

Instructions to Create Your A6 Booklet:

- 1. **Print your A4 pages:** Print all pages on A4 paper, one-sided only.
- 2. **Fold horizontally:** Take each printed page and fold it horizontally across the middle, ensuring that only the printed sides are showing.
- 3. **Fold vertically:** Next, fold each page vertically to reduce it to an A6 size.
- 4. **Assemble the booklet:** Once all 6 pages are folded, slot each folded page inside the next to create the booklet.
- 5. **Order the pages:** Use the page numbers to help you slot each folded page together in the correct order.
- 6. **Finished! CONGRATULATIONS** – Your pocket-sized Street Spotters Guide is now ready to use!



The Street Spotter's Guide

What clues can you spot to become a heritage detective?



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Page 5, K2: © Mr Paul Howard. Page 7, Pillar: © Mrs Chris Dawson.  
Type A: © Mr John Turner. Source: Historic England Archive. Page 11, Brick: © Mrs Hilary Crisp. Source: Historic England Archive. Page 15, Carlton Club, 100 Pall Mall. Source: Historic England Archive.



Name of Trainee Heritage Detective

Want to know more?

If you would like to know more, or have any comments or questions, please email [Heritage.Schools@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:Heritage.Schools@historicengland.org.uk)  
If you'd like to find more history and local heritage teaching resources please visit: <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/>

# Fountains and water pumps

You can still find public drinking fountains and water pumps in many urban and rural places, especially in public parks. But did you know that many were originally intended as an important health intervention in the Victorian era? Introducing safe drinking water into communities helped stop the spread of the deadly illness cholera. The first drinking fountains were installed in Liverpool by Charles Pierre Melly, who had seen examples during a visit to Geneva, in Switzerland, in 1852.



Special troughs also provided drinking water for cattle and other animals on their way into market towns.



What did you see?

When did you see it?

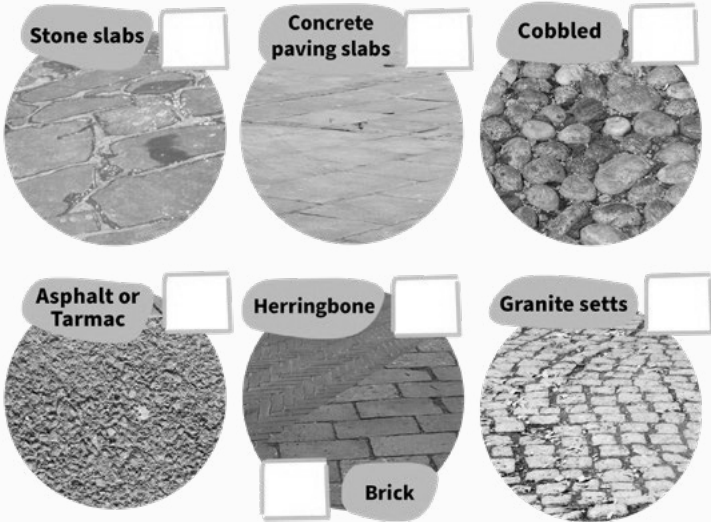
Where was it?

# Street surfaces

Have you ever thought about the heritage under your feet? It can tell you when a road was first built, and what it was built for!

Some examples might be stone, brick, tarmac, or even cobbles. You often get many different types on the same stretch of pavement, showing how it has been replaced or repaired over the years.

The next time you walk down the street, see how many kinds of pavement you can spot!



Have you ever seen a cannon bollard?

Protecting buildings and pedestrians also required railings. Many, however, were removed during the Second World War to be smelted down and turned into guns and ammunition.

Bollards have been used to protect people and buildings since the 1700s, from horses and carts in the early days to cars and lorries today. The first bollards were made of wood, before iron ones replaced them. In fact, old cannons were repurposed in many port cities and harbours — although most bollards were made specifically for the job!

# Bollards and railings

Where was it?

When did you see it?

What did you see?



Crossing roads is something we all do almost every day. The first official crossings were installed in 1935, and the lights that accompanied them almost immediately became known as 'Belisha Beacons', after the Transport Minister who introduced them. The painted white stripes, which led to the crossings becoming known as 'zebra crossings', were first used in 1949.

# Crossings and beacons

# What have you found?

Once you have found an example of everthing in this list, you'll be a true heritage detective!

Architecture through the ages

Telephone boxes

Royal cyphers

Post boxes

Road signs

Shop signs

Ghost signs

Street surfaces

Crossings and beacons

Bollards and railings

Fountains and water pumps

Street lamps and lamp posts

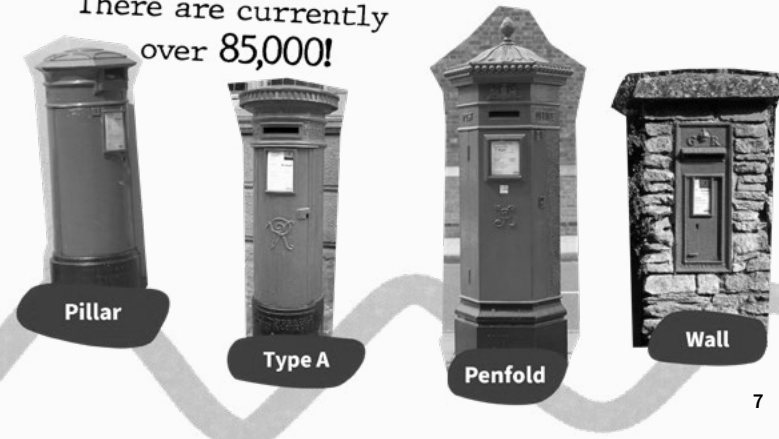
Weather vanes

Statues and sculptures

# Post boxes

The first Royal Mail post boxes were installed in England in 1853. Early post (or letter) boxes were red and hexagonal in shape – this made them easy to spot, but they were also heavy and expensive to produce. In 1859, a cylindrical design that was cheaper and easier to make was introduced around the country. You might also have seen post boxes fixed into walls – these started to be used in 1857. By the end of the 19th century there were over 33,500 post boxes in the United Kingdom.

There are currently over 85,000!



What did you see?

When did you see it?

Where was it?



What or who would you like to see a statue of in your neighbourhood?

What or who would you like to see a statue of in your neighbourhood?



When did you see it?

What did you see?

Where was it?

What or who would you like to see a statue of in your neighbourhood?

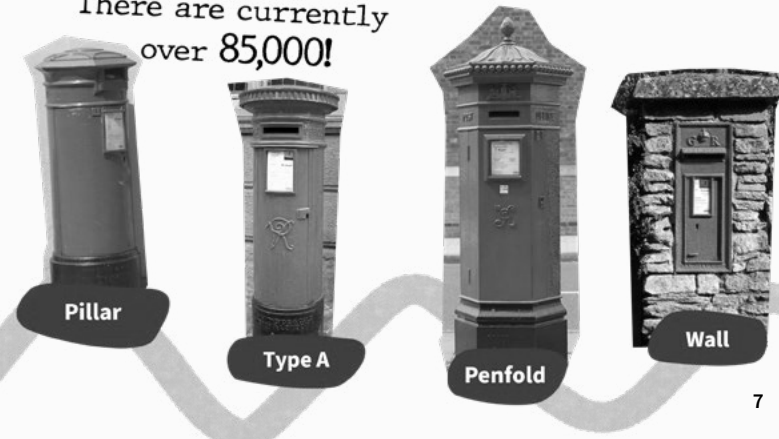
For hundreds of years, we have celebrated important people and events with statues and sculptures in public places. Sometimes a sculpture can tell you something about the past, sometimes it is just there for us to enjoy as a piece of art. Through our culture, places, stories, and rituals we pass down what matters to us.

# Statues and sculptures

# Road signs

The first Royal Mail post boxes were installed in England in 1853. Early post (or letter) boxes were red and hexagonal in shape – this made them easy to spot, but they were also heavy and expensive to produce. In 1859, a cylindrical design that was cheaper and easier to make was introduced around the country. You might also have seen post boxes fixed into walls – these started to be used in 1857. By the end of the 19th century there were over 33,500 post boxes in the United Kingdom.

There are currently over 85,000!



What did you see?

When did you see it?

Where was it?

Some signposts are known as 'finger posts', because they point in different directions! Early signs had many different designs until a new law called the 1930 Road Traffic Act standardised their colour and appearance across the country.



marked on stones!

Before that, many distances were only marked on stones!

Road signs might seem completely normal now, but the idea is only a few hundred years old.

# Road signs

## Architecture through the ages

While the style and design of buildings is always changing, they can give clues to when they were built or what changes have been made to them over time.

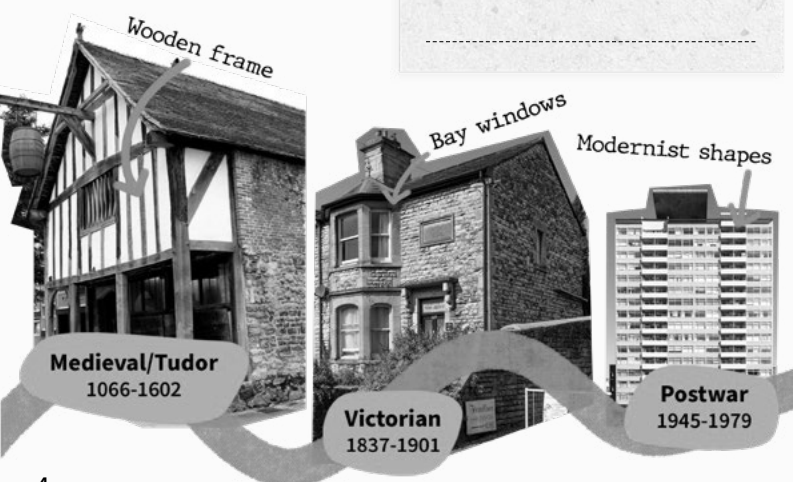
What is the **oldest**  
building in your local area?

What did you see?

Remember, a building may have been changed many times and have 'bits' from several different time periods!

When did you see it?

Where was it?



## Notes

[illegible]

## The Street Spotter's Guide

There are hidden mysteries to solve all around us – you just have to know what you're looking for. Take a walk around your local area to see what heritage you can find!

4	Architecture through the ages
5	Telephone boxes
6	Royal cyphers
7	Post boxes
8	Road signs
9	Shop signs
10	Ghost signs
11	Street surfaces
12	Crossings and beacons
13	Bollards and railings
14	Fountains and water pumps
15	Street lamps and lamp posts
16	Weather vanes
17	Statues and sculptures
18	What have you found?

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Notes

# Ghost signs

In the past, adverts and signs were painted by hand above shops or onto the side of buildings. Many have now been painted over or covered with modern signs. If you can spot one it may be the only evidence of what a shop used to sell, or what a building was once used for. These signs will often have faded over the years and are from the past, so are called ghost signs!

What did you see?

When did you see it?

Where was it?



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# Street lamps and lamp posts

The first public street to be illuminated by gaslight was Pall Mall, in London, in 1807. The lights became increasingly popular and many different designs, normally made from iron, quickly followed.



The first electric lights were introduced in 1879, when 40 lights were put up between Westminster and Waterloo.

Outside London, Chesterfield in Derbyshire and Taunton in Somerset were lit by electricity from the 1880s.

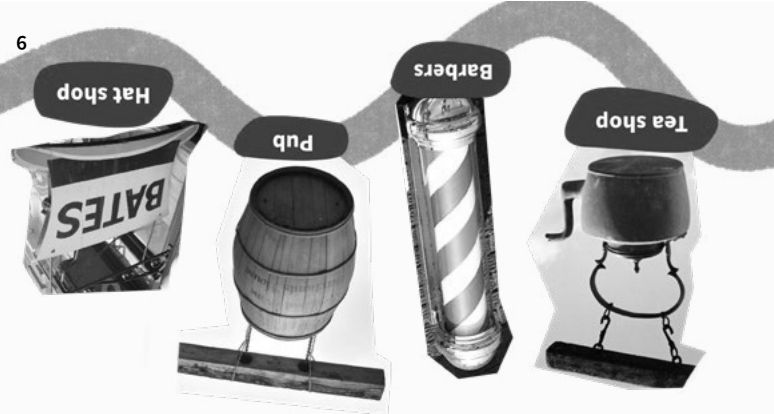
What did you see?

When did you see it?

Where was it?



15



6

What did you see?

When did you see it?

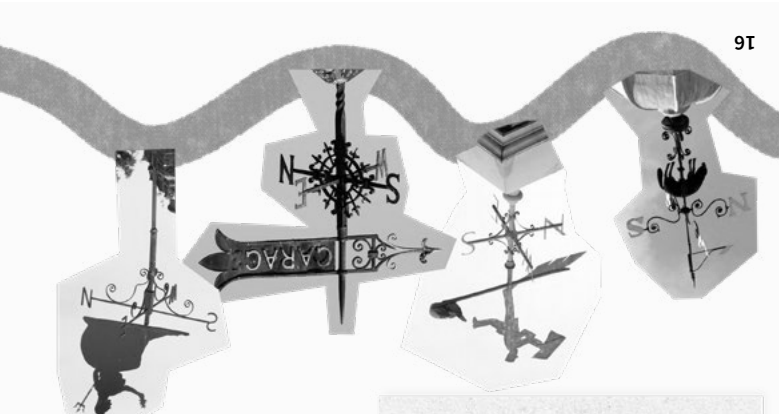
Where was it?

Which shop signs have you seen?

These are less common now, but you might still spot a barber's pole, used by many hairdressers, if you go for a haircut.

In the past many shopkeepers displayed the sign of the service they were offering above their shop. Not only could this be seen from a long way away, but it was also really useful when not everyone could read.

# Shop signs



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What unusual weather vane have you seen?

What did you see?

When did you see it?

Where was it?

Weather vanes were originally used on tall buildings to show people on the ground which way the wind was blowing. Over time, designs changed and became more detailed — they often reflected local landmarks or legends.

# Weather vanes



Royal cyphers

Many of the most familiar objects we find on the street were first introduced by national organisations, such as Royal Mail, or British Telecom. As a result, the ‘Royal cypher’ was included in many designs.

The Royal cypher (a cypher is a type of symbol) is formed from the King or Queen’s first name initial and the letter R, which stands for either Regina (queen) or Rex (king) in Latin. Post boxes are a good place to spot these cyphers.

Most recent cyphers also include a Roman numeral, which is used when the King or Queen wasn’t the first one with that name. Have you spotted King Charles III’s new cypher yet?

Spot a cypher and tick it off the list

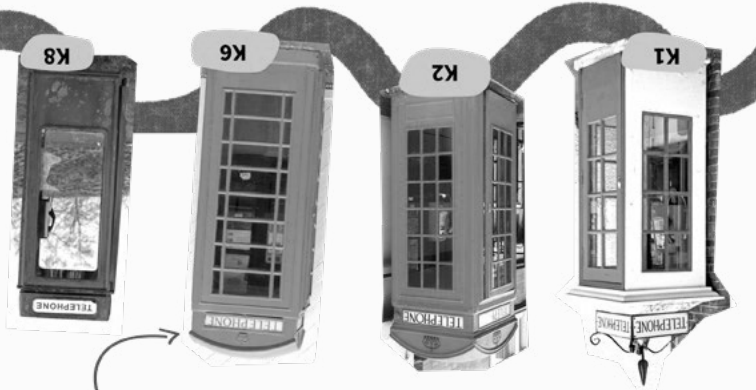
1837-1901	1837-1901
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1901-1910	1910-1936
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1936	1936-1952
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1952-2022	Present
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Certificate of Achievement

Heritage Detective



Date



A masterpiece of modern industrial design

Although many telephone boxes now have other uses (including libraries, first aid stations, and even a little theatre!) they are still an important part of many streets. One of the earliest examples, known as the K1, was designed in 1921 and was made from concrete with a red wooden door. There have been many developments in the design since then, although the red K2 and K6 are the most well-known.

What did you see?  
When did you see it?  
Where was it?

Telephone boxes

My special local heritage

Use this page to draw anything historic that you see that isn't in this book. Is it something special to your local area? Draw a sketch and take some notes to investigate later.