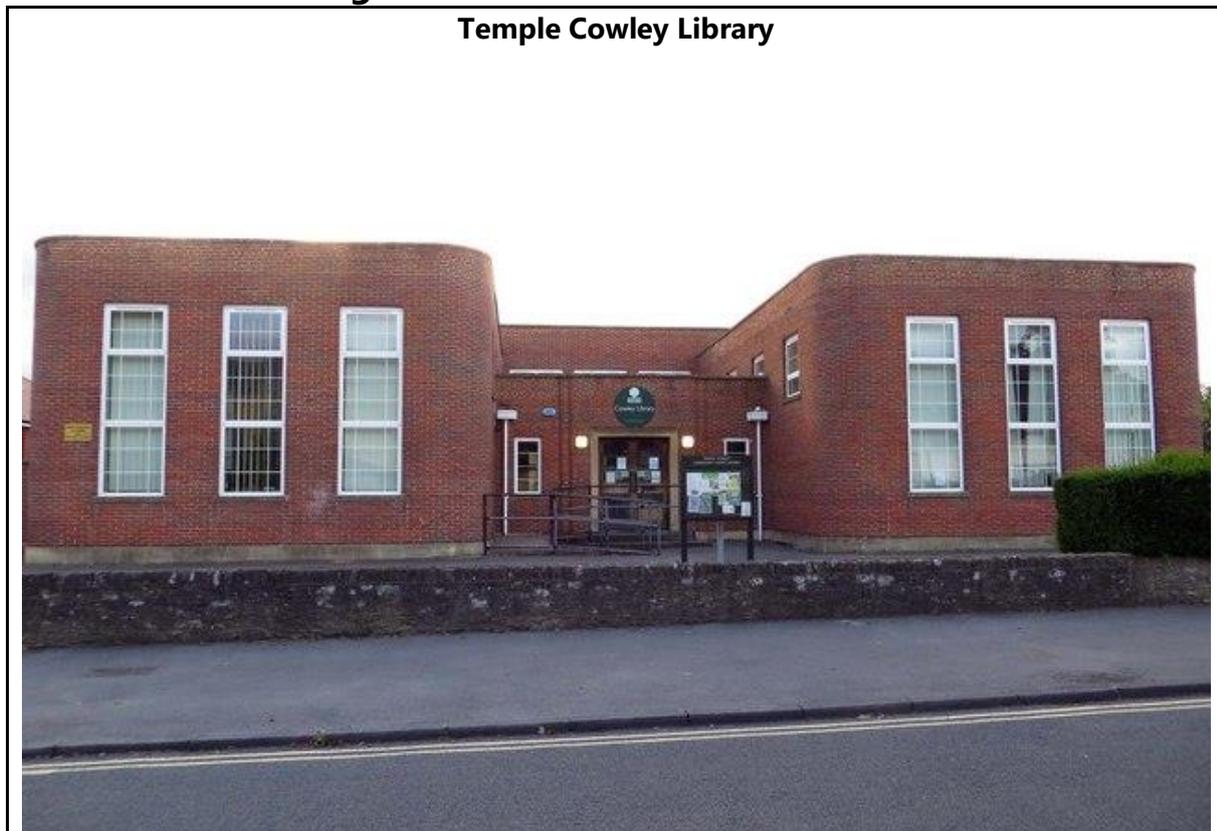


Nominate a Heritage Asset

Temple Cowley Library



1. WHAT IS IT? Is it one of the following?	Tick
a building or group of buildings	✓
a monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)	
a place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)	
a landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)	

2. WHY IS IT INTERESTING? Is it interesting in any of the following ways?	Tick / Rank
Historic interest – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry	✓
Archaeological interest – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	
Architectural interest – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	✓
Artistic interest – It includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including landscape design) to enhance appearance	
What is it about the asset that provides this interest?	
<p>Temple Cowley Library was purpose-built and opened in 1940 to support the rapid increase in the local population. It is an integral part of the historical process and pattern of development in Temple Cowley, joining the remaining stone cottages of the 19th century, and the Church Army Press building, St Luke's church and the United Reform church of the early 20th century as a coherent whole.</p> <p>Architecturally, it is built in a distinctive modernist 1930s style, which is not common in Oxford, and is unique in Temple Cowley. Cowley Library is the only example in Oxford of a</p>	

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purpose built library exhibiting strong inter-war design characteristics, a combination of curved exterior brickwork (using unusually sized bricks), flat roofing and 1930s window and door designs. Within the building it retains a substantial amount of the original 1930s furniture including shelving and tables. The original parquet flooring is intact (visible in staff work rooms, carpeted over elsewhere), the original Art Deco style plasterwork wall clocks are extant in the main library and work rooms and the staff toilets contain sanitary ware of an unusual period design. Externally the hoppers and drain pipes are deliberately exposed as an architectural feature. To the front of the building is a narrow concrete drive which illustrates the way in which the building was intended to accommodate the automobile.

3. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED? Is the interest of the asset valued locally for any of the following reasons?	Tick / Rank
Association: It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area	✓
Illustration: It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character	✓
Evidence: It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history	
Aesthetics: It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	✓
Communal: It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community	
How is the asset locally valued as heritage?	
<p>As the only library in this part of Oxford, the building has become an important part of the local community, and is thus a link to the area's history over nearly 80 years. It is a centre for people of all ages, social groups and ethnicities where they can meet, learn, and simply relax in a quiet atmosphere. The building reflects the growth of Temple Cowley in the third decade of the twentieth century, and is a marker of the growing sense of the local community's self-assurance.</p>	
<p>Aesthetically, the library is significantly unaltered from its original form. Externally, it is modernist in style, and representative of a common architectural theme of the 1930s. The fluid form is revealed in the curves of the front elevation, either side of the central main entrance, and the distinctive large windows are a key component of this fluidity. The interior is attractive and well-designed, and permits a flexibility of use that is open to the changing considerations and needs of the library and its community.</p>	
<p>The library was constructed at the end of the 1930s, and I believe was unfinished when war broke out in 1939. Its first use was to billet soldiers sent to guard the Morris Motor works and I understand that the library's flat roof was used to mount an anti-aircraft gun during the war. The library forms part of the expansion of East Oxford as a suburb (the building is contemporary with the inter-war development of Florence Park and other associated buildings in the area intended to provide public facilities to the new housing estates of the cinema on the corner of Cowley and Magdalen Roads, and the two churches at Temple Cowley. However, unlike both churches, which despite their lack of ornamentation retain strong traditional appearance, the library is an overtly modern building and provides an excellent example of the provision of public libraries as an integral part of the need to</p>	

Nominate a Heritage Asset

provide a range of cultural as well as spiritual and other facilities to the expanding population of East Oxford.

4. WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL? Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment?	Tick
Age ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rarity ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Integrity ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Group value ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oxford's identity ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>How does this contribute to its value?</p> <p>The library, with the local churches, was built at a time when the community of Temple Cowley was growing and finding a new self-assurance, and is a reflection of that period. The library is significantly unaltered from its original form, and is a fine example of a building which remains fit for purpose after nearly 80 years' use.</p> <p>Its age is significant as it is part of the development of East Oxford and its architectural features reflect contemporary architecture of its time. It is rare because it is not only the only building of its type in the area; it is the only modern movement inspired public library building in Oxford. It has considerable integrity, the windows have been sympathetically replaced and as described above, it retains a very considerable amount of the original fixtures, fittings and furniture and the original driveway and entrance is still as intact. As part of the development of East Oxford the library is part of the unique characteristics of an Oxford Suburb that was expanding during the 1930s as the car assembly plant developed.</p> <p>It is therefore of note both architecturally and for its contribution to the development of the area. It is adjacent to the Temple Cowley Conservation Area, and sits happily with the buildings that lie within that area. (Indeed, the library should perhaps have been included in that designation). The building stands immediately outside the Temple Cowley Conservation Area and, if registered as a Heritage Asset it is proposed that the Conservation Area is extended to encompass the library building. Due to its importance to the local community, it has become a key to the character of Temple Cowley.</p>	

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Welcome to the nominations form for the Oxford Heritage Assets Register

What the form is for

The nomination form asks you to demonstrate how your candidate asset meets the criteria for inclusion on the Oxford Heritage Assets Register (the criteria are set out on the next page). The criteria ensure registration as a heritage asset is the most appropriate means to manage your valued feature of the environment.

Registration does not mean an asset will be preserved in its current state in perpetuity. Planning policy allows change to heritage assets that conserves or better reveals their significance or, where change requires their loss, replaces the benefit to the public that they provide. The information provided in support of your nomination will help determine what forms of change might be acceptable. Saying "it's important and must never change" won't tell us what we need to know to manage your heritage asset in the future.

Tick or rank?

In answers to Questions 2 – 4 you can rank the interests, values and significance your candidate asset provides to show which you consider the most and least important to its significance; i.e. 1st (most important) – 4th (least important).

Alternatives

If your candidate asset does not have significance that merits inclusion on the register but does contribute to the valued character of the local environment, consider preparing a character statement for the area using the Oxford Character Assessment Toolkit. This identifies features that contribute positively to local character and opportunities for enhancement. It may help to identify other ways that change can contribute to the quality of the local environment and its sense of place.

Where the use of land, buildings or places now or in the recent past, furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community (and this is not an ancillary use), it may be considered to be an asset of community value (community asset), for which the government has made provision in the Localism Act 2011. Regulations give communities the opportunity to identify assets of community value and have them listed and, when they are put up for sale, more time to raise finance and prepare to bid for them. The Council is maintaining a list of community assets. Nevertheless, there may be examples where land is considered to both qualify as a community asset and heritage asset, in which case it will be necessary to distinguish which features of their value and significance are relevant to each designation.

Sites and buildings in conservation areas

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Conservation Areas are 'designated heritage assets' as defined by the government's planning policy and receive a higher level of protection than locally registered heritage assets, including legal restrictions on demolition and some permitted development rights. Nevertheless, they are designated locally and reflect the local value of these areas as heritage assets. Features of the historic landscape within conservation areas that would be considered to have a significance meriting consideration in planning decisions would be considered to contribute to the significance of a conservation area and therefore are considered to be part of a designated heritage asset. As such, we will not consider them for inclusion on the Oxford Heritage Assets Register.

What happens next?

We will prepare a list of candidate heritage assets, which will be presented to the public (including the owners of candidate heritage assets) for consultation. Any responses received from the public will be placed with the nomination form and will be included in the report made to the review panel.

A panel of councillors, council officers and local experts will review the candidate assets nominated to ensure they meet the criteria. The information you provide in answering the questions will be essential for the panel's consideration of your candidate's significance. If they are uncertain, you may be asked to provide further information. Where the panel consider that a candidate has met the criteria they will recommend that the Council include them on the Oxford Heritage Asset Register.

In some instances the review panel may decide that the candidate does not meet the criteria to be included as a heritage asset but might be appropriate for consideration as a community asset. If this is the case, you will be asked to consider making an application for the inclusion of your asset on the Council's list of community assets, which may require additional or different information.

Nominate a Heritage Asset

The Criteria:

Registered Heritage Assets must meet all of the four following criteria:

Criterion 1. They must be capable of meeting the government's definition of a heritage asset.

Demonstrate that your candidate is able to fall within the government's definition of a heritage asset; i.e. a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape.

Criterion 2. They must possess heritage interest that can be conserved and enjoyed.

Identify the properties of your candidate asset that need to be cared for as heritage – this is its *heritage interest*. This might include physical things like its appearance and materials, as well as associations with past people or events. Consider whether the physical features of the candidate asset help to illustrate its associations. The four types of heritage interest listed are recognised in national planning policy.

Criterion 3. They must have a value as heritage for the character and identity of the city, neighbourhood or community because of their heritage interest beyond personal or family connections, or the interest of individual property owners.

Tell us why or how the heritage interest you identified in your answer to Question 2 is of local value - this is its *heritage value*. The types of heritage value suggested on the nomination form are based on national guidance by English Heritage.

Criterion 4. They must have a level of significance that is greater than the general positive identified character of the local area.

Tell us what raises your candidate's heritage value to a level that merits its consideration in planning. Many features of the historic environment are a valued part of local character that should be managed through policies relating to townscape character in the local plan. Registered heritage assets should stand out as of greater significance than these features for their heritage value. The suggested options listed on the nominations form are based on national best practice. If you think your candidate asset has special local significance for another reason please state what it is.

Criteria adopted By Oxford City Council 17.12.12