

Bench Marks

Although the term is now used to describe a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared, it originates from the chiseled horizontal marks that surveyors made in stone structures.

An angle-iron could be placed into the slot to form a "bench" for a levelling rod which could be accurately repositioned in the same place in the future. These marks were usually indicated with a chiseled arrow below the horizontal line.

They were originally cut by Ordnance Survey staff between 1831 and 1860 in order to provide a network of points at which the height above sea level was precisely measured. The network of $\frac{1}{2}$ a million benchmarks was maintained until 1993 after which time the Global Positioning System (GPS) took over.

Broad Town has 9 benchmarks located where the bench mark sign on the map.



Church



Photographed by Andrew Law

Goldborough



Photographed by Carolyn Crocker. Carolyn can remember years ago someone used to come round annually to check it.