

Fingerpost at Toddington, North Gloucestershire

Alex Gay April 2025

Prior to 2024, two fingerposts in North Gloucestershire were Grade Two listed by National Heritage. These were:

- **Teddington Hands Sign Post** at Teddington on the A435 north of Cheltenham, first registered in 1960 under list entry number 1156004. And:
- **Cross Hands Post** (aka Izod's Post) on the A44 near Chipping Campden, first registered in 1983 under list entry number 1078474.

Both fingerposts are thought to originate from the 17th century (see GSIA Journal 2000, pages 3-5 for more details). In 2024 another fingerpost in north Gloucestershire was Grade Two listed by Historic England. This is the 'Fingerpost at junction of B4077 and Church Lane, Toddington, list entry number 1489707'. The description given by National Heritage is:

"The fingerpost consists of an ashlar base approximately one metre square, with a plinth and a chamfered capping stone. The plinth is surmounted by a circular cast-iron finial fitted with three painted direction arms made probably from sheet iron beaten into the form of pointing hands. These indicate Stow-on-the-Wold, Tewkesbury, and Toddington in black painted lettering".



National Heritage suggests that the Toddington fingerpost is early 20th century (pre-1924) and possibly erected by a local landowner as it is not of a standardised design of the period. The stone base once contained a wall-mounted post box, removed relatively recently. However, The Historic Milestone Society database suggests that the fingerpost is 18th century. Whichever is correct, the erectors of the Toddington fingerpost surely took their inspiration from the Teddington Hands Sign Post which is just five miles down the road towards Tewkesbury.