

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

### Roger Bannister Running Track, University Sport Complex, Iffley Road



1. <b>WHAT IS IT?</b> Is it one of the following?	Tick
a building or group of buildings	
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)	y
a landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)	
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	
<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?	
<b>Historic interest:</b> The University established a running track at Iffley Road in 1876, adjacent to Christ Church's Cricket Field and on land that had been bought by Christ Church to preserve the green outlook from the college and its meadow parkland. The running track replaced an earlier track at Marston Road that was subject to repeated flooding. In 1954 this was the location where Roger Bannister broke set the first recorded time of less than four minutes to run a mile.	
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	y

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<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	
<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? <b>Association and illustration:</b> The site provides a tangible connection with Rogert Bannister's great achievement. In the atmosphere of the 1950s, just after the suspension of post-war austerity and during the process of the British Empire dissolution the achievement by a Briton made a great contribution to national pride. The desire to provide sports facilities for scholars also provides an illustration of mid-Victorian consciousness about the physical heath of young men and its association with the moral health.	

<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 and Integrity:</b> The surface of the running track has been changed on at least two occasions since Roger Bannister made his world record breaking run. Nevertheless the running track occupies the same footprint as the one where Roger Bannister made his record breaking one and provides a connection with the event that contributes to the identity of Oxford as the city where this occurred and that has supported many athletes. The importance of the site has been commemorated through the erection of a blue plaque as well as a signboard.	