

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## Glossary of Terms

*This document is a changing and updating piece of reference material, if you come across a word you have had to Google and feel should be included for future volunteers, please email us at [volunteers@derbyshirehistoricbuildingstrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@derbyshirehistoricbuildingstrust.org.uk)*

**Architectural detail:** elements of the building which are emphasised with decoration as part of the overall design, e.g. decorated window and door surrounds, embellished eaves, barge boards to gables, balconies, applied decorations, etc.

**Bargeboards:** projecting decorated boards at the verge of the roof covering the ends of horizontal roof timbers

**Bracket:** small projecting support designed to carry weight, such as that of a projecting member

**Building:** an enclosed structure with a roof and walls, usually standing permanently in one place, such as a house or factory

**Canopy:** projection or hood which may provide shelter and decoration which emphasises part of a building such as a doorway

**Casement window:** windows where the opening part is hung on hinges and opens outwards or inwards

**Condition Survey/Assessment:** a short survey which assesses the current condition of a building

**Doorcase:** wood, stone, or brick framework, lining a doorway, within which the door is hung

**Dormer window:** projecting window in the sloping roof of a house

**Eaves:** bottom of a sloping roof where it extends over the roof below

**Fascia board:** horizontal board typically found at the eaves of building covering the ends of the rafters, to which the gutter is fixed, also used to describe other facing timbers, e.g., that over a shop front on which its name is painted

**Flashing:** lead or other pliable metal, used to waterproof the junction where two structures meet, e.g., between a roof and a chimney or to provide a protective cover for a vulnerable feature, e.g., over eroded stone decoration such as a string-course

**Fly posting:** the act of putting posters on the doors and windows of abandoned buildings without permission

**Fly tipping:** the act of illegally dumping waste, usually done to avoid disposal costs

**Gable:** part of the wall that rises to an apex to support the end of a pitched roof

**Gate pier:** column of masonry (pier) which supports a gate

**Grade I:** buildings are of exceptional interest and represent only 2.5% of all listed buildings.

**Grade II\*:** buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest and represent 5.8% of listed buildings

**Grade II:** buildings are of special interest and make up the remaining 91.7% of the list

**Gutter outlet:** hole in a wall through which a gutter drains rainwater into a downpipe

**Hipped roof:** ridged roof that slopes on all four sides

**Hood moulding:** moulding that projects from a wall above an exterior opening and is shaped to throw rainwater away from the wall

**Hopper head:** funnel-like container at the top of a downpipe into which rainwater is drained from a gutter

**Input:** app upon which you will complete your condition surveys, logged into using the Mergin details

**Keystone:** wedge-shaped block placed at the crown of an arch to consolidate the structure. Sometimes employed as a decorative feature

**Lights:** glazed parts of a window

**Lintel:** horizontal member spanning an opening and providing support to the wall above the opening, e.g., over a door or window

**Mergin:** Mergin is the service which connects Input and QGIS together. Mergin is where you will register your account

**Monument:** a structure other than a building (see above definition) that has become relevant to a social group as a part of their remembrance of historic times or cultural heritage, due to its artistic, historical, political, technical or architectural importance

**Mullion and transom windows:** window divided into lights by mullions and horizontal rails (transoms)

**Mullion window:** window divided into lights by vertical posts (mullion)

**Nail sickness:** a term used primarily with iron nails which are used to fix roofing slates, as the nails age they corrode resulting in slate becoming dislodged, broken, and loose

**Parapet:** extension of an elevation in the form of a low wall which hides or partially obscures the roof

**Plinth:** skirting or projecting base of a wall

**Pointing:** the technique of repairing mortar joints between bricks or other masonry elements. The defective mortar is removed and replaced with fresh mortar

**QGIS:** geographical database that houses the project

**Quoins:** blockwork used on a corner to reinforce it and also as decoration, they are usually alternately large and small

**Rafters:** a beam forming part of the internal framework of a roof

**Rendering:** a coating of plaster applied to a wall

**Ridge:** horizontal level from which the slopes of a roof descend

**Sash box:** timber frame of a vertically sliding sash window which holds the sashes as they are raised and lowered, and which housed the counterbalancing weights

**Sash windows:** window fitted with glazing held in sliding frames (sashes), typically capable of being raised and lowered in vertical grooves, but also includes sideways sliding sashes

**Sill:** horizontal piece of timber or stone forming the bottom of a window, doorway or other opening, usually and properly designed to throw off water

**String course:** horizontal, moulded band, usually projecting, running across a wall, often indicating floor levels within the building

**Valley:** area where two sloping roofs meet

**Verge:** edge of a roof where it meets a gable wall

**Weathering:** detail introduced specially to reduce the impact of weather on a building, e.g. a projecting course of masonry