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Oxford City Council LA 078921 July 2000

Scale 1:9000

Designated 25 July 1977

Extended 24 May 2000

St Clement's and Iffley Road Conservation Area, No.11

St Clement's and the Iffley Road lie immediately east of Magdalen Bridge and the River Cherwell and both streets form entrances to Oxford from the London direction.

St Clement's Street is, in origin, an extra mural suburb of Oxford stretched out along the main road to London. The old medieval Parish Church of St Clement stood where The Plain roundabout is today. The earliest surviving buildings, such as the Old Black Horse and No.27, date from the years following the 17th century Civil War. Stones' Almshouses and the Port Mahon Inn belong to the 18th century as do many of the simple flat fronted plaster houses in the street. The contribution of the early 19th century can be seen in the fashionable stucco of London Place and by the rebuilt and isolated new St Clement's Church of 1828.

Iffley Road also owes its origin to a route to London, that via Henley. Its buildings are, however, late in date and the visual character of the area relies greatly on the presence of mature tree planting. Iffley Road mixes, in the main, two architectural styles in its houses, the stuccoed, based on classical modes, and the brick gothic normally associated with North Oxford.

The character of the road also falls in to two parts. From The Plain, the west side of the road was little developed until the end of the 1980s, when the residential terrace known as Bannister Close was built, so-called after the first 4 minute miler, who achieved this performance on the nearby University running track. This development and buildings for undergraduates of Christ Church and Corpus Christi erected in the grounds of The Red House, in 1992, has changed the relationship of what was previously open treed land with the great mixture of terraced houses standing on the east side of the road.

The houses are broken at one point to allow for the setting back of Bodley's Church of St John the Evangelist (1896). Beyond Jackdaw Lane, older development occurs on both sides of the road, and shows the outward expansion of Oxford in the last quarter of the 19th century in the quiet gothic manner of H W Moore. On the south side, the road maintains its Victorian-Edwardian character down to No. 292.

The Council therefore in seeking to conserve and enhance its special character, designated the St Clement's and Iffley Road Conservation Area on 25th July 1977.