

## **SCOTLAND**

### **PORTENCROSS CASTLE**

**Portencross  
Ayrshire**

**Listing: Category A, Scheduled  
Monument  
Date built: c14th century**

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In the 14th century the Clyde estuary was the  
M6 into the heart of Scotland. To protect this  
crucial waterway, two castles were



Wool Mill is of international importance, as it is one of a handful of integrated local mills of this type left in the whole of Europe.

It is still working today, thanks to Hugh Jones, who has spent the last 30 years learning the skills and keeping the complex machinery running. But the building that houses all these machines is falling down around his ears – the mill’s roof is collapsing and the main beams are giving way.

## HALL OF CLESTRAIN

**Orphir  
Orkney**

**Listing: Category A  
Date built: 1769/70**

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In a remote and beautiful part of Orkney is a splendid ‘A’ Listed Georgian mansion overlooking the Hills of Hoy and Scapa Flow.

Rich landowner Patrick Honeyman wanted a house that would reflect his wealth and status and he looked to the Georgian elegance of Edinburgh for the inspiration when building the Hall of Clestrain in 1769.

The Hall was once home to Arctic explorer John Rae, who found the last link of the legendary Northwest passage and discovered the fate of the Franklin expedition.

In the 19th century, three-quarters of the Hudson Bay Company’s workforce were Orcadian and John Rae learnt his survival skills as a boy in the hills and waters around his home in Orphir.



Today the building is a tragic shell; but there are tantalising glimpses of its former splendour – a section of banister, a Georgian doorframe and the grand stone staircase.

Hopefully, it may soon have a new lease of life as Orkney’s first Boat Museum. The whole visitor complex will cost around £3m, which will restore the mansion to its former Georgian splendour. It will house the museum’s exhibits and will also have a room dedicated to the exploits of adventurous local boy John Rae.



## The buildings

### NORTHERN IRELAND

#### LOCK-KEEPER'S COTTAGE

Newforge  
Belfast

**Listing: Grade B I**

**Date built: Between 1827 and 1934**

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This derelict cottage is the last remaining one in public ownership on the famous Lagan Navigation canal network. The cottage played a vital role in a water transport system that served Northern Ireland.

The Lagan Navigation opened in 1763 and boosted industrial development and, in particular, the economy of Lisburn. The chief cargos from Belfast were imported coal for the industries of the Lagan Valley, which were mainly linen.

This simple, vernacular two-storey house with four rooms is testimony to a way of life that is

now almost forgotten. The last lock-keeper took up his position in 1922 and he and his wife raised their family of 10 within the cottage's modest walls. All cooking was done on an open fire and washing was done outside; water had to be fetched from a nearby farm.

In 1954 the Lagan Navigation Company was dissolved, unable to compete with modern transport. The lock-keeper bought the cottage and stayed there until his death, willing it to one of his daughters, who, in turn, sold it to the council so that it would stay in public hands.

#### ARMAGH GAOL

Armagh

**Listing: Grade A**

**Date built: Between 1780 and 1852**

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Armagh Gaol is Northern Ireland's oldest prison. It was built between 1780 and 1852,

and closed in 1986. The prison buildings span the history of incarceration in Ireland from the mid-18th century to the late 20th century.

In 1765 Archbishop Robinson was appointed



**Powys  
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**WORKINGMAN'S INSTITUTE &**

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Back in the 1830s a grim fate awaited those who fell on hard times.

Llanfyllin Workhouse is an early example of a building that was created as part of a government drive to reduce the tax burden needed to look after society's poor. At that time, society in Wales was changing from rural and agricultural to industrial, the population was increasing and poverty was rife.

A board of guardians was responsible for running the workhouse and a "master" was put in place to look after the "inmates". Each was run with a different degree of severity. Rules were strict, "inmates" were dealt with harshly and there was strict segregation of men, women and children. It was difficult for people to leave the workhouse once they had entered.

Built by well-known local architect Thomas Penson, the Llanfyllin Workhouse is architecturally impressive and one of the few remaining examples of its type. The interior courtyards were built roughly from local stone but an outwardly grand façade was built on to the front. The Workhouse is decaying rapidly and has been a target for vandals.

1920, but this Institute at Newbridge was, unusually, paid for by the miners themselves. The group of miners boldly established their own welfare scheme and, funded by subs levied from their weekly wages, built a hall that provided educational, leisure and cultural amenities for times above ground.

Placing a great deal of importance on education and self-improvement, these halls contained libraries and reading rooms, as well as areas for social interaction such as billiard rooms and social clubs. Interestingly, alcohol was never an option in the early days, with provision only for soft drinks.

In 1924, when the cinema was fast becoming a popular form of entertainment, the Newbridge miners took out a further mortgage and built the Memorial Hall. It contained a beautiful art deco cinema, a theatre and a well-used dancehall with the “finest sprung floor in the Valleys”.

The buildings were then at the heart of the community, with people coming from all over to attend the dances and various events, but they are now a target for vandals and the Memorial Hall, in particular, is becoming structurally unsound.

## **ENGLAND**

### **REGION: NORTH**

#### **LION SALT WORKS**

**Ollershaw Lane  
Marston, Northwich  
Cheshire**

**Listing: Grade II and Scheduled Ancient Monument**

**Date built: 1894**

**Andrew Fielding  
Director**

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The Lion Salt Works is the only remaining open pan salt works in the UK that made salt from natural brine – a technique unchanged since the Romans used this method 2,000 years ago – and one of only three left in the Western world. Its buildings are characterised by attractive timber-framed structures, constructed to counter the effects of salt-mining subsidence in the area.

Located beside the Trent and Mersey Canal, the Works exported salt throughout the British Empire, often leading to claims of exploitation and oppression from the colonies, most famously illustrated by Mahatma Gandhi's salt marches in the 1930s.

The Thompson family ran the business for five generations, from the 19th century to its closure in 1986, leaving this unique relic as a monument to an industry which gave this region its economic lifeblood. It was the



## The buildings

### **GAYLE MILL**

**Gayle**  
**North Yorkshire**

**Listing: Grade II\* and Scheduled Ancient Monument**

**Date built: 1776**

**Graham Bell**  
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Gayle Mill is an 18th-century water-powered cotton mill and is located in the charming village of Gayle in the Yorkshire Dales.

The mill was built at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution by landowner Oswald Routh, who wanted to capitalise on the vast fortunes being made in the cotton industry. Powered by a water wheel from the local river, the mill has a sophisticated system of aqueducts and a millpond that are still in place.

In the early 19th century the mill was converted to a woollen mill, selling thread to village knitters who had a reputation at the time for producing fine-quality socks for soldiers fighting in the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1878 the mill's water wheel was removed and replaced by the revolutionary Thompson Water Turbine. The vanguard of technological innovation in its day, every modern turbine, including nuclear ones, are descendants of the Thompson. Gayle Mill is thought to be the last one remaining in its original location.

In 1890 a Gilkes Turbine was installed to generate electricity for the mill and village, again putting the mill at the forefront of technology – the village was not put on the national grid until 1948.

In latter years it operated as a sawmill, providing cradle-to-grave wooden fittings for the local community and has been left untouched since its closure in 1988.

### **SHEFFIELD MANOR LODGE**

**115 Manor Lane**  
**Sheffield**

**Listing: Grade II\*/Grade II and Scheduled Ancient Monument**

**Date built: 16th century**

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Sheffield Manor Lodge – a 16th-century manor house today located in the middle of an inner-city housing estate – was in its day one of the most important residences in England. It was here that Elizabeth I entrusted her loyal servant, the Earl of Shrewsbury, and his wife, Bess of Hardwick, with the task of





opus, *Don Juan*. Conservation and repair work is needed to restore this magnificent, largely untouched 13th-century monument. It is crucial that the West Front remains a Nottinghamshire and national landmark for the enjoyment of future generations.

## **BAWDSEY TRANSMITTER BLOCK**

**Bawdsey Manor**  
**Bawdsey**  
**Suffolk**

**Listing: Grade II\***

**Date built: Between 1937 and 1939**

**Mary Wain**

**Bawdsey Radar Group**

**I, Whitehouse Cottage**

**Gulpher Road**

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The T-Block is an overgrown and rather mysterious concrete building, found in the windswept grounds of an ostentatious Suffolk coastal mansion. Thirteen Second World War pillboxes encircle the site. At the start of the last war, this was one of the most important buildings in England and pivotal to the nation's victory in the Battle of Britain. It is the world's first radar station.

In 1936, the RAF bought Bawdsey Manor, an isolated Victorian mansion on a particularly desolate part of the Suffolk Coast. In it, they housed a remarkable group of boffins, including the physics genius Professor Robert Watson-Watt. Their task was to develop the nascent radio direction-finding technology into an operational device that could detect approaching enemy aircraft from a great distance. Their invention – radar – could do just that and Bawdsey became the first of a chain of radar stations that surrounded the south-east of England. Its staff located the enemy and directed Britain's Spitfires and Hurricanes to the Luftwaffe formations before they reached the coast.

The work carried out here was so secret that the public found out about it only after the War. Even today, the story of Bawdsey, its radar and the men and women who operated it is little known, despite the fact that it was of equal importance to Bletchley Park.

## **OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL & SARACEN'S HEAD, KINGS NORTON**

**The Green**  
**Kings Norton**  
**Birmingham**

**Listing: Grade II\***

**Date built: c15th century**

**Canon Rob Morris**

**81 The Green**

**Kings Norton**

**Birmingham**

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Kings Norton is a large, multi-cultural district to the south of Birmingham with more than its fair share of tower blocks. But in the heart of the borough is an oasis of village life – “the Green”.



A number of buildings of historic interest surround the Green, in particular the Old Grammar School (above), which is in need of extensive structural work, and the former Saracen's Head public house, built in 1492.

The 15th-century, timber-framed "Old Grammar School" produced one of the Midlands' greatest teachers, a puritanical Mr Chips – the Rev Thomas Hall. He arrived in 1628 at the age of 19 and his time spanned one of the most dramatic periods in British history – the Civil War and, later, the Restoration of the Monarchy.

Hall transformed an early "failing school" into one that was famed throughout the land. His legacy to Birmingham also included one of the largest library collections in England. He was expelled following the Restoration and died a pauper.

The Saracen's Head, next door to the church, is now the Parish Office and meeting room. It is said that, up until the Civil War, Kings Norton was predominantly Royalist and Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, came to the area leading a replacement army. The Queen is said to have slept in the Saracen's. Following the visit, a room in the Saracen's Head became the "Queen's Room".

## REGION: SOUTH EAST

### STRAWBERRY HILL

Twickenham  
Middlesex

**Listing: Grade I**

**Date built: 18th century**

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Strawberry Hill is a world-famous house that changed the course of architectural history and appears on the World Monuments Fund watch list of the 100 most endangered sites.

Located in the leafy London suburb of Twickenham, Strawberry Hill is the Gothic villa designed by Horace Walpole, the youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole, considered to be Britain's first Prime Minister.

Strawberry Hill was originally a modest house but, between 1747 and 1792, Horace Walpole

– a high society and influential trendsetter – transformed it into a breathtaking Gothic fantasy.

It became the tourist attraction of the day with its pinnacles, stained-glass windows, bookcases and fireplaces – all based on designs from ancient tombs and cathedrals that had not been fashionable for hundreds of years. It was a stark contrast to the symmetrical Georgian Palladian mansions of the day.

Walpole's Strawberry Hill led to a Gothic revival in this country, which, in turn, led to great buildings such as the Houses of Parliament.

## **REGION: SOUTH EAST**

### **SEVERNDROOG CASTLE**

**Greenwich  
London**

**Listing: Grade II\*  
Date built: 1784**

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Standing 63ft tall on top of one of the highest points of south-east London and commanding spectacular views across the capital, this triangular and rare Georgian folly was erected as a token of love. Built in 1784, Severndroog Castle is the dedication of a grieving widow to her dead, swashbuckling husband. It is a lasting reminder of the daring, rags-to-riches tale of courageous seafarer Sir William James.

Sir William started life as the humble son of a Welsh miller. Aged 12, he went to sea as a deckhand and, at 18, he was in command of his own ship. In the employ of the East India

Company, he became commodore and commander-in-chief of the company's fleet, protecting their ships from pirates. His most famous battle was at Severndroog, just off the Bombay coast, where he defeated the pirates.

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This great medieval complex of buildings, now partially ruined, was built to serve the second

In 1851, the inhabitants of his home town were in for a surprise. He was one of the first people to use concrete in a domestic setting when he built the now-dilapidated Castle House. A rare surviving example, this visionary dwelling was a showcase for his pioneering pre-cast and reinforced concrete products. Concrete was used in virtually every aspect of construction, including moulded skirting boards, staircases, balustrades, mock beams, window mullions and gargoyles.

## **REGION: SOUTH WEST**

### **SOUTH CARADON MINE**

**Cornwall**

**Listing: Scheduled Ancient Monument**  
**Date built: Mid-19th century**

**Martin Eddy**  
**Rural Regeneration Manager**  
**Economic & Community Services**  
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Cornwall has been shaped by its industrial history, and its last mine closed only six years ago. All that now remains are the monolithic mine buildings, which are a testament to the county's past.

One of the largest and longest-running copper mines in Cornwall was at South Caradon and it has remained virtually untouched since its closure in 1890. It stretched over nearly two square miles, underground tunnels extended for 38 miles and four miles of tramways crossed the hillsides, bringing coal to the six engine houses and taking away thousands of tonnes of extracted ore.

The discovery of rich copper deposits in the South Caradon area in the early decades of the 19th century triggered an extraordinary burst of industrial activity that utterly transformed the appearance and economy of this area, with up to 800 men, women and children working at South Caradon alone.

However, for the miner working underground, there was a high price to pay – they would be very lucky to reach the age of 40.

## **REGION: SOUTH WEST**

### **SHERBORNE HOUSE**

**Sherborne**  
**Dorset**

**Listing: Grade I**  
**Date built: 1720**

**Giles Harvey**  
**Chairman**  
**Sherborne House Trust**  
**Sherborne House**  
**Newland**  
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This impressive early Palladian country house was built to impress the 23-year-old wife of octogenarian landowner Henry Seymour Portman. It also acted as a “half-way house”