

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Oxpens Meadow, including the sites of St Ebbe's Bathing Place and Hart's Sconce



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)	y
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)	
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	y
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>Historic interest: Oxpens Meadow was part of the historic endowment of Osney Abbey, which included meadowland in the south of Osney Island as well as areas to the south west of the city. The southern part of the meadow was an island that, according to de Gomme's map of Oxford, was fortified and named as Hart's Sconce during the Civil War in the mid 17th century. During the 19th century the island was a recreation ground for St Ebbe's suburb, with a bathing place formed by doubling the channel to the north of the island</p>	

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and controlling the water level with a weir. During the early 20th century the recreation grounds were expanded to the north, although the bathing place was filled in. The meadow has remained undeveloped and became a field in trust in 2012.

Archaeological interest: The field has remained largely undeveloped since the middle ages and retains potential for the survival of remains of the Civil War defences, as well as the mid 19th century bathing place.

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	y
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	y
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	y
How is the asset locally valued as heritage?	
Association: The field has an association with the former residential community of St Ebbe's as their communal recreation place. It also has an association with the civil war and the siege of Oxford.	
Illustration: The field illustrates the open character of land in this area of the city, next to the river which was more widespread until the development of the surrounding areas for the railways and St Ebbe's suburb in the 19 th century.	
Evidence: The meadow has the potential for survival of significant archaeological remains, particularly of Hart's Sconce, which have the potential to reveal evidence of the defence of the city during the civil war as well as the use of the meadows for recreation during the growth of the Victorian suburbs.	
Aesthetics: The meadow makes an important positive contribution to the appearance of the suburb as the last remaining area of green open space within Osney Island, with attractive views from Oxpens Road to the banks of the River Thames.	
Communal: The meadow provides an important resource for the nearby residential community, as that contributes to their association with the area and sense of identity.	

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?	y
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?	
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?	

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How does this contribute to its value?

Age: The meadow has remained as open space since the Middle Ages and therefore is regarded as an early element of the area's landscape.

Rarity: The meadow is the last surviving are of green open space with a vestigial rural character in Osney Island.

Oxford's identity: The meadow provides part of the series of green open spaces running down to the banks of the River Thames that form an important element of Oxford's historic character as the city set amidst the branching streams and backwaters of the River Thames.