

Old Signposts

Text: David Gibbs Photographs: Alan Keene

You've probably passed them dozens of times, but exactly in and around the village are they? They are typical Somerset County Council signposts with the distinctive pyramid head. They are made of cast iron, with finger sections of different design, and possibly of a different period of manufacture, mounted on a central pole. The lettering of the place names is raised, requiring a steady hand when it comes to repainting. Such signs have been in position throughout the county since the very early days of motoring and many are now over 100 years old, but exactly how old these local signs are is not known. A sign at the Whitehall crossroads in South Petherton is Grade II listed. Maybe at least one of the Merriott signs should be? With the standard of maintenance they currently receive, they won't last forever.





