

Oxford Heritage Plan



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Oxford's heritage is one of our greatest assets. It makes a very real contribution to our quality of life and the quality of our places, providing a sense of identity and a connection to the past. It is also an important resource to be used across all areas and sectors across the city: for example, it brings in economic investment and tourism; it is an important force for tackling climate change; it is a powerful educational tool; and it improves our public health and well-being.

Oxford City Council, Oxford Preservation Trust and English Heritage are preparing a Heritage Plan for Oxford to ensure that the benefits of our heritage are fully realised and that changes to the city are guided in a way that is informed, strategic and shared by all.

What is 'heritage'?

English Heritage defines 'heritage' as "all inherited resources which people value for reasons beyond mere utility." In Oxford, our heritage includes our industrial history (think Morris Motors, BMW), our 1550 listed buildings, our arts and culture (CS Lewis, Phillip Pullman), our trees and landscapes, our archaeology and the stories people have to tell ... It is about all the interactions between people and places over time: the past, present and future.

Why do we need a Heritage Plan?

- *A strategic approach to managing our heritage and guiding change*
Considering the world-class significance of Oxford and its history, it is surprising that there is no overarching strategy or policy in place to ensure that we are making the most of our heritage. Mistakes are inevitably made and when something is lost, it is usually lost forever. A strategic approach is necessary if the resources of Oxford as a historic city are to be managed effectively.
- *What's heritage got to do with you?*
Oxford's heritage is a remarkable asset and it has a positive role to play in all areas of work across the city, from economic development, tourism and housing to climate change, education and health & well-being. An integrated approach is necessary if the full benefits of Oxford's heritage are to be used across all sectors.
- *Who makes the decisions about Oxford's heritage?*
Oxford's heritage belongs to the people who continue to make history happen – the people who use, visit, work and live in the city. Ultimately, decisions are made by elected City Councillors, but more could be done to make the decision-making process more transparent, informed and inclusive.
- *Maximising the social benefits of our heritage*
The research shows that heritage can be a powerful educational tool, promote social inclusion and encourage a sense of identity. More could be done to maximise the important social benefits of our heritage.
- *Making the most of the information available*
An incredible amount of information exists on Oxford's heritage, but it is not always available to those who are making decisions or who have a stake in a changing Oxford – a lot of that information is just sitting in people's heads! What's more, innovative studies on Oxford

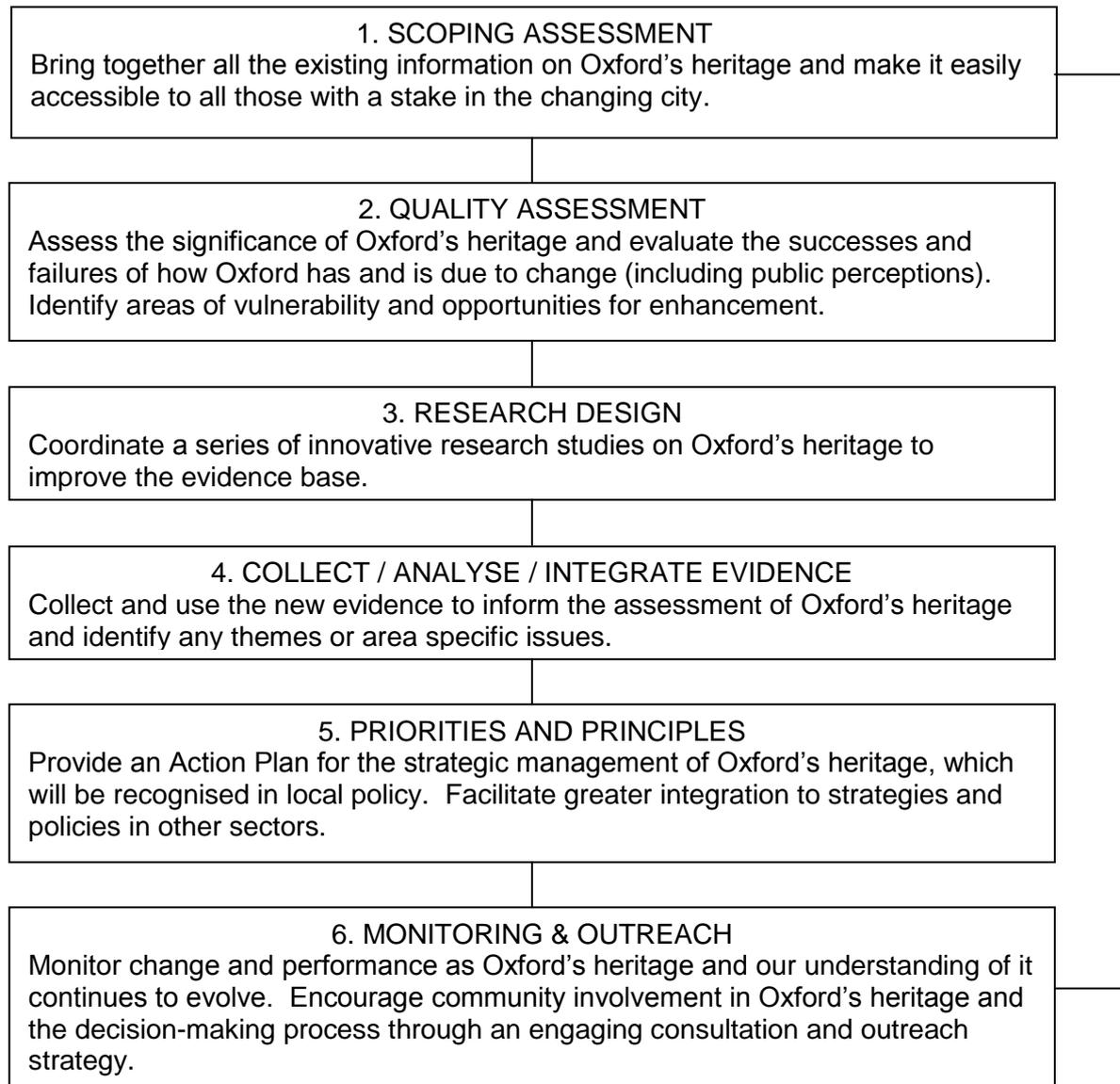
continue to take place. A strategic approach needs to be informed by a robust evidence base and that information needs to be made accessible to everyone involved, including decision-makers, developers and the community.

What will the Heritage Plan look like?

The Oxford Heritage Plan will be based on 3 key principles:

1. *providing a strategic and evidence-based approach to managing Oxford's heritage and guiding change*
2. *facilitating an integrated approach for the positive application of heritage to other areas of strategic planning*
3. *encouraging community ownership and engagement with our heritage*

The Plan will be developed through the following process:



Oxford Heritage Plan Timeline



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	2010	2011	2012	2013
Project Initiation	Project Design			
Scoping Assessment		Consultation Framework		
Quality Assessment	Oxford Heritage Statement			
	Scoping Report			
	Steering Group Consultation			
		OSP Consultation		
			Heritage Asset Managers Consultation	
Research Design	Oxford Character Appraisals			
	Character Assessment Toolkit			
	Oxford Views Study			
	Oxford Archaeological Action Plan			
	West End Historical Context Study			
		Oxford Heritage Asset Register		
			Oxford Tree Strategy	
	Collect/Analyse/integrate		Heritage Plan Website	
Priorities & Principles				Action Plan & SPD
Monitoring & Outreach				Outreach Strategy