

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Ss Mary and John's School Field, Meadow Lane



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)	y
a landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)	y

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	
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: The school playing field, located south of the building complex, preserves the outline of a field recorded on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey Map, which formed the southern tip of the medieval Long Meadow in the open fields of Cowley St John. The field boundaries of green hedgerows are likely to date from the enclosure of the fields of Cowley in 1853, if not earlier. Indeed, where they follow the Shire Lake Ditch they even mark the old boundary between Oxfordshire and Berkshire.	

3. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED? Is the interest of the asset valued locally	Tick / Rank
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for any of the following reasons?	
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	y
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>Illustration: The meadow provides a very visible illustration of the farmland of meadows into which the suburb expanded in the late 19th century and early 20th century.</p> <p>Aesthetics: This field, including its surrounding hedgerows, forms part of the green setting of the Iffley Fields Neighbourhood and provides attractive green foreground in views west from Bedford Street and Meadow Lane.</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?	
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?	
Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
How does this contribute to its value?	
<p>Age: The playing field preserves an element of the medieval meadows that ran alongside the many streams of the Rivers Thames and Cherwell over which the East Oxford Suburb was developed and, as such provides a surviving element of an early part of the landscape. The Shire Lake ditch in particular, forms an important historic landmark defining the boundary between the Counties of Oxfordshire and Berkshire that last from the 11th to the 20th century.</p> <p>Group value: This field forms part of the string of green spaces that run along the western edge of the suburb and together provide a green setting to the area.</p>	