

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

The Sheepwash Channel	
1. <b>WHAT IS IT?</b> Is it one of the following?	Tick
a <b>building or group of buildings</b>	
a <b>monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)</b>	
a <b>place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)</b>	y
a <b>landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)</b>	
2. <b>WHY IS IT INTERESTING?</b> Is it interesting in any of the following ways?	Tick / Rank
<b>Historic interest</b> – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry	y
<b>Archaeological interest</b> – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	y
<b>Architectural interest</b> – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	
<b>Artistic interest</b> – 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><b>Historic interest:</b> The Sheepwash Channel is a man-made channel that connect the River Thames and Castle Mill Stream and acts as a transit route for boats from the Oxford Canal at Isis Lock to the Thames. It was probably created for this purpose in the in around 1790 and as such would have formed part of the first inland waterway to connect London with Birmingham and beyond to Manchester and Liverpool by linking waterways.</p> <p><b>Archaeological interest:</b> The channel marks the northern limits of Rewley Abbey and will have undergone various phases of development over the past two centuries, which will have left there remains. In addition to the use of the waterway it has been crossed by various bridges of the GWR and LMS railways, including the scheduled swing bridge, which will also have left traces.</p>	
3. <b>WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED?</b> Is the interest of the asset <b>valued locally</b> for any of the following reasons?	Tick / Rank
<b>Association:</b> It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area	
<b>Illustration:</b> It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character	y
<b>Evidence:</b> It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history	y
<b>Aesthetics:</b> It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	
<b>Communal:</b> 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?	
<p><b>Illustration:</b> The channel illustrates the late 18<sup>th</sup> century development of the waterways crossing England, on which Oxford played an important role as a major inland port. The continuing importance of the waterways as a transport route into the 19<sup>th</sup> century is reflected in the design of the swingbridge, in which railway engineers were forced to accommodate the needs of those on the waterway.</p> <p><b>Evidence:</b> The banks of the channel provide potential for information its date of construction and any antecedents, including the water engineering for Rewley Abbey.</p> <p><b>Communal:</b> The waterway is used by many modern boaters and forms an important landmark in the inland waterways network as a transition between the river route of the Thames and the man made waterway of the Oxford canal. For the modern community of boat dwellers in Oxford this is like the entrance to a distinct neighbourhood of the city.</p>	

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

<b>4. WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL?</b> Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment?	Tick
<b>Age</b> ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	
<b>Rarity</b> ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	
<b>Integrity</b> ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	
<b>Group value</b> ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	
<b>Oxford's identity</b> ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	y
<b>Other</b> ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
How does this contribute to its value? <b>Oxford's identity:</b> The Sheepwash Channel provides the entrance to the Oxford canal, which played an important role in the development of West Oxford as the industrial suburb of the city in the late 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries. It continues to contribute to the identity of this part of the city as the neighbourhood most associated with the waterway dwelling community, as well as forming part of the route that visitors to Oxford by water are most likely to use and see the city by, recreating an experience that is now over two hundred years old.	