

Littlemore Conservation Area, No.17

Littlemore was identified as an area which merits protection and consideration through conservation area status in the Draft Oxford Local Plan Review, April 1992, which noted it to have an historic centre comprised of essentially two elements. The first is the predominantly rural settlement of manor house, farmhouse, barns and houses whose ages span the 15th to 18th centuries. The second is that resulting from Rev. John Henry Newman's involvement with Littlemore from the 1830s when he had built the first parish church in 1836 and converted a range of farm buildings to his "College" in the early 1840s. During the 19th century the social structure of the village was further cemented by the construction of two schools and a number of "gentlemen's houses".

There are 13 entries in the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest compiled by the Secretary of State within the conservation area. The buildings represented on the List range from the 19th century church and lychgate, the Manor House, Lawn Upton School and Lodge, The College, together with domestic dwellings and some of their high, rubble-stone boundary walls. All of these are historically and visually important building types within a village settlement. Several methods of construction and materials go to make up the variety of Littlemore's built environment. There is a mixture of rubble and ashlar stone, either natural or painted, coursed or random, sometimes with brick dressings under red tiled roofs. Brick, and painted render walls with slate roofs make an appearance, while timber framing exists in several of the older buildings. Many of the differing ages of buildings are linked as a visual entity by the presence of stone boundary walls. There are several good examples of trees on street frontages within the conservation area which act as a foil to buildings and structures.

The special character of Littlemore derives from its retention within the modern settlement of a village atmosphere and its traditional buildings surviving in much of the original street pattern with representative types of structures from several centuries that are archetypal to an evolved village settlement.