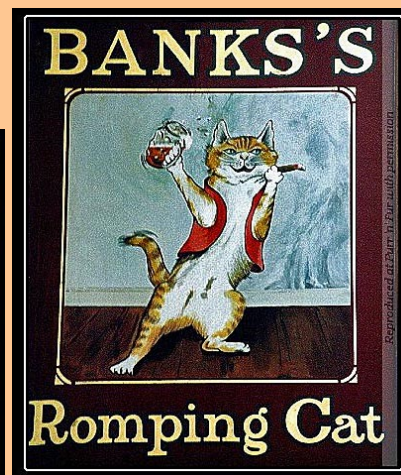
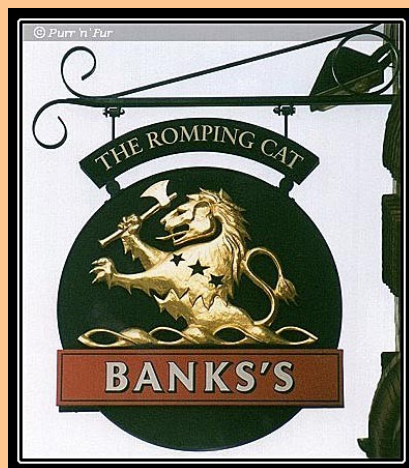


British Pub Signs featuring Cats

Gallery 1 (2004/2020)

(page checked April 2026)

The date following each name is when the sign and pub were photographed, unless stated otherwise.

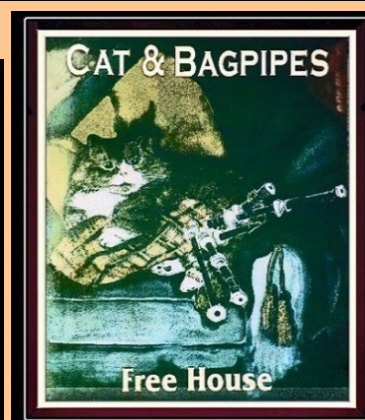
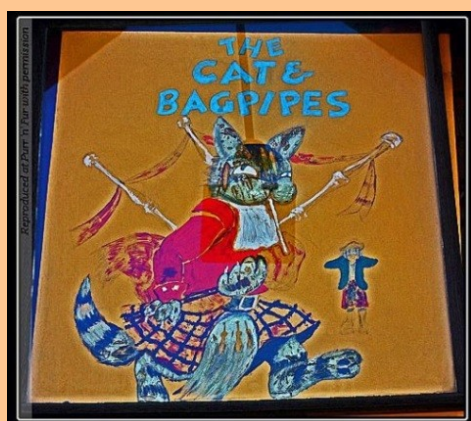


date unknown ↑

The **Romping Cat** (2005-09) is in Bloxwich, near Walsall in the West Midlands region of the UK. A community website tells us that it was known as the Sandbank Tavern from 1900, when it was first licensed, until 1957, then renamed to comply with a local tradition that there should always be a Bloxwich pub known as the Romping Cat ([read more – archived copy](#)). An earlier sign showed a cat holding a beer mug and smoking a cigar (*above right*), but perhaps that's no longer considered acceptable. It was succeeded by the rather splendid Banks's brewery lion (*above left*).

[Facebook](#) | [Pub](#)

[website](#) Still operational in April 2026.

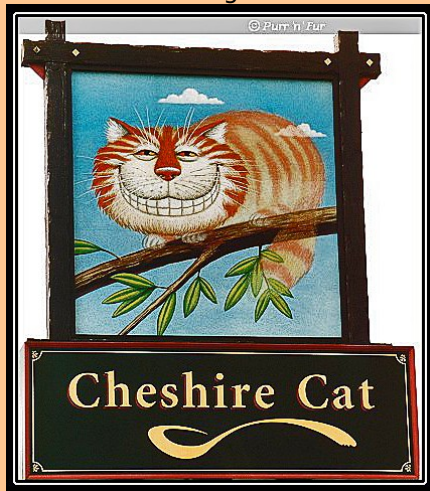


The **Cat and Bagpipes** (2004-07: *above*) is in the North Yorkshire village of East Harlsey, not far from Northallerton. The name probably has nothing to do with cats, but might well be an abbreviation of 'Cattle and Bagpipes' from the days when Scottish drovers brought their cattle down to England and would have stopped at the pub. Another but maybe less likely explanation is that when border raids from Scotland into northern England were made, the skirl of bagpipes often meant 'The Cats are coming!' — 'Cats' being short for the old Latin term *catphractes*, or troops. There's been a pub here since at least 1823, although the present building dates from the 1950s. Left-hand sign from 2012; right-hand from 2004.

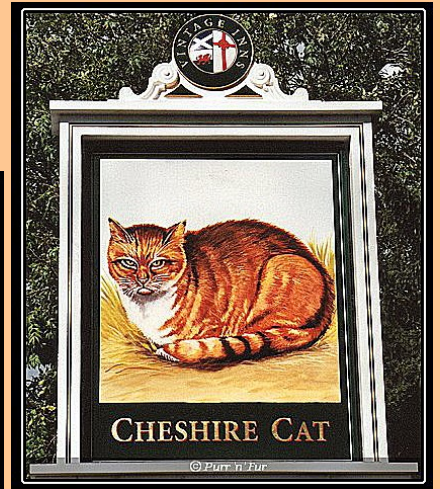
[Facebook](#)

Still operational in April 2026, although it isn't clear what the sign is now. Note that there is, or was, a pub of the same name in Co. Offaly, Irish Republic. I think it's still open in April 2026; see [this page](#).

2005 sign ↓

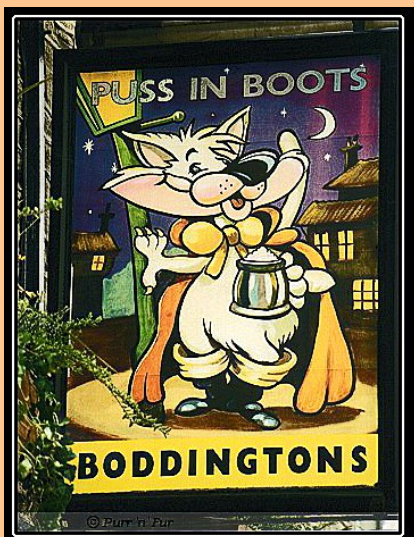


2008 sign ↓

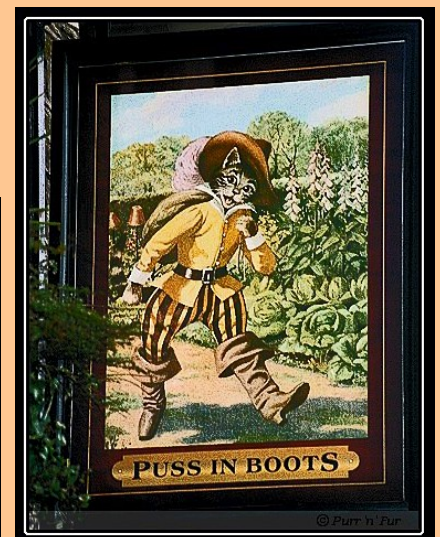
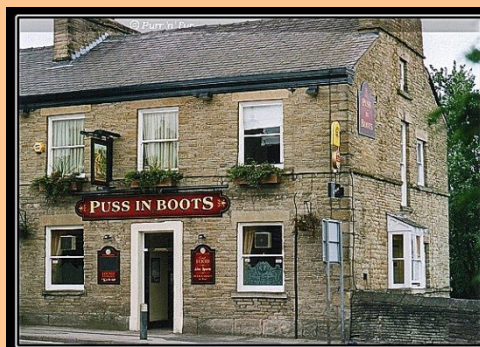


The **Cheshire Cat** (2008-10), of *Alice in Wonderland* fame, is a well-thought-of pub and hotel on the south-eastern outskirts of Chester, near the village of Christleton and situated beside the Shropshire Union Canal. It's said to stand on the site of a battle between Cavaliers and Roundheads, with the original Italianate villa being built in 1801. During WW2 the government took it over for administrative offices, after which it stood derelict for a number of years. The pub dates from the early 1970s, when the former Christleton Lodge, as it was known, was restored and converted into the present pub and hotel. An earlier sign (2005) showing Lewis Carroll's [Cheshire cat](#) (above left) was replaced in 2008 with the ginger beast (above right). Although he's a fine cat, it perhaps isn't quite so authentic. **Still operational in April 2026.**

[Website](#)



2004 sign ↑

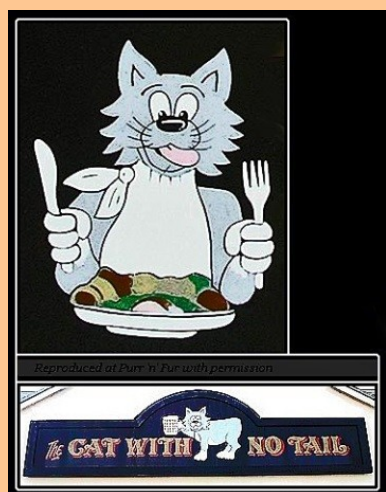


2005 sign ↑

The **Puss in Boots** (2005-05) is one of two with that name in England; two others have since closed. This one stands at the side of the canal on the outskirts of Macclesfield in Cheshire, on the road coming down the hill into the town from Buxton. The sign at the left above was changed after I'd photographed it originally and the newer version is above at the right.

The pub was for sale at an unknown date, but during the coronavirus crisis in early 2021 appeared - while closed - to be offering a full takeaway meal service. In April 2026 it was open and operational. I think the sign has changed.

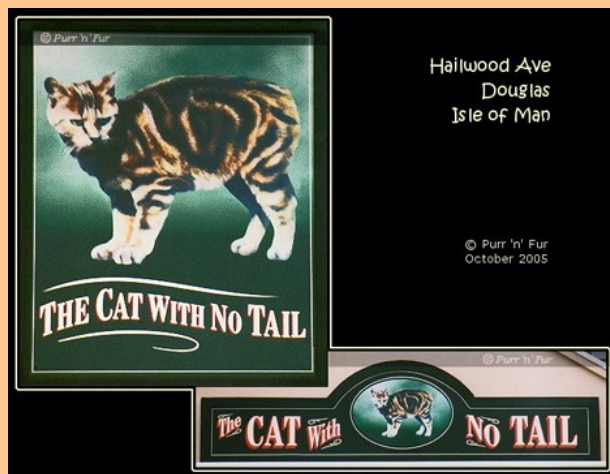
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)



2004 sign ↑

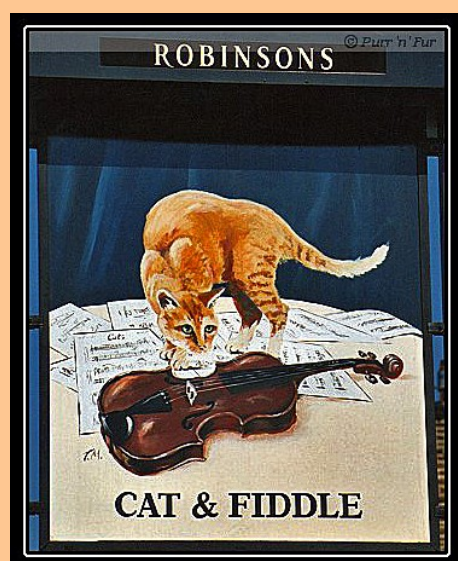


2024 sign ↑

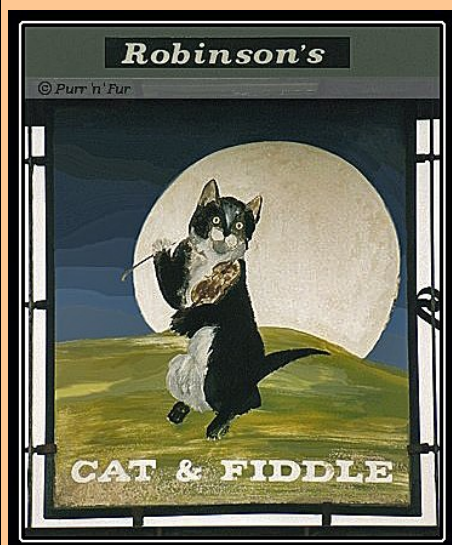


2004 sign 2 ↑

The Cat with No Tail (2005-10) Since the humorous sign (*above left*) for this large pub on the outskirts of Douglas, Isle of Man was first posted, the place was apparently refurbished and the signs changed to the attractive painting of a tortoiseshell Manx cat (*above right*). Still **operational in April 2026**, now with the sign in the centre above. No dedicated website, but see [here](#). [Facebook](#)



May 2007 ↑



Older sign (2004) ↑



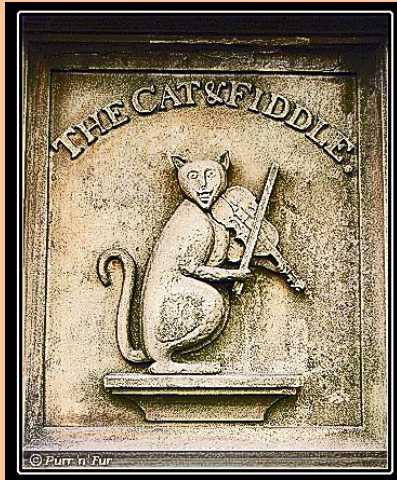
2024 sign ↑

The Cat and Fiddle (2004), near Wildboarclough, was a well-known pub on the Cheshire / Derbyshire border (actually just in Cheshire), at the summit of the winding road across the moors between Macclesfield and Buxton. It is 1690 feet above sea level and was one of the highest pubs in Britain. The inn sign had been renewed since I first pictured it in 2004, but the older version can still be seen (*above centre*). A rather nice pictorial panel of a cat with a fiddle can be seen on the front of the pub (*next page, left*).

There are several theories as to how the 'Cat and Fiddle' name arose: no one knows the real origin, but see the Notes and Anecdotes page for a couple of theories about its derivation.

The pub closed as such in December 2014, but in 2019 it was taken on a long-term lease by Forest Distillery, who refurbished the building and opened it as a gin and whisky distillery. The coronavirus crisis delayed plans, but renovation began and in summer 2020 a shop was opened selling spirits, wines, beers and coffee. There is a bar, but no food is available. Still operational in April 2026; see sign at right above.

[Facebook](#)

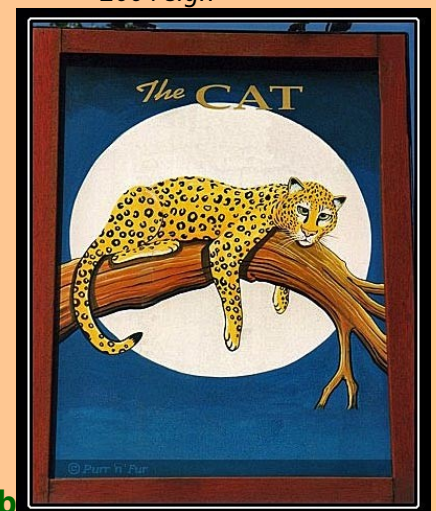


Cat & Fiddle: panel at front of building



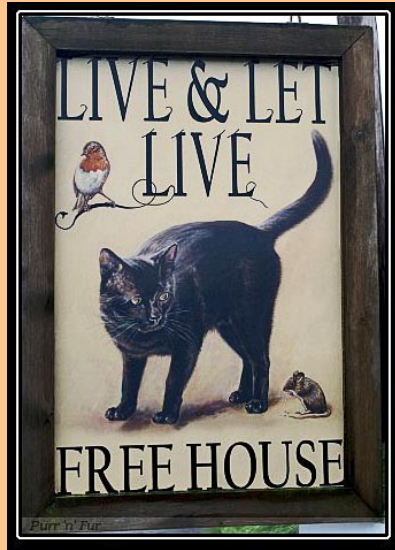
The pub in May 2005

2004 sign

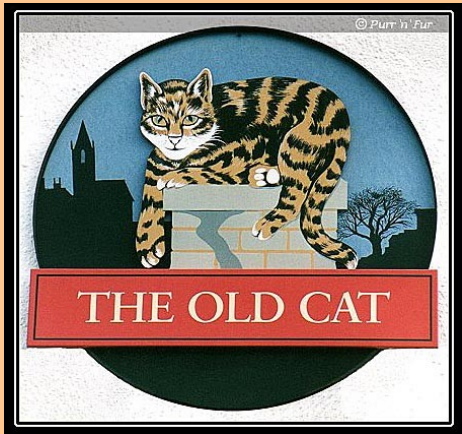


This pub, simply called **The Cat** (2004-07), is an urban one in Ellesmere Port, a town in north Cheshire. It's interesting that the earlier artist chose to represent it by a wild cat rather than a domestic one, but it was a very fine leopard (*above right*)! **A fire in February 2019 caused the pub to be closed for a while, but it reopened not too long afterwards. Still operating in April 2026, with the sign showing a domestic cat (*above left*).**

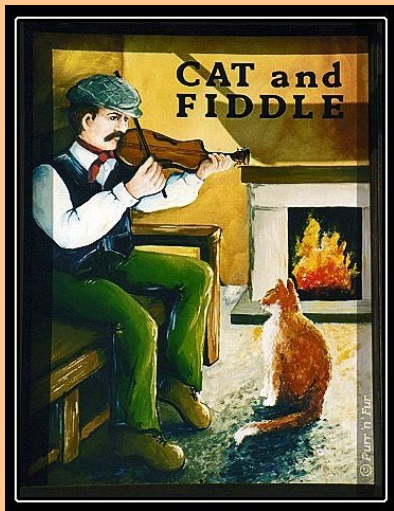
[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [pub website](#)



The **Live and Let Live** (2010-10: *above*) is just on the Herefordshire side of the Worcester/ Hereford county border, in Bringsty Common, it's the only thatched pub in that county. It was extensively refurbished in 2007 after a period of closure. **Still operational in April 2026.** [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

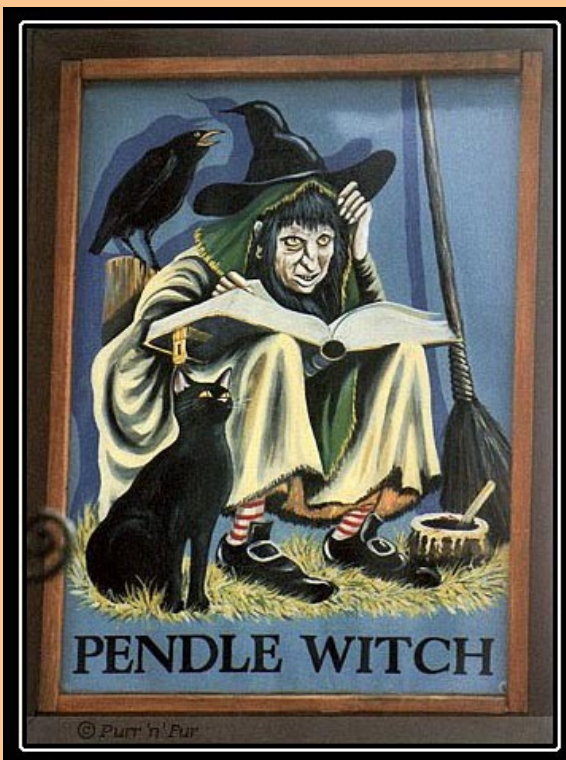


The **Old Cat** (2005-09) is a pub in the village of Wordsley, near Kingswinford in the Dudley area of the West Midlands. Circular signs like the one *above* were common; it's been replaced by the more usual shape (*above right*). **Still operational in April 2026.** [Facebook](#)

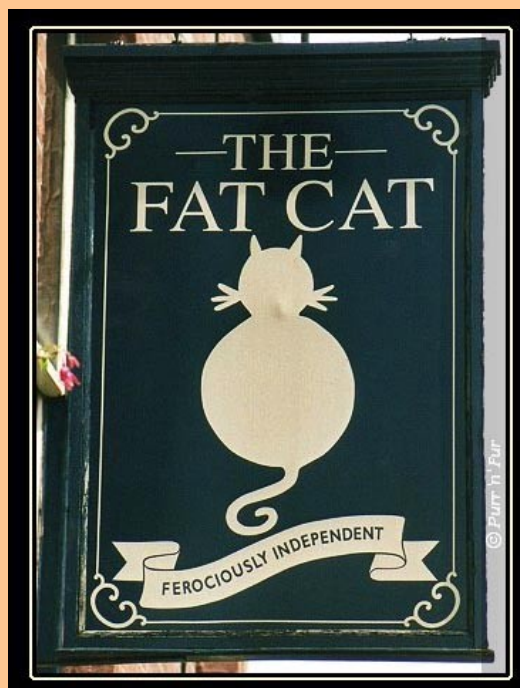


This **Cat and Fiddle** (2004-05) — with another interpretation of the name — is between Derby and Ilkeston, also in Derbyshire not far from Kirk Hallam. **Refurbished in 2023, and still operational in April 2026.** [Website](#)

Older sign (1989) ↓



The **Pendle Witch** (2009-05) is a pub in the village of Sabden, near Clitheroe in the Ribble Valley of Lancashire. The name derives from the most famous (or infamous) witch trials in England, following which 11 witches were executed in 1612. Sabden is in the area from which the alleged witches came, and Pendle is a nearby hill associated with witchcraft. The sign (*above left*) showed a witch with her 'familiars', one of which was a black cat, but I think there's no longer a pictorial sign. **Still operational in April 2026.** [Website](#)



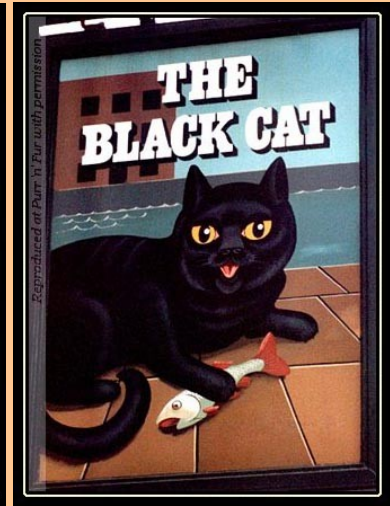
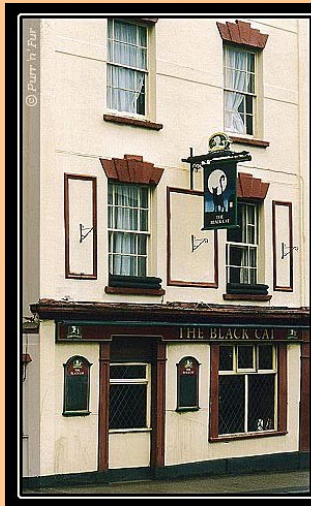
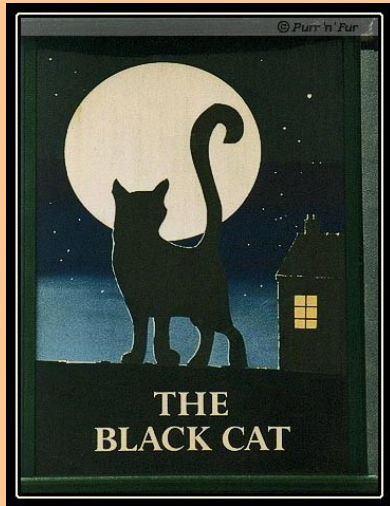
The **Fat Cat** (2004-06) is in Alma Street, Sheffield, Yorkshire, not far from the city centre. Although only a small place, it has won many awards, including 'Best Value Pub in Britain' and 'One of Top Five Urban Pubs in Britain'. A listed building and the outlet for the independent Kelham Island Brewery, it was originally known in the 1830s as the Kelham Tavern, and later the Alma Hotel, before becoming the Fat Cat in 1981. The pub's website has an interesting and comprehensive [history page](#) (archived copy). **Still operational in April 2026.** [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)



There's been a pub on the site of the **Star Inn** (2010) for several centuries. The present one is a local country pub in the village of Liverton, situated on the edge of Dartmoor a few miles from the city of Exeter, in south-west England. **Still operational in April 2026.** [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

2004 sign ↓

1994 sign ↓



The **The Black Cat** (2004-10) is a small, town pub in Bedminster, a district of Bristol, a major city in the south-west of England. The depiction of the cat is essentially the same as used for the Star Inn (*above*), although the background differs. **Still operational April 2026..**

[Facebook](#) (last uised Oct. 2023)



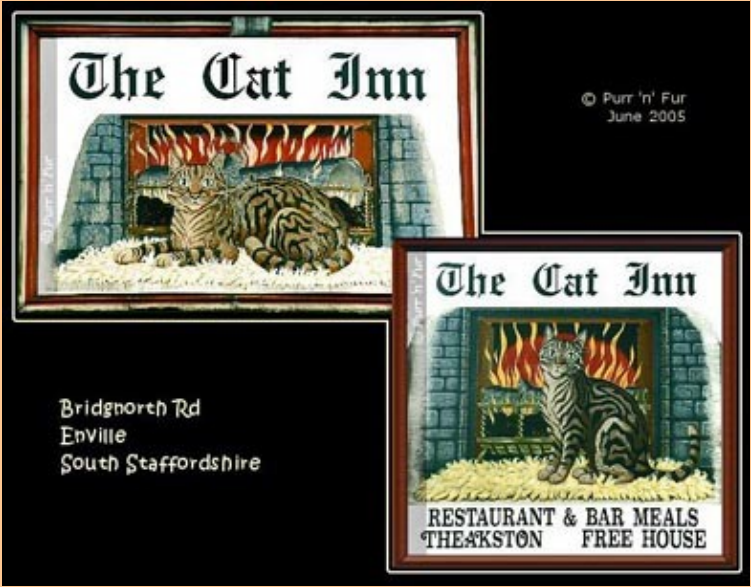
The **New Inn** (2011: *above*) is one of only two pubs with a cat sign that I know of in North Wales. St Asaph is a small town on the river Elwy in Denbighshire; it has a cathedral and therefore used to have the status of a city, a title that was returned to it in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year of 2012. **Still operational in April 2026.**

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)



Another West Midlands **Cat Inn** (2005-06), only a few miles from The Old Cat at Wordsley (*above*), is this one in Enville, a village between Stourbridge and Bridgnorth. The inn was first mentioned in 1718, and it's perhaps from that time that a curious regulation prevented, for nearly 300 years, the pub from opening on Sundays. It was only in October 2004 that customers were able to enjoy their first Sunday pint. For a time in the nineteenth century the inn was known as the Cat & Partridge. **Still operational in April 2026.** [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

older signs, 2006



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