



# House Investigation

**OXFORD**  
PRESERVATION  
**TRUST**

## Have you ever thought about the history of your house?

You can find out lots of things by looking carefully at the interior and exterior of your house as well as through research.

### External features:

1. Is there any evidence of how old your house is? If so, what?
2. What materials are used to build your house?
3. Have there been any alterations to your house? If so, what and why?
4. Do you have a garden? What is it like? Does it fully surround the house?
5. Is there any evidence of who built your house? If so, what?
6. Are there any special features externally? (These may form part of a historic listing)

### Internal features:

1. What materials are used internally in your house?
2. Are there any special features? These also might form part of a historic listing, e.g. inglenook fireplace with bread oven.
3. Has there been changes to the internal layout? If so, what?
4. Are there any dates evident on any features, e.g. fireplace/beams
5. Are there any features which help with dating, e.g. parquet flooring/ tiled flooring.

### To answer these questions, you may need to do some research:

1. **Who lived in your house before you?** - the National Archive Census records could help.
2. **Was there anything on the site before your house?** - a selection of old maps may help with this.
3. **Are there any historic records of your house?** - look at the listed building register.

**What is your favourite feature in your house? Why?**

**If you could change your house, what would you do? Why?**