

### Asset Details

<b>Asset name</b>	Lychgate leading to the church of St Mary and St James, Hazelbury Bryan
<b>Asset address</b>	Church of St Mary and St James Hazelbury Bryan Sturminster Newton DT10 2ED
<b>Additional location information</b>	what3words
	crumple.ruling.unfair
<b>Asset type</b>	Structure

### Heritage Significance

Value	Description	Level
<b>Archaeological value</b>	This value does not apply in this instance.	None
<b>Architectural value</b>	The structure, built in 1955, is a fine example of a lychgate. It stands on the western boundary of the churchyard of the Church of St Mary and St James, in line with the church entrance. It is constructed of an exposed oak timber frame with four upright posts in a rectangular shape, on top of which are beams holding a steeply pitched, timber, cross-gabled roof with stone slate tiles. There are leaded glass panels enclosing the structure on three elevations, which is an unusual feature for a lychgate. The architectural value of the structure is further enhanced by the intactness of the gate and survival of original detailing.	High
<b>Historic illustrative value</b>	<p>Historically, a lychgate provided shelter for coffins and pallbearers. Here, the priest would come out to meet them before entering the church. As well as a gesture of respect for the dead, there was a functional and indeed legal reason for this, as the cleric had to receive the legal certificate from the deceased relatives outside of the church building in order to proceed with the burial. Given the construction date of the lychgate at St Mary and St James, it is unclear whether it was ever used for this purpose. However, it is a reminder of the traditions and laws that governed the church in its past.</p> <p>It is important to consider that the lychgate does not exist in isolation. It is part of a collection of historic assets surrounding the church, including the churchyard, boundary wall, gravestones and Church Cottage. Collectively, they make a considerable contribution to our understanding of the site by illustrating the practices and traditions of the Church of England that have shaped the appearance of churches and churchyards across the country for centuries. The wall, gateways, lychgate, location of graves and entrances to the Church of St Mary and St James are carefully planned and designed. The orientation of the church itself echoes the traditions and beliefs of the Church and its congregation through its east-west alignment, the almost universal custom of Christian church buildings.</p>	Moderate
<b>Historic associative value</b>	The lychgate as an individual asset has little historic associative value. Although it purported to be the work of R.G. Parsons of Dewlish, little information is available on them. It is worth noting, however, that the structure won an award from The Civic Trust in 1969, 14 years after it was built, which is a testament to the quality of the work.	Little
<b>Aesthetic or artistic value</b>	The lychgate at the Church of St Mary and St James is a handsome structure that complements the grade I listed church and contributes to the aesthetic, scenic qualities of the building and its churchyard. The chosen approach to the	Moderate

	<p>design adopts an Arts and Crafts style, which is sympathetic to and complements the church and reflects the historic form and detailing of lychgates generally. It also calls to mind a vernacular aesthetic that has a sense of time-depth and quintessential 'Englishness'. Although a modest structure, it is well proportioned and finely detailed, clearly fulfilling an aesthetic as well as a functional role.</p>	
<p><b>Communal value</b></p>	<p>The communal value of the lychgate is currently not well understood. However, its visibility in the streetscape and proximity and connection to what remains an active local church makes it possible that the community consider the gate to be part of the aesthetic identity of the area. Especially in the case of churches, social value should not be underestimated, as they often have deep emotional ties for communities.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>

