



The Association of British Counties (ABC) is the national body representing the 92 historic counties of the United Kingdom.

ABC believes that the link that the historic counties provide between our present and our distant past adds great value to the life of the nation and should be cherished by us all.

We promote the identities of the historic counties and the important part they play in our culture, heritage and geography.



## County Geography

ABC promotes the use of the historic counties as a fixed general-purpose geography for the UK. Our *Gazetteer of British Place Names* ([gazetteer.org.uk](http://gazetteer.org.uk)) is the standard reference work on British geography. Our *County-Wise* campaign provides resources to enable everyone to make good use of the historic counties in their personal, social or working life.

## Clearing County Confusion

ABC believes that drawing a clear line between the historic counties and local government will be to the huge benefit of both. Hence, we want to see:

- an end to the use of the terms “county” and “county council” in local government terminology;
- an end to the unqualified use of historic county names by local authorities which have radically different areas to that county (e.g. Lancashire CC, Somerset CC, Staffordshire CC).

We are happy for local authorities to make qualified use of historic county names in appropriate cases (e.g. Central Bedfordshire Council, North Somerset Council).

## County Flags

County flags are becoming familiar symbols - not just on flag poles, but at sporting events, at county day events, at festivals, on road signs, on bumper stickers, on food labels and in numerous contexts. ABC advises local people with the development of county flag ideas. We promote the use of the county flag throughout each county.

## County Days

Over 30 counties now celebrate a county day. Many have become huge events, both on the ground and on social media. ABC and its member groups started up many of these. We promote them all and encourage other counties to join in the fun.

## County Border Signs

ABC and its member groups work with local authorities and landowners to erect historic county border signs - on roads, footpaths and bridges. The counties are not just an important part of our heritage. They are important tourist destinations. They should be properly signed.

## Promoting Your County

ABC has many member groups, each of which promotes its own county. ABC encourages the setting up of groups in counties not yet covered.

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