

Before starting your baseline survey, if you are not already familiar with the words used to describe architectural features you might find a glossary useful. There is a short glossary below, alternatively, you might like to visit the Looking at Buildings website ([www.lookingatbuildings.org.uk](http://www.lookingatbuildings.org.uk)). This is an educational resource created by the Pevsner Architectural Guides. It contains a wealth of information to help you understand historic buildings, styles of architecture and construction.

<b>Abutment</b>	This word can be used in two senses. It is the point at which a roof meets a wallhead and also a massive structure supporting the ends of a bridge.
<b>Ashlar</b>	Masonry that has been shaped into regular squared blocks and given a smooth face. It is laid in level courses and tends to have very fine mortar joints.
<b>Bargeboard</b>	Bargeboards are fixed to the gable ends of roofs to conceal and protect the ends of the roof timbers or thatch. They often project over the wall face and are frequently decorative.
<b>Buttress</b>	A masonry support that gives additional strength to a wall and resists outwards thrust.
<b>Came</b>	A strip of lead with an H-shaped profile used to join pieces of glass together in a leaded window.
<b>Cill (or sill)</b>	The horizontal bottom member of a window or screen.
<b>Clerestory</b>	The section of the main wall below the eaves and above the top of the aisle roof which is pierced with windows giving light into the interior.
<b>Conservation</b>	Action necessary to preserve anything of acknowledged value.
<b>Coping</b>	A protective covering of brick or stone on the top of a wall. The coping will usually project to help throw rainwater away from the wall.
<b>Corbel</b>	A block of masonry that projects from the wall and carries the end of a roof truss or beam. Corbels are often carved with grotesque human or animal figures.
<b>Cornice</b>	A continuous horizontal feature running around the top of a wall or the top of a room.
<b>Crypt</b>	An underground chamber or vault often used for burials.
<b>Curtilage</b>	It is difficult to define curtilage exactly but it is generally taken to be a piece of ground ancillary to a building and necessary to the function and/or enjoyment of that building. The important factors are the physical relationship between the ground and the building; past and present ownership; and the past and present use.
<b>Eaves</b>	The underside of a sloping roof where it overhangs the wall below.
<b>Efflorescence</b>	A white powdery deposit found on the surface of stone, brick or plaster. It occurs when excessive moisture causes the soluble salts present in the masonry to dissolve. They are then drawn towards the internal surface of the wall, as this is usually warmer than the external surface. Once they reach the face of the wall the water evaporates and the salts re-crystallise on the surface. Efflorescence is unsightly but relatively harmless and can be brushed off when dry, although it is usually a sign that there may be too much moisture in the fabric.
<b>Encaustic tiles</b>	Earthenware tiles fired with a pattern and glaze
<b>Fabric</b>	The materials from which a building is constructed.
<b>Faculty</b>	A faculty is a licence authorising an agreed package of work granted by an ecclesiastical body.
<b>Fascia</b>	A strip of timber boarding fixed to the ends of the rafters or fitted below a wall head on a building with a flat or low-pitched roof. It is sometimes decorative but often supports the gutter fixings.
<b>Ferramenta</b>	The metal framework of internal saddle-bars and external stanchions used to support the glazing in large windows. Ferramenta were originally made from wrought iron but are now more likely to be manufactured from mild steel or sometimes stainless steel.