

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

### Oxford Central Mosque, Manzil Way



1. <b>WHAT IS IT?</b> Is it one of the following?	Tick
a <b>building or group of buildings</b>	y
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>	
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	
<b>Architectural interest</b> – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	y
<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> Since the mid 1950s East Oxford has served as the home of a growing south Asian community, mainly comprised of immigrants from Pakistan but also with a substantial Bangladeshi element. The first mosque in Oxford was established in Bath Street in 1968 by the Oxford Mosque Society. Since then further mosques have been established through the conversion of existing building. The Oxford Central Mosque was the first purpose built mosque in Oxford representing a considerable investment in the devotional space of part of Oxford's Muslim community, providing both an expression of faith as well as a symbol of the communal identity.</p> <p><b>Architectural Interest:</b> The Central Mosque building makes use of a number of familiar architectural forms that represent its function, including the minaret at the front, slim corner turrets with dome caps and a large central dome. The use of red, blue and buff-coloured brick</p>	

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provides detail and to the frontage, including outlining the window openings. These materials also help to unite the mosque with the surrounding housing, including the later 20<sup>th</sup> century housing at Cosins Close.

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	
<b>Aesthetics:</b> It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	y
<b>Communal:</b> It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community	y
<p>How is the asset locally valued as heritage?</p> <p><b>Illustration:</b> The mosque illustrates the development of a self-aware and confident Muslim community in East Oxford as part of the area's cultural diversity.</p> <p><b>Aesthetics:</b> The building's architectural features are designed to express its purpose and advertise its presence to a wide area, providing an image that is familiar to users. It is considered to be a successful addition to East Oxford's townscape. That makes a positive contribution to many views through the area, where the dome and minaret are often glimpsed between buildings or over rooftops.</p> <p><b>Communal:</b> The mosque provides a symbol of the identity of a large Muslim community based both within East Oxford and across the city. It provides a devotional space that is important to the religious practice of this community and for which it has been purposefully designed. It also supports the coherence and interaction of this community and a place for education.</p>	

4. <b>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?	y
<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?	
<p>How does this contribute to its value?</p> <p><b>Group value:</b> The Oxford Central Mosque is one of four mosques across east Oxford serving different groups within the Sunni Islamic tradition.</p> <p><b>Oxford's Identity:</b> The mosque is important to both the identity of its own community of worshippers and as a symbol of East Oxford's Culturally diverse and integrated community.</p>	