

Nominate a Heritage Asset

The Cowley Retreat



1. WHAT IS IT? Is it one of the following?	Tick
a building or group of buildings	y
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	y
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	y
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?	
Historic interest: Built c.1870 as the Ampney Cottage Public House. A purpose designed public house built as part of the growth of the suburb southward along Cowley Road. The building has undergone many changes of ownership, being infamous as the Hobgoblin but is now the Cowley Retreat.	
Architectural interest: the pub retains the 19 th century character of the original public house, including retained two-over-two pane sash windows and dormer windows with decorative bargeboards with the added interest of the early 20 th century pub frontage.	
3. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED? Is the interest of the asset valued locally for any of the following reasons?	Tick / Rank

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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	y
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	y
<p>How is the asset locally valued as heritage?</p> <p>Illustration: The buildings illustrates the process of development of the suburb in the late 19th century as a residential area in which public houses played an important role as social venues and places of entertainment. It also illustrates the development of Cowley Road as the commercial and social focus of the suburb as early as the 1870s.</p> <p>Aesthetics: The architecture of the original building retains distinctive late 19th century features that contribute to the character of Cowley Road as an area of Victorian development with a distinctive architectural character.</p> <p>Communal: The public houses on Cowley Road provide an important space for people to socialise and are an important part of the social infrastructure of the suburb..</p>	

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?	y
Rarity ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	
Integrity ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	y
Group value ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	y
Oxford's identity ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	y
Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
<p>How does this contribute to its value?</p> <p>Age and Integrity: The building provides evidence of the progress of development along Cowley Road, retaining architectural features that are distinctive of the 1870s.</p> <p>Group value and Oxford's identity: The Cowley Retreat is one of a number of public houses across the East Oxford Suburb that jointly provide evidence of the historic importance of pubs to the community of East Oxford as a place for socialising and entertainment. They make an important contribution to the historic character of the East Oxford suburb as an area of predominantly working class housing.</p>	