Oxford Road
Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy
A Introduction

A.1 This document identifies and appraises the special architectural and historic character of the Oxford Road Conservation Area and it also gives practical guidance on the implications of conservation area status. It is in two parts: a Conservation Area Appraisal and a Management Strategy. The Conservation Area Appraisal sets out the special interest of the conservation area whereas the Management Strategy gives specific guidance on preservation and enhancement of that special interest.

A.2 Conservation areas were introduced by the Civic Amenities Act 1967 to safeguard areas of “special architectural or historic interest.” Oxford Road Conservation Area was designated on 24th May 1989.

A.3 This document has been produced in accordance with government guidelines in PPG 15 and the English Heritage Guidance notes of August 2005. These state that local planning authorities need to define and record the special interest, character and appearance of all conservation areas in their care. The intention of this appraisal is to provide clearly defined analysis of the character and appearance of the Oxford Road Conservation Area, which is defensible on appeal, and can be utilized in development control decisions. In addition, the Management Strategy addresses issues, which have been identified in the character appraisal, for the enhancement and preservation of the conservation area. This document has been through public consultation in October and November 2007, amended accordingly and approved by the Planning and Transportation Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19th February 2008 and the Council’s Executive on 3 March 2008.

A.4 It is important to note however that no appraisal can be completely comprehensive and the omission of a particular building, feature or open space should not be taken to imply that it is of no interest.
Map 1 The boundary of Oxford Road Conservation Area
CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL
1 Summary of Special Interest

1.1 The special character of Oxford Road Conservation Area is derived principally from the variety of high quality detached, semidetached and terraced Victorian houses. Most of these benefit from front gardens of varying size which create a dense residential area with a very green appearance. Three very different Grade II listed buildings, Park Lodge, Putney Library and the Baptist Church provide an additional element of rich architectural detailing to this distinctive conservation area.

1.2 Although mainly residential, there are a mix of uses which adds to the area's vitality and richness. This includes four community buildings; Putney Library, Putney School of Art, Baptist Church and a Scout Hut. In addition to this there are a variety of small businesses housed in the arches of the District Line, which runs parallel to Oxford Road.
2 Location and Context

2.1 The conservation area runs parallel to the Putney High Street, Putney’s commercial heart. It is also connected to Putney Bridge Road to the North and the Upper Richmond to the South. Good transport links with both East Putney Underground Line and Putney Station in easy walking distance.
3 History

3.1 Evidence suggests that a Roman settlement existed at Putney around 50-395 AD. The remains of a well-rammed gravel surface indicate a Roman road parallel to and south of the existing Upper Richmond Road. From 1498 a detailed Terrier (a schedule of land ownership) lists six fields covering around 600 acres of Putney; Baston Field of some 70 acres lay on the east side of the High Street, in which most of the buildings stood at that time. By the 17th century, a number of large houses stood to the east of the High Street, including Essex House, the garden of which is situated where Sainsburys supermarket now stands.

3.2 Fairfax House, situated on the east side of Putney High Street where Werter Road now is, was built in the 1630s by Henry White, a baker and landowner. The house passed to the Pettward family who extended it and added a shell shaped canopy (which still exists, but now on a house in West Hampstead).

3.3 A much larger house existed on the site of the present Putney Station, built in 1634-36 for Sir Abraham Dawes. The railway arrived in Putney in July 1846 with the opening of the Richmond line. A small station was built to the east of Putney High Street but was replaced in 1886 by the present station, when the line was widened to four tracks. A railway line was also extended south from Putney Bridge Station in 1887.

3.4 Some twenty-five years after the opening of Putney Station development of the fields to the east of the High Street commenced. Within 8 years the rural setting of fields and orchards with a smattering of grand houses and farms was transformed into a dense residential neighbourhood. The new roads were set out on the original field boundaries and Starling Lane which is shown as a track in Johns Rocque’s 1746 map as a cart track was developed in to Oxford Road.

3.5 The Drainage Plans applications to build a significant number of houses within the Oxford Road Conservation Area were submitted between 1876 and 1884. During this period the applications for new buildings in particular streets were often submitted over a two year period and the whole area was not developed concurrently. For example, the applications for new buildings in Werter Road (originally names Cambridge Road) were submitted between 1876 and 1877, those in Disraeli Road between 1877 and 1879, Oxford Road between 1878 and 1880, Winthorpe Road between 1879 and 1880, Atney Road 1880 and 1881 and Burstock Road 1882 to 1884. Drainage Plans are available for the public to view at the local history Library in Battersea (see 13.00 for contact details).

3.6 Rockland and Winthorpe Roads were completed in 1878, the east side of the latter being demolished in 1888 to make way for the railway. Atney, Burstock and the east end of Montserrat Road were completed in 1880. The western end was only
completed in 1887 following the demolition of Fairfax House. Apart from a few villas, Upper Richmond Road was largely undeveloped in 1871. By 1894 it had been developed with houses and shop premises, many of the latter being front extensions to houses.

3.7 When analysing the names of the applicants submitting notices for the erection of new buildings in this area the name William Bishop appears frequently. Bishop applied to build new buildings in Werter Road, Disraeli Road, Oxford Road, Atney Road and submitted all the applications for new buildings in Burstock Road during this period. In August 1882 he applied to build seventeen houses, seven stables and a workshop in Burstock Road although it appears as though only fifteen of the houses were ever constructed. In 1884 he applied to erect the building that was built on the north east corner of Burstock Road and Putney Bridge Road and in the same year he also applied to build five houses on the east of Burstock Road that can be clearly seen on the map from 1896.

3.8 While William Bishop was prolific during the period he was not the only person submitting applications. Interestingly there was also a Henry Bishop who submitted a number of plans for new houses in Oxford Road, including the private villa that was constructed on the southwest corner of the junction between Oxford and Werter Roads. It is not clear what the relationship between William and Henry Bishop was or even if there was a familial connection at all.

3.9 Another family connection possibly existed between John and William Knight. John Knight submitted the application to build 113 Disraeli Road in 1878 and made a further application for another three houses in Disraeli Road a year later. William Knight applied to erect two buildings in Werter Road in 1876 but again the connection, if one exists, between the two is unclear. The development of Winthorpe Road appears to have been exclusively coordinated by a company called Robert Harris or Aries (name not clear) & Co who were based at Baltic Wharf in Putney. The company had earlier applied to build a house on the north side of Disraeli Road in 1876 before submitting applications for the development of Winthorpe Road between October 1879 and November 1880. The application submitted in November 1880 was for 32 new houses although many of these were demolished in 1888 to make way for the District Line extension from Fulham to Wimbledon.

3.10 The men who submitted applications were often from the local area. William Bishop had a number of different local addresses that he put on his application forms such as Park Lodge in Wandsworth Lane and Aberdare Villas in Oxford Road. Henry Bishop had an address in the High Street as did William Knight while John Knight lived at Forest Lodge in Disraeli Road. One exception was Charles Broom who applied to build five houses on the south side of Disraeli Road in April 1879 and had an address in Shepherds Bush. The architect John W. Wallis, who was based in Holborn, submitted the application for the Art School at the corner of Oxford and Disraeli Roads in 1894.
However, the applications to build numbers 29 and 31 and numbers 23 and 25 in Oxford Road in 1899 and 1901 respectively were submitted by W.I. Ireland who put his address as 34 Quarry Road in Wandsworth.
4 Spatial Analysis & Green Elements

4.1 Despite its very close proximity to Putney town centre the still retains an atmosphere of a quiet residential area. The well articulated terrace housing has retained many original railings. The townscape is compact and where replacement refills have been developed the building line has been observed.

4.2 The east boundary of the conservation area is formed by the District line which consists of an attractive red, black, white and yellow bridge with workshops and warehouses in the arches in Winthorpe Road. The boundary to the west is formed by the backs of the buildings on Putney High Street. Some of these buildings have a negative effect on the aesthetic quality of the conservation area. The north boundary is formed by Putney Bridge Road this includes single storey alms houses and the detached Park Lodge, which are the oldest buildings in the conservation area. The south boundary is formed by the terrace of shops and restaurants on the Upper Richmond Road.

4.3 Front gardens and street trees provide an important green element to this conservation area. There are generous front gardens especially along Oxford Road.
5 Buildings and Materials

Putney Bridge Road

5.1 Putney Bridge Road consists of Park Lodge and twelve almshouses. These were built in 1861 provided by Sir Abraham Dawes. The red brick single storey buildings have attractive projecting stone porches.

Werter Road

5.2 Werter Road is characterised by mainly two storey Victorian Gothic buildings arranged in semi-detached pairs. A number of variations occur within the group. Some have single storey canted bays, others square bays. Some are of red brick construction, others yellow stock brick. Architectural features are mainly confined to detailing around doors and windows. The oldest surviving structure in the area is the boundary wall to the garden of Fairfax House which is of 16th century origin, but unlisted, to the rear of Montserrat/Werter Roads.

Disraeli Road

5.3 The buildings in Disraeli Road are generally two or three storeys, of brick construction with natural slate roof. Nos.9-21 are gault brick construction with canted bays to ground floor and basement. Decorative mouldings to front porches add visual definition to entrances. Nos.6-24 are two storeys with basement, more subdued in appearance, but nevertheless have attractive details to the porches and fleur-de-lis finials to railings on front boundaries.

5.4 The four buildings to the east of the railway bridge date from the later Victorian period, are of a different style than those to the west and architecturally and historically are linked with the development of Wadham Road. The most impressive building is Newnes Public Library (Grade II listed) with a contemporary style extension added in 1998.

Montserrat Road, Burstock Road & Atney Road

5.5 Montserrat Road is characterised by mainly two and three storey buildings of two types. The two storey buildings have projecting square bay windows with gabled roof. They are red brick with rendering to bays and decorative scrollwork to panels below first floor windows. Some properties have attic windows to gabled roof crowned with decorative triangular pediments. Upper portions of sash windows are subdivided into a number of smaller lights. The three storey buildings are of red brick construction with ground and first floor bays, and round headed windows to third floor. This latter type of building is also represented in Burstock and Atney Roads. A number of these buildings have been lost and replaced by rather unprepossessing blocks of flats.
5.6 Oxford Road also contains this type of building (no.2-24) but here they are three storeys with basement and have stepped accesses to front entrances. Opposite are two storey detached villas of gault brick with red dressings. Nos.15-21 form a group of detached Gothic villas of two storeys and constructed of yellow London stock brick. Each has canted bays to ground floor and basement and projecting porch with Doric columns to central front door reached by steps. Nos.23-25 are a pair of Edwardian properties infilled between adjoining properties and are of two storey, red brick construction and set back from the prevailing building line.

5.7 No.27 (Doune Lodge) is a Gothic villa of yellow brick construction with red dressings. The Gothic arch with red brick 'bowtell' mouldings is of architectural interest. Nos.29-31 are a pair of Victorian red brick properties with projecting porch and balcony above. Nos.33,37,39 and 44 are examples of detached two storey villas with ground floor canted bays and classical doorcase. Abutting no.33 a later building, inspired by Voysey’s work, has been built. It is a two storey building with gabled frontage finished in roughcast. The first floor contains a triple casement window and the ground floor a quintuple window.

5.8 On the west side nos.36-40 form a group of three storey buildings with basement. They are of red brick construction with rendered string courses and triangular pediments to doorcases. A three storey canted bay gives articulation to the facade. No.34 is similar, of gault brick construction with decorative panels below first floor windows to bay. Adjoining to the north is a rather bland three storey red brick block of flats built around the 1950’s.

**Oxford Road & Winthorpe Road**

5.9 On three of the corners on the junction of Disraeli Road and Oxford Road, it looks as if a fourth house should be where the Putney School of Art now sits but it was never built.

![Picture 6 One of three at the corner of Disraeli Road and Oxford Road](image)

![Picture 7 Impressive white bargeboards in Winthorpe Road](image)
Putney School of Art was founded in 1895 in a purpose-built building at the corner of Oxford and Disraeli Roads. Winthorpe Road is characterised by three storey gable fronted Victorian buildings in gault brick, arranged in pairs. They include canted bays and projecting porch supported by Corinthian columns. Decorative incised scrollwork adorns window heads and porch. Decorative bargeboards add to the visual interest.

Rockland Road & Upper Richmond Road

Rockland Road comprises two storey buildings with two storey canted bays and constructed of red brick with stone dressings. Upper Richmond Road comprises a number of Victorian houses with early shopfront additions. They are three storey, originally arranged in semi-detached pairs, although some infilling has taken place. A number of shopfronts have retained some of their original architectural features such as corbels, pilasters and cornices and cast iron railings to roof. The buildings have triple windows to first and second floors with triangular pediments to first floor. West of Oxford Road junction the buildings terminate in a parapet and cornice, whereas to the east they have a visible pitched roof with decorative eaves cornice.
6 Listed Buildings

Park Lodge
Putney Bridge Road, Grade II

6.1 Park Lodge dates from the late 17th century or early 18th century and was substantially extended to in 1871. The oldest part of the house fronts onto Putney Bridge Road and the later extension fronts on to Atney Road. The oldest part of the house represents a surviving example of a timber and brick building. It is constructed in red and brown brick using an interesting mix of bonds that includes Flemish and English Cross. It has been painted but much the paint has rubbed off revealing areas of the original brick work. Elevationally, the building is of mid 19th century appearance with Tudor arched heads to windows. It has a mainly tiled roof except to northern slope of later 18th century block which is slated.

Baptist Church
Werter Road, Grade II

6.2 The Baptist Chapel is in yellow stock brick with rich stone dressings in a Romanesque style. It is symmetrical with massive two-light central round-headed window below heavy gable. The side bays give solidity to the appearance and terminate in complex towers with single lancet window. The front boundary retains heavy cast iron railings.
Putney Library
5-7 Disraeli Road, Grade II

6.3 Formerly Newnes Public Library. Francis J Smith at the expense of Sir George Newnes built the library in 1899. It is a three storey building constructed of red brick with extensive stone dressings. The whole is representative of the eclectic Jacobean style inspired by the celebrated Arts and Crafts architect Norman Shaw. It has a central eight-light window with stone mullions, with six-light windows on each side. The double door entrance is surrounded by an Ionic stone porch with a bearing balcony above with ‘Newnes Public Library’ inscribed in raised lettering.

6.4 The entrance doors lead to a long corridor with vaulted domed plaster roof, this leads to what was originally the reading room. This room is now part of the main library, which includes an open timber truss roof of six bays with dormers. In 1977 an extension was built to house a Children’s Library and Music Library. In May 1986 Wandsworth Museum opened in the old committee rooms and the upper floors.

6.5 When the Museum moved to the Old Court House in Garrett Lane in 1996, plans were made to demolish the 1977 extension and build a new Library extension. This extension, built in 1998, is now the public part of the library, allowing most of the original library, with the exception of most of the ground floor, to be used for offices and storage. It has been built using a simple modern design using stone and large glass walls.
7 Locally Listed Buildings

7.1 The Council holds a list of buildings that are of architectural or historical interest at a local level. These are different from buildings that are listed by English Heritage and the Government for which consent is required for alteration. There are no additional planning controls over locally listed buildings other than those that already apply to the building. However, the list is a record of some of the historic buildings in the borough that are of particular interest.

7.2 The following buildings in this conservation area are locally listed:

- 1-10 Winthorpe Road

7.3 The following buildings have been proposed for local listing:

- Montserrat Road: the wall to the former Fairfax House
- 21-23 Winthorpe Road
1 Introduction

1.1 The Council has a duty under section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas.

1.2 The issues raised during the public consultation are listed below. This document aims to address these issues by aiding the understanding of the important features of the conservation area through the information given in the character appraisal. Under the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 the Council must consider the preservation or enhancement of a conservation area's special architectural or historic interest when determining planning applications.

1.3 Items of particular concern in this conservation area are:

- Quality of shopfronts
- Cluttered street signage
- Roof extensions
- Installation of hardstandings
- Loss of original windows
- Satellite dishes

1.4 Boundary extensions. During the public consultation it was suggested that the conservation area could be extended. This will be considered by officers as resources allow.

Enhancement

1.5 Residents and businesses can help look after the character of the conservation area to make it a more attractive place.

Repair original features

1.6 Whenever possible repair original features such as timber windows and doors rather than replace them. It is possible to replace rotten components, draught-proof or install secondary glazing at a fraction of the price of replacing original windows. Repair work does not require planning permission.

Reinstate original features

1.7 Lost features such as front doors, boundary walls, sash windows, tile paths all contribute to the character of the area and can easily be reinstated, sometimes with the help of our conservation and enhancement grants.
Remove paint, pebbledash and stone cladding from brickwork

1.8  2.3 Where individual houses in a terrace have had their brickwork painted or covered in pebbledash or other coverings, the result is seriously damaging to the appearance of the terrace as a whole. Removing these elements and reinstating the original appearance improves the conservation area enormously.

Maintaining front boundaries

1.9  Maintaining a good front boundary has a very positive effect on special character of the conservation area. Original front boundary treatment are in abundance in this conservation area.

Conservation and Enhancement Grants

1.10  The council offers grant assistance to help with the cost of certain enhancement work, particularly with the restoration of original features. The council can also offer advice and give details of specialist contractors. Painted brickwork can now easily be cleaned and even render and pebbledash can be removed from brick elevations. Grants will only be given for works that faithfully replicate the original design. Contact the Conservation and Design Group for further information.
2. What works require consent?

2.1 Additional planning controls exist within conservation areas and this section explains what works will require consent. Most ‘material alterations’ to buildings that are not houses require planning permission. Some works to houses will require permission from the Council. For further information on these or any other planning matter please contact us using the contact details given at the end of this document.

Works to maisonettes, flat blocks and houses converted to flats:

2.2 These buildings do not benefit from permitted development rights and therefore most external alterations will require planning permission, including:

- Changing windows and front doors
- Reroofing and altering chimneys
- Cladding or rendering external walls
- Laying out a hard surface in the front garden
- Altering boundary treatments

Works to houses that require planning permission in the conservation area:

2.3 This list is intended as a guide and is not exhaustive. Works not mentioned here may nonetheless require planning permission and you are therefore advised to check with the planning service at an early stage to avoid delays to your project or even enforcement action.

2.4 You may also apply to the Council for a Certificate of Lawful Development which will confirm that planning permission is not required.

2.5 The following works require planning permission:

- Any roof extension
- Any side extension
- Any extension to the front of a house
- All rear extensions over one storey and beyond the rear wall of the original house
- Cladding a house in stone, artificial stone, pebbledash, render, timber, plastic or tiles
- Installation, alteration or replacement of a chimney, flue, soil or vent pipe to an elevation fronting a highway or to a side elevation
- Installation, alteration or replacement of an antennae or satellite dish on a part of the house that is visible from a highway
- Garden buildings, enclosures or pools built in the front garden or within 2 metres of a boundary or over 2.5 metres high or takes up over 50% of the curtilage
- Hard surfaces in front gardens, unless they are less than 5 square metres or are porous or water runs off into a porous area
Boundary treatments (fence, wall, railings, etc) over 1 metre adjacent to a highway or 2 metre elsewhere.

- Air source heat pumps
- Wind turbines

Works to commercial buildings

2.6 Buildings that are not houses do not benefit from householder permitted development rights. This means that most external alterations will require planning permission. As an example, some common alterations requiring planning permission are given below:

- Any alteration or extension to a building including roof extensions and windows, where a material alteration is involved.
- All changes to shopfronts require planning permission. This includes any external security shutters.
- Advertisements to shopfronts may require planning permission depending on size. All illuminated advertisements will require consent.

Conservation area consent is required to:

- Demolish a building or substantial part of a building in a conservation area as well as to demolish boundary treatment (eg fence, wall, railings, etc) that is over 1m adjacent to a highway or over 2m elsewhere.

Works to trees

- All trees in conservation areas are protected and the Council must be notified of any works, including pruning and felling.
- The notification procedure applies to trees which are subject to tree preservation orders.

Further information can be found at

www.planningportal.gov.uk

or contact Wandsworth's Planning Service on 020 8871 6636

or the Conservation & Design Group on 020 8871 6612 or 6646
3 How to make a planning application

3.1 This is a brief guide to applying for planning permission. Planning officers are available to answer simple queries between 9.00 - 5.00 at the One-Stop counter on the 5th floor of the Town Hall Annexe on Wandsworth High Street.

Application forms

3.2 All application forms are available on the webpage given below or on request from the planning service (see Contacts at the end).

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/EnvironmentandTransport/PlanningService/Planningapplications/plappforms.htm

Making your application

3.3 For all but the simplest alterations, you are advised to appoint a qualified architect with experience and understanding of conservation issues.

3.4 To apply for planning permission you must the correct application form (often the householder application form alone) and submit scale drawings showing the existing and the proposed. Each application form gives guidance on what basic plans are required. For applications to replace doors or windows, it is possible to include a photograph to show the existing, but the drawing for the proposed must be to scale of 1:50. It must show how the window will open and close this is best shown in a cross section.

3.5 All applications for works in conservation areas should be accompanied by a Design & Access Statement which should set out the process by which your development or alterations have been designed and how they conserve the special interest of your property and the area. Guidance is available on our website.

Planning policy

3.6 All applications are determined in accordance with Council policy as set out in our Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and emerging Local Development Framework (LDF). The character appraisal and guidance given in this document will also be taken into consideration when determining applications. The overarching policy set by the Government is that development or alterations should preserve or enhance the special architectural or historic interest of the conservation area. The UDP and LDF are available on our website:

3.7 www.wandsworth.gov.uk/Home/EnvironmentandTransport/PlanningService/DevelopmentPlan/default.htm

Wandsworth Conservation & Design Group
Pre-application advice

3.8 We welcome and encourage discussions before you submit your application. Simple enquiries can be dealt with by telephone or at the One Stop counter, but it is likely that to discuss extensions and significant changes to a property, officers will need to see photographs and sketches. A pre-application meeting may be granted following the receipt of photographs and sketches if the matter cannot be adequately dealt with over the telephone.

How long does it take?

3.9 It takes eight weeks to process most planning applications. If the correct information is not provided the application cannot be validated and your agent or you, the applicant, will be notified of this within 10 days. The 8 week period only starts when the application has been validated.

3.10 When the application is received it is allocated to a planning officer who will be your case officer and main contact. You, the applicant, or your agent can contact your case officer at anytime. If you have an agent, correspondence will be automatically conducted with the agent unless otherwise requested. The case officer will be responsible for consultation on the application which includes consulting neighbours and liaising with the Conservation and Design Group.

Building control

3.11 Approval under the Building Regulations is a separate requirement and you should check with Building Control if this is required before carrying out your works. See Contacts at the end.
4 Further Information

Council Guidance

4.1 The following supplementary planning guidance has been produced by the Council and is available on our website www.wandsworth.gov.uk

- Do it in Style – a guide to the care, repair and adaptation of your home.
- Making More of your Loft – design guidance on converting your loft
- What is a Conservation Area? – information on Conservation Areas in general
- Tree Strategy for the Borough – the action plan for trees in the borough
- Shop front design guide – design guidance on shopfronts

Government Guidance

4.2 The following guidance has been published by central government and is available from www.planningportal.gov.uk


Further reading

- Period House – How to Repair and Restore Your Home (English Heritage, Collins) 2005
5 Contact List

Wandsworth Council
Technical Services Department
Town Hall Extension
Wandsworth High Street
London
SW18 2PU

Development Control (020) 8871 6636
Conservation and Design (020) 8871 6612 or 6646
Enforcement (020) 8871 8418
Building Regulations (020) 8871 7620
Website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning
Email: boroughplanner@wandsworth.gov.uk
This document was approved by the council’s executive on 3 March 2008. Further copies are available from:
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning/conservation