

How many of our readers have noticed Redland's kerb stone carvings? There is no record of the Picts conquering as far as Redland – so what are they?

Much of Redland's building coincided with the new availability of mains services.

The point of entry from the road to the house for the pipe or cable was incised on the pavement kerb by the service provider, with a unique symbol for each. Checking with householders shows that an arrow head ↓ pointing towards the house signifies gas, an **X** in a square, electricity and a rounded capital letter **A** for water. The water main symbol can sometimes also be found on the garden wall, or even by the front door

boot scraper niche. In addition to these service symbols, others have recently appeared, in the form of a simple cross, to indicate to the fire and water companies the proximity in the roadway of a water hydrant. Another common mark is that of a triangle, often with a central dot, for a surveyor's theodilite reference point. This has only been a small selection of the many mysterious signs and symbols carved into our kerbs and pavements. **See how many more you can spot.**

You can also read more about this in my book 'Bristol Curiosities' Ch14.

