

Case Name: The Lock up (also known as the Round House) - Listing Amendment

Case Number: 1496882

Background

Historic England has received an application requesting an amendment to the scheduling entry for the Round House (NHLE: 1006116) due to an error in the mapping. As the structure is also listed Grade II (The Lock up; NHLE: 1374689), we are also assessing whether to amend the List entry.

Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	Name	Heritage Category
1	The Lock up (also known as the Round House)	Listing

Visits

None: Data from other sources.

Annex 1**Factual Details****Name: The Lock up (also known as the Round House)****Location**

Dimble Lane, Alton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 4BL

County	District	District Type	Parish
Staffordshire	Staffordshire Moorlands	District Authority	Alton

History

Lock ups or blind houses are small buildings built as temporary prisons for the incarceration of drunkards, vagrants and people disturbing the peace. Generally stone built but occasionally wooden, they are square, round or octagonal and contain either one cell or one for either sex. A small sometimes barred window was often included but the inside was always dim, hence the term blind house. In some examples, an iron cradle or wooden bench survives, on which the prisoner slept. They were often built by the parish or as a gift to the village or town by a wealthy resident and are generally centrally placed within the settlement. Blind houses went out of use in the mid-19th century when they were made redundant by the founding of a regular police service.

The lock up, also known as the Round House was built in 1819 by the Earl of Shrewsbury.

Restoration work was carried out on the building in 1977. This included some sand blasting to clean the structure, causing some damage to the stonework. The curved wooden door was replaced in the early 1990s with a modern replica made of oak with forged hinges.

Details

A circular lock up constructed from stone. Built in 1819 by the Earl of Shrewsbury.

MATERIALS: the building is constructed from stone with an oak door with iron fixings.

PLAN: the building is circular with a diameter up to 4 meters.

EXTERIOR: the building is single storey with a circular wall constructed of rusticated ashlar stone. It has a dressed stone cornice with a stone dome above. The dome is topped by a stone cupola with four arches, topped by a ball finial. There is a doorway facing north-west with a curved door made of oak with ironwork fixings and nail studs.

INTERIOR: the building has a single cell interior with stone floor. There is a square hole to the centre of the floor.

Selected Sources**Books and journals**

Wakinling, C, Pevsner, N, The Buildings of England: Staffordshire, (2024), 107

Websites

Heritage Gateway: Old Lock Up, Alton (Staffordshire HER), accessed 01.05.2026 from https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?resourceID=1010&uid=MS T50

Staffordshire Past Track: The Round House, Alton, accessed 01.05.2026 from <https://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk/Details.aspx?&ResourceID=12739&PageIndex=4&SearchType=2&ThemeID=452>

Other

OS Map of Staffordshire 1:2500 scale (1881 edn)

Current List Entry**List Entry Summary**

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: THE LOCK UP

List Entry Number: 1374689

Location

THE LOCK UP, DIMBLE LANE,

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Staffordshire	Staffordshire Moorlands	District Authority	Alton

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 03 January 1967

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

This section only relates to older records, created before the introduction of the National Heritage List for England in 2011.

Legacy System: LBS

Legacy Number: 275009

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description**Summary of Building**

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

ALTON C.P. DIMBLE LANE (West side) SK 0642-074213/13
The Lock Up 3/1/67GV I I Shown on
OS Map as Round House. Lock-up. 1819. Rock faced ashlar with ashlar dome and
cupola. Circular plan. One-storey with hemispherical dome surmounted by a cupola with ball
finial; door to the north (A.M.). B.O.E. p. 55. Listing NGR: SK0722042114

Selected Sources

Map**National Grid Reference: SK 07220 42114**

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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - 1374689_1.pdf