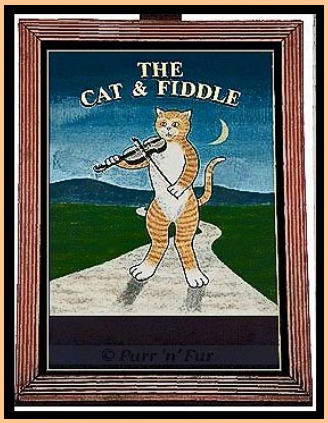
British Pub Signs featuring Cats

Gallery 2 (2005/2021)

(page checked April 2026)



The Cat & Fiddle (2004-10) – This splendid cat with his fiddle is situated in the Great Barr district of England's second city, Birmingham. **Refurbished spring 2023; still operational in April 2026. Sign may well have been changed.** Website

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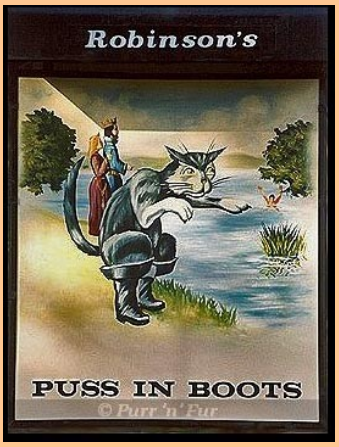
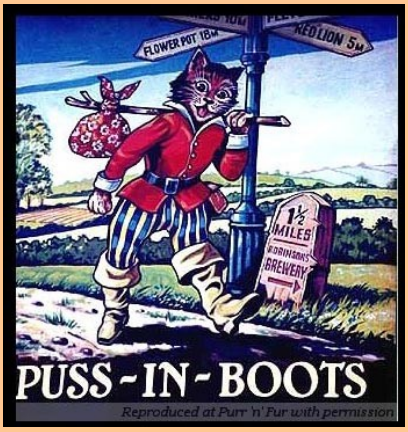


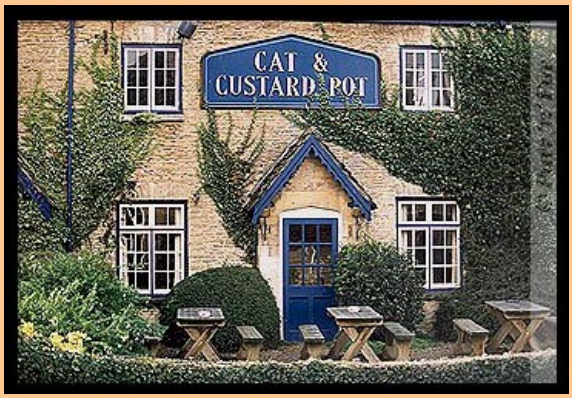


2011 sign ↑ *1994 sign* ↑

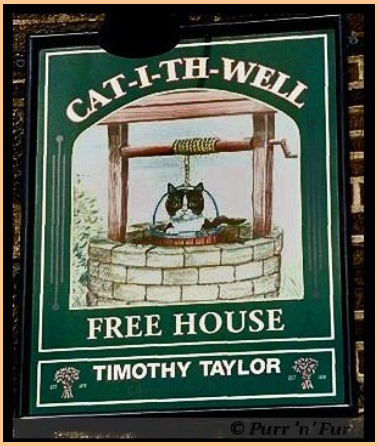
These imaginative signs, illustrating a scene from the actual story, have graced the **Puss in Boots** pub in Offerton, a suburb of Stockport, Greater Manchester. The pub had been refurbished by 2011, as in the photo, but the sign remained the same. **Still operational in April 2026; considered one of the best family pubs in the UK in 2023.**
Website | Facebook.

The **Cat Head Inn** (2004-10) was a pleasant-looking pub in the small Somerset village of

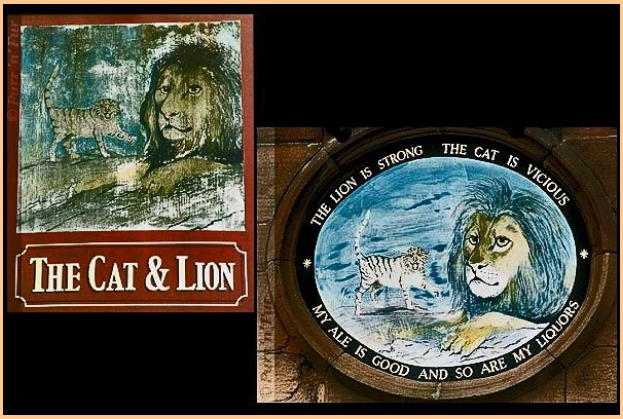
Chiselborough, not far from Yeovil. Apparently the name probably has nothing to do with cats, and 'cathead' is actually the name of an antique strain of European apple, best used for cooking or drying, and also known as 'catshead' or 'cat's head'. The village of Chiselborough was formerly surrounded by apple orchards, and there still are some there. **The pub closed in May 2025, but in December it was reported that there was an initiative for the community to buy it. I haven't found any later news.** BBC News (Dec. 2025)



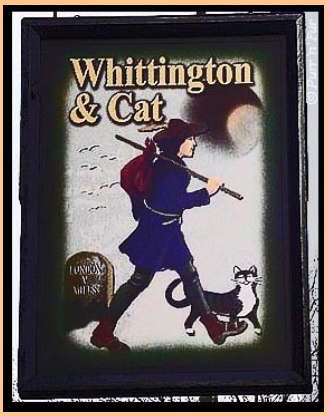
The Cat and Custard Pot Inn (2004-10) is in the Gloucestershire village of Shipton Moyne. There's an older photo from the 1950s at Wikipedia, and also an explanation of the name. However, another pub of the same name in Kent (*see Gallery 3*) has a different theory about theirs. **Still operational in April 2026, with a very similar sign to the one at upper left above.**
Website | Facebook *(last used late 2023)*



The **Cat-i-th-Well** (Cat in the Well: 2005-05) is a delightful country pub in a lovely setting on a quiet lane a few miles outside Halifax in West Yorkshire. One story about the name is apparently that a previous landlord had a wife named Cath, whom he discovered was having an affair — so he drowned her in the well! **Still going April 2026.** Facebook *(seldom used)*

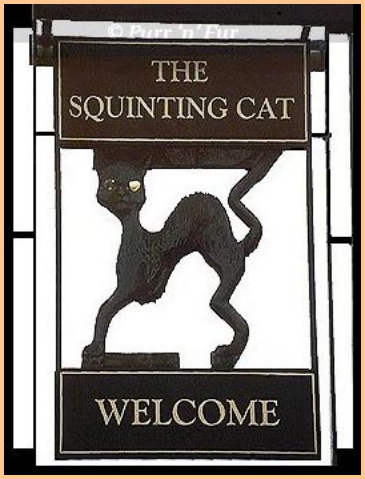


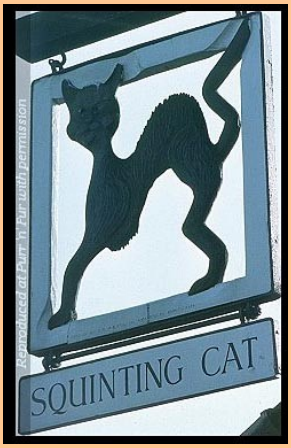
The **Cat & Lion** (2004-09*, above*) An unusually named pub and hotel at Stretton, close to Warrington in Cheshire, this was a former coaching inn. **Still operational in April 2026, with a different sign *(below)*.** Website | Facebook



2011 sign ↑ *2005 sign ↑*

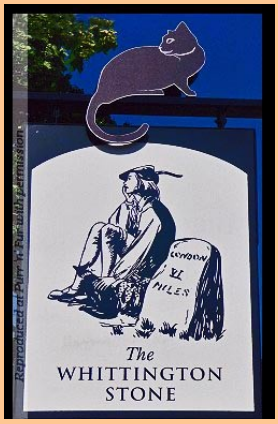
The **Whittington & Cat** (2011-01) is a town pub and hotel near the docks area — much of which has been now redeveloped — in Hull, an important port (full name Kingston-upon-Hull) on the Humber estuary in the east of England. By 2009 the pub had undergone a substantial refurbishment and boasted a fine new sign *(above left)*. There's a story that Dick Whittington, as a merchant, visited the site, so the pub was originally called the Whittington Inn. **Still operational in April 2026; sign remains as above left.** Website | Facebook

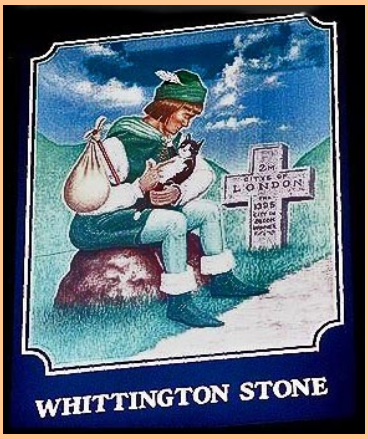




2005 sign ↑ *1975 sign _↑*

The **Squinting Cat** (2005-01) has a quite unusual cut-out metal sign rather than the usual painted one. It's in the countryside near Pannal Ash, a village which in turn is not far from the Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate. The pub name is said to derive from the habits of a former landlady, known in uncomplimentary vein as 't'owd cat', because of her way of peering from behind the curtains to scrutinise approaching customers! **Still operational in April 2026.**
Website | Facebook



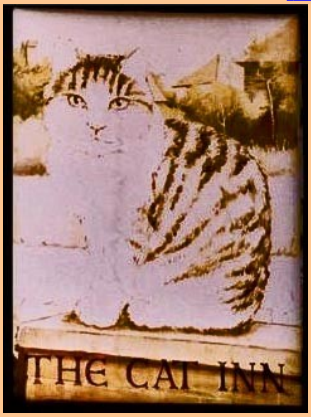


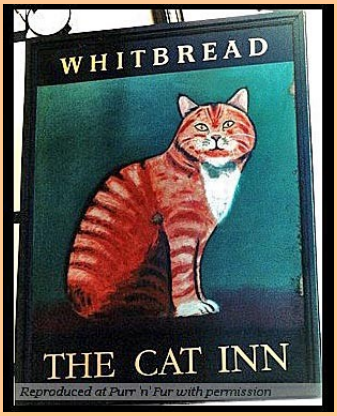
2011 sign ↑ *older sign 2005 ↑*

There were formerly two 'Whittington' pubs on Highgate Hill in London, reputedly where Dick heard the sound of Bow Bells and 'turned again'. Sadly only this one, the **Whittington Stone**, (2011-05), remains. **Still operational in April 2026; sign seems the same *(above left)*.**

This **Cat Inn** (2005-06) is in the Northwood district of Stoke-on-Trent, the centre of the Potteries in Staffordshire. The 2005 sign *(below left)* was very badly faded and it wasn't possible to enhance it

much. By mid-2009 it had been taken down altogether, leaving no sign at all. However, in June 2018 the pub was reopened after a six-month, £1/4-million refurbishment, with the new, rather minimalist sign *(above left).* **Still operational in late 2024.** Facebook





2005 sign ↑ *1990 sign ↑*

The Owl and The Pussycat in Barrow-in-Furness, Cunbria isn't a pub I've been able to visit, but it doesn't look as though there's a pictorial sign. **Still operational April 2026**.
Facebook

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