

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Oxpens Road Bridge



1. WHAT IS IT? Is it one of the following?	Tick
a building or group of buildings	y
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)	
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	
Architectural interest – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	y
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: This bridge was built in the early 1920s as part of the programme of developing a ring road around Oxford City Centre, as well as opening up the land at Oxpens for new development. However, progress of the new road eastward was delayed by the need to clear areas of housing in St Ebbe's, which did not take place until the 1960s. Architectural interest: The bridge is of ferro-concrete construction and must be one of the first in the city designed for motor traffic. its simple detailing, including the plat band to the parapet, lozenge shaped refuges, with deep chamfered arrow slits have an almost Art Deco character.	
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	
<p>How is the asset locally valued as heritage?</p> <p>Illustration: The bridge illustrates the early progress of the abandoned scheme to develop a ring road around the city centre, crossing Christ Church Meadow to reach the Plain on the other side of Magdalen Bridge (named the Christ Church Mall). Whilst the development of Oxpens Road has not otherwise retained an early 20th century character the bridge provides evidence of its date of construction.</p> <p>Aesthetic value: the bridge has been designed with ornamental detailing above the pure needs for utilitarian function and as such makes a positive contribution to the appearance of the area.</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?	y
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?	
Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
<p>How does this contribute to its value?</p> <p>Age and integrity: The bridge has maintained its historic appearance which provides evidence of its early 20th century origin, which, in turn represents a significant phase in the development of Oxpens Road as a new route that opened up this part of the suburb for new uses.</p>	