

# Hello Heritage...

## The Roundhouse/Lockup



### Worthington Round House - The building

The lock-up is octagonal, of red brick, with an octagonal brick spire.

It measures approx. 3 metres across with 1.5 metre high walls surmounted by a projected stone string course.

The octagonal brick spire is approx. 3.5 metres high and tapers to a strong finial.

The overall height of the lock up is approx. 5 metres. In addition to the door, it has a small slit window, which may have been inserted in World War II to convert it into a pillbox.

The lock-up is a listed building - Grade II & Ancient Scheduled Monument.

The Round House, known locally as 'the lock up', is owned and maintained by Worthington Parish Council.



### The village lock-up and pinfold

In the 18th and 19th centuries, it was commonplace in the towns for thefts, burglaries and public scenes of drunkenness to occur and in the countryside, for people to be assaulted, watchmen obstructed, shooting outrages to occur and sheep stolen. (A capital offence until 1872.)

The village lock-up was probably built in the 18th century and was used as a place of detention for local rogues and miscreants until they could be removed to a town.

The pinfold attached to the roundhouse is where stray stock would be held until claimed by the owner. It was demolished to make way for St. Matthew's Avenue.



Lock-ups, also known as round houses, cage, lobby, watch house, blind houses and clinks, were temporary holding places for offenders being brought before the magistrate.

Most lock-ups were purpose built, usually small square, rectangular, octagonal or occasionally circular stone buildings.

Most were windowless with one or two ventilation grilles, often set under the eaves or into the single door.

The earliest recorded lock-up dates from the 13th century and most fell out of use when police stations, with their own holding facilities were established. (Leicestershire Police Force was established in 1839).

Top left photo is dated pre 1950's, middle photo is late 1950's/early 1960's and bottom photo (showing grill) was taken 2020.

## Heritage on your doorstep...

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