

Contents

INTRODUCTION	9
Anne Boleyn's Heart <i>Suffolk</i>	11
Back-to-Backs <i>Birmingham</i>	13
Barings Bank <i>City of London</i>	15
The Battle of Assandun <i>Essex</i>	16
Blue Streak Silo <i>Cumberland</i>	18
Borley Rectory <i>Suffolk</i>	20
Borstals <i>Kent</i>	22
Braunstone Park Tunnels <i>Leicester</i>	23
The Bristol Brabazon <i>East Lothian</i>	25
The Broomway <i>Essex</i>	27
Cable Railway <i>Derbyshire</i>	28
Chariot Racing <i>Essex</i>	30
Cockfighting <i>Glamorgan</i>	31
Condemned Cell <i>London</i>	33
Coquet Stop Line <i>Northumberland</i>	35
Croydon Canal <i>Surrey</i>	37
Dirigibles <i>Bedfordshire</i>	39
Doggerland <i>Norfolk</i>	41
Duck Decoy <i>Buckinghamshire</i>	43
Duns <i>Berwickshire</i>	45
Eaton Hall <i>Cheshire</i>	47
Elizabethan Horology <i>City of London</i>	49
England's Atlantis <i>Suffolk</i>	51
The Flyers' Graveyard <i>Derbyshire</i>	53
Fritchley Tunnel <i>Derbyshire</i>	55
Gainsthorpe <i>Lincolnshire</i>	57

Gasometers	59
German War Cemetery <i>Suffolk</i>	61
GHQ Line	62
God's Gift <i>Cumberland</i>	64
Hydraulic Power Company <i>London</i>	66
The Jacobite Succession <i>Bavaria</i>	68
King John's Treasure <i>Lincolnshire</i>	70
Knockers-Up	72
Lamplighters <i>London</i>	74
The Last Duel <i>Surrey</i>	75
Lindley <i>Leicestershire</i>	78
Lines of Communication <i>London</i>	80
Llanwddyn <i>Montgomeryshire</i>	82
Local Time <i>Hertfordshire</i>	84
Lord High Admiral of the Wash <i>Norfolk</i>	85
Lost <i>Aberdeenshire</i>	87
Lundenwic <i>London</i>	88
Maine Road Stadium <i>Manchester</i>	89
Market Ouvert <i>London</i>	91
The Marsham Street Rotundas <i>London</i>	93
Medieval Town Tram <i>Suffolk</i>	95
Middlesex <i>Middlesex</i>	96
Morwellham Quay <i>Devon</i>	98
The Motor Show <i>Warwickshire</i>	100
The Mound of Down <i>County Down</i>	102
Mumbles Sail Railway <i>Glamorgan</i>	103
The Munitionettes' Cup <i>North Yorkshire</i>	105
Norn <i>Shetland and Orkney</i>	108
Noviomagus <i>Kent</i>	109
Old Money £.s.d.	112
Old Sarum <i>Wiltshire</i>	113

The Opperman Stirling <i>Hertfordshire</i>	115
Orford Ness <i>Suffolk</i>	116
'Paying on the Nail' <i>Bristol</i>	118
Phyllis and Ada <i>London</i>	119
The Pneumatic Railway <i>Middlesex</i>	121
Polari <i>London</i>	123
Presentation at Court <i>London</i>	125
Project M-N <i>West Sussex</i>	127
The Queen's Champion <i>Lincolnshire</i>	128
RAF Skaw <i>Shetland</i>	130
A Railway for the Dead <i>Surrey</i>	131
Rattray <i>Aberdeenshire</i>	133
Ravenser Odd <i>East Riding of Yorkshire</i>	134
A Really Huge Naked Lady <i>Northumberland</i>	136
River Medlock <i>Manchester</i>	137
Roxburgh <i>Roxburghshire</i>	139
The Royal Military Canal <i>Kent</i>	140
Royal Touch <i>London</i>	142
The Saunders-Roe Princess <i>Isle of Wight</i>	144
The Scapa Flow Scuttling <i>Orkney</i>	146
The 7th Earl of Lucan <i>East Sussex</i>	147
The Silver City Air Ferry <i>Kent</i>	150
St Kilda <i>Outer Hebrides</i>	151
St Peter's Seminary <i>Dunbartonshire</i>	152
Stocks and Pillories <i>County Down</i>	153
Stow Maries Aerodrome <i>Essex</i>	155
Temperance Bars <i>Lancashire</i>	157
Tide Mills <i>East Sussex</i>	158
Trolleybuses <i>West Riding of Yorkshire</i>	159
TSR-2 <i>Shropshire</i>	161
Tuberculosis Hospital <i>Warwickshire</i>	163

Tyneham <i>Dorset</i>	164
Victoria <i>County of Perth</i>	166
Village Lock-up <i>Somerset</i>	167
'Waddling to the Waters' <i>Somerset</i>	169
Wade's Roads <i>Scottish Highlands</i>	171
Wentworth Woodhouse <i>West Riding of Yorkshire</i>	173
West Tofts <i>Norfolk</i>	175
Wharram Percy <i>North Riding of Yorkshire</i>	176
The Williamson Tunnels <i>Liverpool</i>	179
Woodstock Palace <i>Oxfordshire</i>	182
Woolworths	185
Wrecking <i>Devon</i>	187
PICTURE CREDITS	190

INTRODUCTION

Britain is a place steeped in history: it has several famous World Heritage Sites, dozens of designated battlefields and protected shipwrecks, thousands of conservation areas, tens of thousands of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and hundreds of thousands of historic, listed buildings – and these make up just a tiny fraction of our history. Yet, for a country that has preserved so much of its past, an awful lot has been lost.

Over the centuries, priceless treasures have disappeared, exceptional buildings have been torn down, potentially world-changing technologies quietly killed off and entire settlements wiped out by wars or a catastrophe of nature. Sometimes the search for them has never been called off – for example in the Fens where King John's crown jewels are thought to have vanished. But, more often, there is no hope of recovery because the loss has been total or because no one has any clear idea of where to look.

Sometimes all we have left are a few tantalizing clues in a fading document, an odd fragment of carved stone poking through the grass or a shadowy outline made visible only by the magic of ground-penetrating radar. But exploring history this way can be thrilling and more rewarding than traipsing along the heritage trail where all the romance has been lost to the coaches, queues and crowds. This book, I hope, provides the perfect place to begin your search.

DAVID LONG,
BRENT ELEIGH, SUFFOLK

Anne Boleyn's Heart



Suffolk

HENRY VIII WAS CONSIDERATE ENOUGH
to pay £23 for a French swordsman to behead
his wife – it's a cleaner cut than when using an
executioner's axe – but showed no such care when
it came to burying her remains.

While in itself not exactly surprising, the horribly casual disposal of the dead queen came to light in the 1870s during work on the chapel of St Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London. Lifting the chancel floor, workmen found thousands of bones, including those of a young woman crammed unceremoniously into an old elm munitions box.

Forensic examination revealed that these were 'all perfectly consolidated and symmetrical and belong to the same person'. It was also apparent that the skull, with its 'large eyes, oval face, and rather square full chin', was in entirely the wrong place for someone who had been buried in one piece. There was no evidence of the rumoured sixth finger, but little doubt that it was the body of Anne Boleyn.

Sensitive to the status of these and other remains, which included another two queens, two saints and numerous noblemen, Queen Victoria determined they should be reburied in a more respectful and orderly fashion. What would not have been apparent at this time, however, was that Anne may well have been missing something other than just her head.

At such a distance and with her death surrounded by



myth, the truth is impossible to verify, but for centuries many have believed that the queen's heart was removed after her execution and then spirited away from the capital.

Some say this was done on the orders of Henry, but it seems unlikely that he would trouble to give this order, only then to show no interest at all in what happened to the rest of her. Others insist it was her uncle who rescued the organ, Sir Philip Parker of Erwarton Hall in Suffolk, returning home with it and arranging for an interment in the local parish church dedicated to St Mary.

It is a colourful story, typical of the kind of romantic drama that is attributed to doomed royals. The difference with this tale is that it might have some substance. The decoration on the font in St Mary's church includes a rather singular Tudor rose, and the local pub is called the Queen's Head. The clincher, however, is the discovery of a small heart-shaped lead casket in 1837. By then it contained nothing more substantial than dust, but this and the suggestion it was reburied beneath the organ has proved to be more than enough to keep the legend alive.

Back-to-Backs



Birmingham

A VICTORIAN INNOVATION, BUILT AT A TIME OF rapid population expansion and increasing urbanization, the back-to-back house provided a cheap way of accommodating the poor, although its shortcomings very quickly became apparent.

In most British towns and cities, specific laws make it illegal to run a washing line across the street, but for decades working-class families in cities such as Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester had no choice. From the 1830s they were crammed into back-to-backs, dingy slum terraces in which pairs of terraced houses shared their back walls, leaving no room for even the meanest yard.

Sharing their side walls with the neighbours as well meant that such dwellings could be built very cheaply and