow water, the track gradually narrowing from 3m wide to just 1m wide, the diameters of the timbers also shrinking. This would have made the trackway appear longer and the platform more distant: a sophisticated example of forced perspective. This has parallels with features of Neolithic henge monuments, suggesting that the site was used for ritual or special community events.

Image © Dr Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham.

Scheduled

List Entry [1443481](#)



Former Ice Works, Newlyn, Cornwall

Bringing fish to markets, chip shops and dinner tables was all down to technological advances in the late 19th century which led to the creation of ice works at key fishing hubs. The Ice Works at Newlyn opened in 1907 and served the prodigious fishing fleet of the town until it closed almost a century later. Except for the Grimsby Ice Factory (listed at Grade II*); this is thought to be the only ice works from this era to survive with its plant and machinery intact. A towering presence opposite the fish market at Newlyn, the robust building is constructed within former quay walls. The streets behind are narrow and winding lanes of granite cottages, warehouses and fish cellars, resoundingly characteristic of a historic Cornish fishing settlement.

Listed Grade II

List Entry [1447140](#)

The List 2017



Scheduling

New designations	14
Major amendments	16
Minor text amendments	14
Total	44



Listing

New designations	1012
Major amendments	174
Minor text amendments	3233
Total	4419



War memorials* (subset of listing)

New designations	719
Major amendments	43
Minor text amendments	47
Total	809



Parks and gardens

New designations	13
Major amendments	4
Minor text amendments	17
Total	34



Battlefields

New designations	0
Major amendments	3
Minor text amendments	0
Total	3



Protected wrecks

New designations	2
Major amendments	3
Minor text amendments	9
Total	14

Totals

New designations	1041
Major amendments	200
Minor text amendments	3273
Total Entries	399,708



Historic England

We are the public body that looks after England's historic environment. We champion historic places, helping people understand, value and care for them.

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Image: Bedroom, Sir Thomas White Building, St John's College, Oxford