



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
OF
TEMPLE COWLEY SWIMMING POOL,
TEMPLE ROAD, TEMPLE COWLEY,
OXFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SP 5439 0437

On behalf of

Oxford City Council

January 2014

REPORT FOR Oxford City Council
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SUMMARY

The accompanying report was requested by Oxford City Council, from John Moore Heritage Services, on the Temple Cowley Swimming Pool. The report has been produced in the framework of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The report aims to provide a professional assessment of the background heritage of the Swimming Pool site. The report conforms to standards laid out by the archaeological professional body the Institute for Archaeologists. The report has been compiled from information obtained from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), and the Oxfordshire History Centre (OHC). No previous archaeological work has been carried out at the proposal site so the report relies on predictive modelling derived from information from OCC and OHC.

The Temple Cowley Swimming Baths are located in Temple Cowley, in what is now East Oxford. The site is bounded by the Temple Road, the Library, the Unitarian Church, school grounds and a private yard. The ground slopes gently to the west, and the underlying bedrock is the Beckley Sand Member.

The building is located on the edge of a disparate conservation area, which contains the sites of a number of historically important sites. The oldest surviving buildings in this area occupy the east side of Temple Road. Traditionally it is claimed that the library and pool occupy the location of medieval fishponds, and ponds are marked on the Inclosure and Tithe maps.

Temple Cowley lay in the historic parish of Church Cowley, of which the earliest references date back to 1004 when the land was held by the canons of Saint Frideswide. The name Cowley is considered to have an etymology of Cufa's wood or clearing, with Temple being derived from the Templars that had obtained control of the manor from Miles Crispin.

Little documentary information survives but it is known that a precinct was established on the site in 1139. The Templars assarted land, had a chapel, and had barns and a byre. When the order was suppressed in 1308 the estate passed to the Hospitallers and then to Cardinal College, and subsequently to the king.

*The Evidential and Historical value of the site as a whole is considered high due to the presence of a known Templar precinct and its associated historical connections, although the site's Aesthetic and Communal values are low. This precinct would likely have consisted of a central core with halls and chapel, and that there would have been surrounding enclosures with the outer precinct walls constructed as running between buildings. Outlying features included fish ponds and mills. It is probable that remains of these structures survive as below ground archaeological features and would be of **Regional** or **National significance** depending on preservation. There is a lower potential for earlier archaeological remains to be present in the area, but if present would most likely constitute **Local** or perhaps **Regional significance**. A number of place-names in the parish may also refer to the presence of archaeological sites.*

*The pool itself was initially constructed in 1938 and altered mainly in the 1950s and 1980s. The building itself is of little merit architecturally, with low Evidential, Aesthetic and Historical value, although a moderate to high Communal value does indicate it is of **Local significance***

This high Communal value would recommend its retention in present form and operation. However, if this is not an option the high Evidential and Historical value of the site as a whole, coupled with the potential high significance of any surviving features would recommend a programme of archaeological work prior to and possibly during development.

1 Introduction

Origins of the Report

John Moore Heritage Services has been asked by Oxford City Council to assess the potential of the Swimming Pool at Temple Cowley in Oxford (Fig. 1) as a heritage asset, before consent is given for the proposal to demolish the existing building. The proposed buildings to replace these will include new dwellings. The report has been prepared and is intended to inform any proposal under consideration within the defined area.

Planning Guidelines and Policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Heritage Assessment Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the heritage impact assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site. This follows the Government guidance in *NPPF* (2012) by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historical data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process.

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2008). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

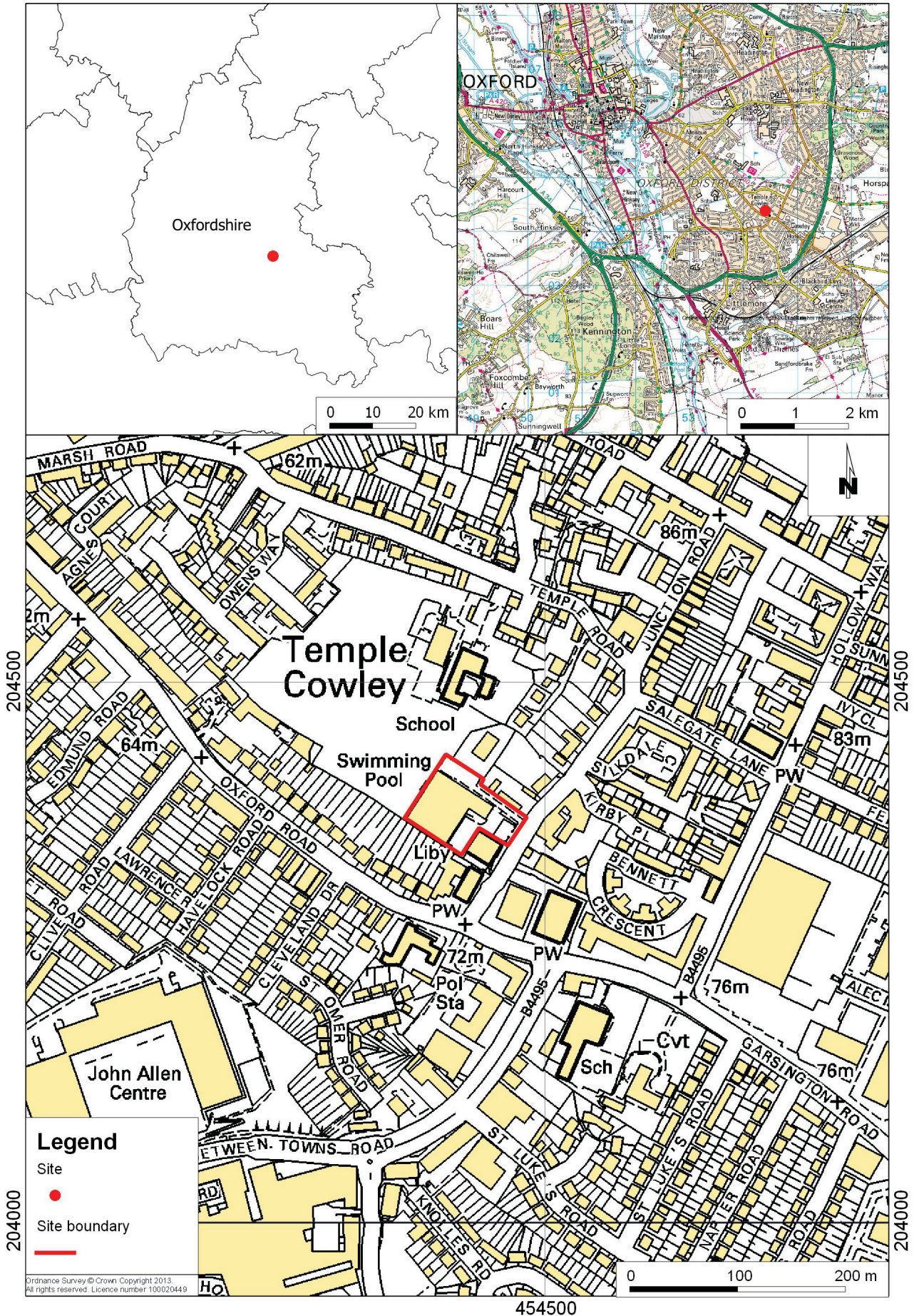


Figure 1. Site location

The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the desk-based assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and also an assessment of the impact on the historical character of the area. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

Heritage Assessment Methodology

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a site walkover. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA 2008).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives
- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Oxfordshire County Historic Environment Record
- The Oxfordshire History Centre

The Oxfordshire County Historic Environment Record holds details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposal site.

There has been no archaeological work carried out at the proposal site. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within 500 metres of the centre of the site (from a central grid reference of SP 5439 0437, shown on figure 1). The information about standing historical and listed buildings within the same radius of the proposal area has also been collated.

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, archaeological investigations, standing buildings and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance and investigation. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record belongs to Oxfordshire County Council.

Assessment of Cultural Heritage Value

The heritage values of the site will be assessed using English Heritage (2008) Guidelines, which state that people “value a place for many reasons beyond utility or personal association: for its distinctive architecture or landscape, the story it can tell about its past, its connection with notable people or events, its landform, flora and fauna, because they find it beautiful or inspiring, or for its role as a focus of a community”. These values can be summarised as:

- Evidential value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.
- Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

2 The Site

Location

Temple Cowley Swimming Pool and Health Centre is located in East Oxford (SP 5439 0437). It has been part of the city since the mid-20th century. Prior to this Temple Cowley was a large hamlet in the historic parish of Church Cowley or Cowley, which was probably created in the 11th century when it was taken from the larger parochia of Saint Frideswide’s, Oxford. Historically it was located in the Hundred of Bullingdon and in the historic County of Oxford.

Description

The Temple Cowley Swimming Pool is located on a side road or drive of Temple Road in Temple Cowley. In front of the building (southeast side) there is an area of car parking spaces, which are partly allocated to the swimming pool and others to the Temple Cowley Library. The Temple Cowley Library is also located between the Temple Road and the Swimming Pool. On the opposite side of Temple Road are a mixture of official buildings, for example the Oxford History Centre, housed in Saint Luke's Church of about 1937, a medical practice, and also dwellings some of which are of historical and cultural importance. One of these dwellings is a thatched cottage probably of the 17th century. To the southwest of the Swimming Pool, the adjacent plot is occupied by the Unitarian Church, which has dwellings to the rear. Part of the boundary between them contains limestone walling. On the northeast side of the Swimming Pool is Saint Christopher's School Sports Ground. On the northwest side of the proposal site is a limestone walled enclosure with a pair of stone cottages with low pitched slate roofs, which at a glance appear late 18th century or early to mid-19th century.

Topography and Geology

Topographically the Swimming Pool at Temple Cowley, and the old village centre of Temple Cowley is located on a gentle northwest facing slope on the east side of the Boundary Brook valley. The site lies between 70m and 73m above ordnance datum.

The underlying geology is Beckley Sand Member containing sandstone and other sedimentary bedrocks formed 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic period (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3 History and Archaeology

History

Temple Cowley lay in the historic parish of Church Cowley (VCH 1957, 76-96). The earliest documented history concerning either Cowley is in 1004 when the canons of Saint Frideswide's held land in Temple Cowley that was apparently attached to their court of Bruggeset (located near The Plain). The bounds of Cowley at this time were 3 hides and it was part of the 4 hides attached to Bruggesetland. Much of this land seems to have been lost relatively early as in 1122; in the foundation charter of the Priory only ½ hide is mentioned. When the priory was suppressed in 1524 the land passed to Cardinal College, then the King, and in 1532 had passed to Christ Church. The early ties here are probably associated with the early minster holdings of Saint Frideswide, and were indicative of Cowley being part of this early medieval larger parochia.

The earliest recording of the name Cowley occurred in 1004 as *Couelea* (Gelling 1953, 27-8). The name has been attributed the etymology of *Cufa*'s wood or clearing. The name of the hamlet *Temple Couele* was first documented *c.* 1200, and is derived from the name of the Knights Templars.

In 1086 the main manor of Church Cowley was held by Roger d'Ivry of Bishop Odo of Bayeux (Morris 1978, 7.9) and contained 2 hides and 1/3 of a virgate. The estate contained 4 smallholders and 2 slaves. After 1127 the estate was given to the church of Saint George in Oxford Castle (VCH 1957, 76-96), and at sometime during the Middle Ages the 2 hides at Cowley passed to the abbot of Osney. The church at Church Cowley was granted to Osney Abbey in 1149 by Henry d'Oilly, which was the case until the Dissolution when the advowson was given to Christ Church.

There were other manorial holdings in Cowley of which two can be identified that eventually formed the 13th century Templar estate (VCH 1957, 76-96). The first of these manors that can be noted was in 1086 being held by Robert d'Ivry of Count Eustace, and he from the king, and contained 3 hides in the fee of Boulogne. The manor contained 6 villagers and 3 slaves, and a mill. In 1139, as land held from the ruling family, this holding had come to Maud/Matilda and she gave this land to the Templars (VCH 1957, 76-96).

The other estate which became part of the Templar holdings was in 1086 a manor of 1 ½ hides and 1/3 virgate held by Toli as part of the honour of Wallingford from Miles Crispin (Morris 1978, 35.13). There were 2 villagers, 2 smallholders, and 1 slave. In 1166 this manor was held by the Chauseys of Mapledurham (VCH 1957, 76-96). Richard Gupil in 1238 sued the Templars for a hide of land in Cowley. A concorde was made in 1247 over the holding of the estate, which included a payment to the Chissebeche family and scutage to the Chausey family. The 1 ½ hide manor was accounted as part of the honour of Wallingford in 1255.

The remaining Cowley manor was held by an official of the king and contained 4 ½ hides (Morris 1978, 58.25). This estate is the largest of the manors with 20 villagers, 5 smallholders, a mill, 2 fisheries, and with one of the hides described as warland.

Little is known historically of the Templars in general in this country and even less about the archaeology of many of their sites. One exception is the site at South Witham in Lincolnshire, which has received an extensive excavation (Mayes 2002, 4-6). The site consisted of three phases, for which Phase 1 was dated 1185-1220/40, Phase 2 was dated 1220/40 to the late 13th century, and the last Phase 3 was late 13th century to 1313-38. The early development of Phase 1 was a modest affair with the first hall being constructed, with rooms adjacent to the hall, a watermill (mill and dam), of which the dam was a large stone bank (Mayes 2002, 7-15). Phase 2 was the critical phase in that it saw a total revamp of the preceptor site (Mayes 2002, 16-51). This saw the construction of a great hall 15.25m x 7.6m, a lesser hall 18.6m x 6.7m and a chapel. These were all adjacent to each other with the two halls forming part of a roughly square enclosure around the chapel. Also attached to the great hall was a further rectangular enclosure that contained a kitchen with massive ovens and a brewhouse come dairy with significant hearths. On the other two sides of the great hall were constructed five barns, one aisled and measuring 26m x 10.6m, the second measuring 13.4m x 8.8m, a third measuring 13.4 x 7m, and a fourth aisled barn 26m x 9.6m and the last barn, also aisled, measuring 28.5m x 11.3m. Along with a workshop and a main eastern gate these formed part of a large L-shaped enclosure. There were other less elaborate gates around the enclosure. What is interesting about the precinct boundary is that it did not form a perfect shape with regular boundary walls in which the buildings were constructed, but that the boundary walls were constructed

irregularly between these buildings. Outside of this area were fish ponds (Mayes 2002, 4-6). Phase 3 saw final modifications to a well and a postern gate ((Mayes 2002, 52-54). Though this is not Temple Cowley the excavations may provide us with an understanding of how the Oxford precinct was constructed and would have looked. What it also implies is that most of the Templar buildings would be expected to have been located in the precinct around the manor house. This discussion will be returned to later.

A number of components were noted historically of the Templar precinct and estate that was established in Temple Cowley (VCH 1957, 76-96). The preceptory and a chapel were established 1139 (VCH 1907, 106-7). In 1185 there was reference to the Templars having tenements with rent and work (VCH 1957, 76-96). In the same year there is reference to William being a tenant miller at Temple Mill. The Temple Mill was located on the Cherwell, some way from the Temple Preceptory, and lay to the south of East (later Magdalene) Bridge. In the 12th and 13th centuries the Templars are known to have assarted land between Temple Cowley and Shotover Forest; some 40 acres were noted by 1189. This may be a reference to the New Sheep Pen located on Bullington Green, which is mentioned in the early 13th century. In 1512 a sheephouse and shepherd's cottage are noted on the west side of Temple Street, which was near the Templar Preceptory. There was a chapel at the Templars Preceptory that was dedicated after 1139. The chapel was still there in 1519-20 when the tenants of Sandford Commandery had to provide a priest. In the 13th century the Templars are known to have had barns and byres in Church Cowley, which were located just north of the church.

The Templars were suppressed in 1308, when their land became held by Queen Margaret, which then passed to the Hospitallers (VCH 1957, 76-96). In 1528 the Hospitallers granted the manor in fee farm to Cardinal's College and from there it passed to the king.

A number of minor place-names in Cowley parish appear to refer to specific archaeological sites. Bury Lane, recorded as Bery hedge in the 16th century, uses the term burh (Gelling 1953, 28). This implies a fortification of either an Iron Age or medieval date. The form Berrie wall occurs in 1605. A further name is Lower Durvall, which is derived from Derefolde c 1210, and refers to a deer enclosure or park (Gelling 1953, 28-9). Hollow Way is a road name adjacent to the conservation area, if not the site, and was recorded first c 1220. It presumably refers to a sunken and ancient road way. Pound Lane refers to the location of a communal animal enclosure for stray beasts (Gelling 1953, 29). Sale Gate Lane, in the northern part of the conservation area was recorded as *sare yate* in the 16th century (Gelling 1953, 29) and presumably is a gated road or more likely a specific gate into one of the walled enclosures. The consonants l, n, and r all became confused in the 12th century and it is possible that *sare* and *sale* were derived from the same source as sally port or sally gate, a defensive term, for a gate in a defended enclosure. Though the fortified preceptory may not be considered a significant fortification, the name may have arisen from use by a military order, and simply refer to the back gate of the precinct through which one could slip unseen. Therslande, recorded c. 1210, has been attributed to byrs, giant (Gelling 1953, 30).

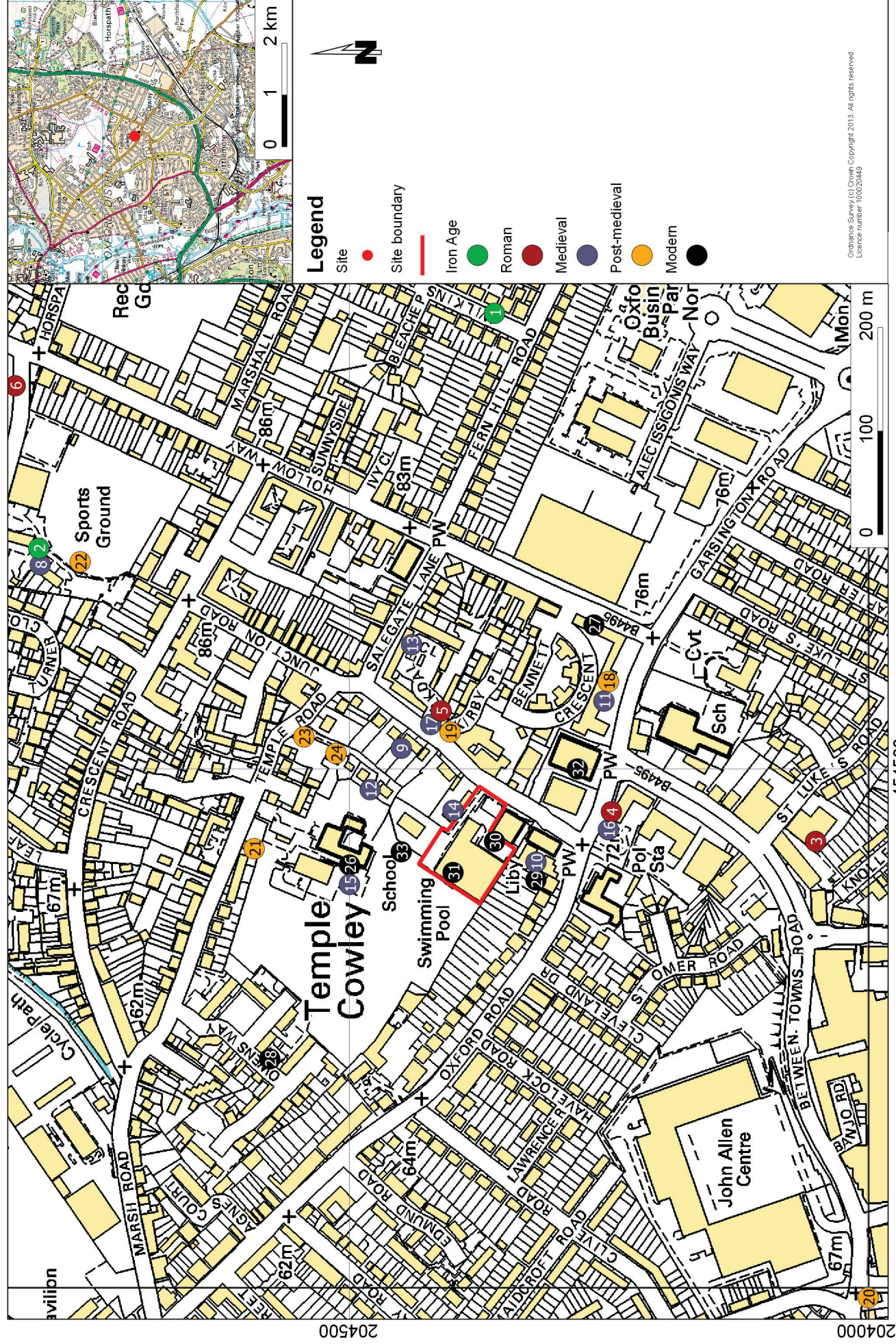


Figure 2. Historic Environment Record Sites

However, we should not overlook the fact that this word is probably a folk corruption of Thor, and that in the case of Grimstock in Warwickshire the name of an Old English god was applied directly to the location of a Roman period shrine (Gelling in Magilton 2006).

The growth of Cowley can be seen from 1086 when estimates suggest that there were 47 tenants of which 33 lived in Church Cowley (VCH 1957, 76-96). In 1279 the Hundred Rolls indicate that there are 94 tenants. The Poll Tax of 1377 indicated that there are 63 tax payers. In 1676 there are 195 inhabitants and in 1801 345.

The Temple Cowley Swimming Pool was initially opened in 1938 and was rebuilt in 1985-6 (Hibbert 1988, 450). The complex has three swimming pools, a sauna suite, lounge, fitness room, and a large multipurpose room.

Archaeological Assessment (Figure 2; Appendix A)

An Iron Age coin, with a plain obverse side and a horse with wheel below on the other, has been recovered from the Cowley area (**JMHS 1**, PRN 3838-MOX6266: SP 5494 0436). A quarry of an Iron Age date has been claimed in Barracks Lane (**JMHS 2**, PRN 26145-MOX23545: SP 547 048).

Roman pottery kiln and occupation site of the 1st to 4th century in Town's Road and Saint Luke's Road (**JMHS 3**, PRN 3817-MOX6250: SP 5443 0405). The site was identified in 1934, with excavations 1939-40, 1972 and 1983. Roman sherds of the 3rd-4th century were found in a pit at the Police Station on the Cowley Road (**JMHS 4**, PRN 14409-MOX6253: SP 5445 0425). At 77 Temple Cowley Road a Roman kiln was uncovered (**JMHS 5**, PRN 15947-MOX6255: SP 5454 0441). A Roman inhumation was recovered from Cowley Barracks Quarry in Quarry Lane (**JMHS 6**, PRN 3818-MOX6267: SP 5487 0483).

A Weye is referred to in an Anglo-Saxon charter for Cowley, thus indicating that a Drove Road or Ridgeway went through the area (**JMHS 7**, PRN 8865-MOX10040). This may have run from Oxford to Stokenchurch. Early medieval limestone quarrying has been identified in Barracks Lane (**JMHS 8**, PRN 26145-MOX23545: SP 547 048).

The site of a medieval Templar Preceptory was located at Temple Cowley, probably in the roughly quadrilateral shape between the following roads, Temple Road, Cowley Road/Oxford Road, Salegate Lane and Hollow Way (**JMHS 9**, SP 5452 0445). Medieval occupation layers of the 11th-12th century and a pit, part of an enclosure, and the corner of a building are all associated with the Knights Templars' Preceptory (**JMHS 10**, PRN 26014-MOX2314: SP 54410 04320). Excavations on the site of Temple Cowley Manor House (**JMHS 11**, EOX1585: SP 54580 04250), listed as the Nuffield Press, recovered pottery of the 11th century, but could only place the first phase of construction to the 13th century. This included a number of pits (located near the later manor house), an east to west orientated building, a shallow linear feature, a curved ditch or robber trench, and part of a masonry wall of building D (Muir, Newell et al. 1999, 297-300). It is highly likely, in the light of the Little Witham excavations on a Templar Preceptory in Lincolnshire, that there are components that could survive in some form from this period above ground. It is possible that the surviving

limestone wall to the east of Temple Road, and the associated buildings may be a reworking of the preceptory boundary wall and building (**JMHS 12**, SP 5448 0448). The name Salegate Lane indicates the location of a probable gated entrance to the complex (**JMHS 13**, SP 5462 0444). Vivian (nd.) suggested that there were fishponds in the vicinity of the library; it is possible that the ponds in the area of the school and swimming pool on early maps may be the remains of medieval fishponds (**JMHS 14**, SP 5446 0440).

The following sites may be located outside or adjacent to the preceptory. Medieval features were identified at Saint Christopher's School, which included a 12th century ditch (**JMHS 15**, PRN 15946-MOX6254: SP 544 045). Medieval pits were identified at the Cowley Road Police Station (**JMHS 16**, PRN 14409-MOX6253: SP 5445 0425). Further medieval pits of an 11th to 14th century date were uncovered at 77 Temple Cowley Road (**JMHS 17**, PRN 15947-MOX6255: SP 5454 0441).

The demolished Temple Cowley Manor was a 17th century structure with 18th century alterations (**JMHS 18**, PRN 6265-MOX6251: SP 5458 0425). A single surviving wall was documented in 1997 before demolition (Muir, Newell et al. 1999, 297-300). The building was later the site of a Diocesan School in 1841 with a chapel of 1870. There is a post-medieval cottage at 77 Temple Cowley Road (**JMHS 19**, PRN 15947-MOX6255: SP 5454 0441). In Beauchamp Lane there is a listed 17th century cottage with later reworking (**JMHS 20**, PRN 17308-MOX15679: SP 53988 03992). A further 17th century listed cottage is located at 48 Temple Road (**JMHS 21**, PRN 17309-MOX15686: SP 54423 04592). There is a clay pit at Cowley Marsh considered to have been of a post-medieval date (**JMHS 22**, PRN 5168-MOX12147: SP 5470 0476). 74 Temple Road is a Manor House of an early 18th century grade II listed building with 19th century alterations (**JMHS 23**, PRN 17306-MOX15011: SP 54531 04544). There is a late 18th century building at 76 Temple Road (**JMHS 24**, PRN 17311-MOX15782: SP 54515 04513).

The Ridgeway or Drove Road from Oxford to Stokenchurch was turned into a Turnpike Road in 1719 (**JMHS 25**, PRN 8865-MOX10040). This had fallen into disuse by 1824 when the current course of the A40 was built.

Wall footings thought to date to the 19th century were found at Saint Christopher's School (**JMHS 26**, PRN 15946-MOX6254: SP 544 045). Two wings of a military college were built 1876-82 on the site of Temple Cowley Manor, a science laboratory was constructed on the site of Temple Cowley Manor in 1882 called the Drinkwater building and in 1912 the site was acquired by William Morris and turned into a Car Factory with commercial offices. The A-shop was a steel framed structure built c 1914 (Muir, Newell et al. 1999, 297-300). What survives of these buildings is a grade II listed building (**JMHS 27**, PRN 17305-MOX14999: SP 54639 04264).

The remains of 19th or 20th century ditches were identified at Temple Cowley Middle School (**JMHS 28**, EOX2287: SP 54220 04577). The unitary church (**JMHS 29**, SP 5440 0432), the Library (**JMHS 30**, SP 5443 0436), the Swimming Baths (**JMHS 31**, SP 5440 0440), and Saint Luke's Church (**JMHS 32**, SP 5450 0428) were all public constructions of the early 20th century. A mid-20th century Air Raid Shelter was constructed at Saint Christopher's First School (**JMHS 33**, PRN 16985: SP 54420 04450).

Cartographic Evidence

A number of 18th and 19th century maps survive of the Temple Cowley area, only three of which are detailed enough to give any proper indication of how the site developed. There are also some later 20th century Ordnance Survey maps which show a rapid development and alteration of the area. The earliest map recognised that covers the Temple Cowley area is the Jefferys' Map of 1766-7 (OHC CP/103/M/1). This shows a series of buildings located along Temple Road, and also Cowley Road/Oxford Road (Fig. 3). The buildings are probably placed more symbolically than accurately and should be taken as an account that buildings can be identified in these areas.

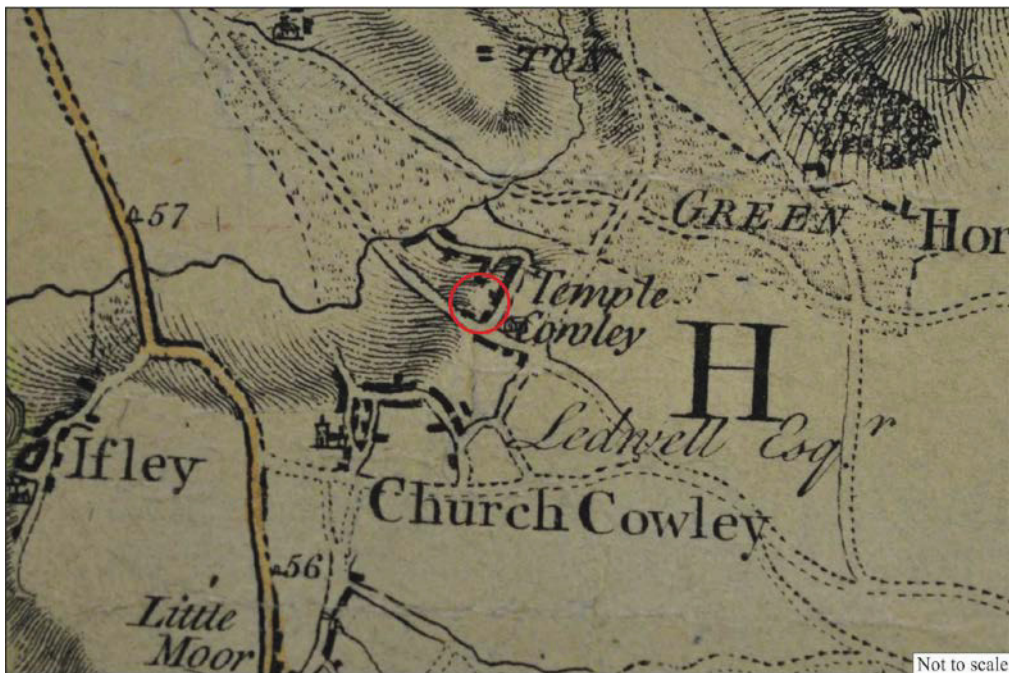


Figure 3 Jefferys' Map of 1767



Figure 4 Davis' Map of 1793

Davis' Map of 1793 shows a similar arrangement of buildings in that there are structures located along these two previously named roads, and that the representation of the buildings should be seen as symbolic rather than literal (Fig. 4).



Figure 5 Bryant's Map of 1823



Figure 6 Inclosure Map of 1853

Bryant's map of 1823 (OHC P345/M/1) shows buildings in similar locations along Temple Road and Cowley Road/Oxford Road. There are also some buildings located

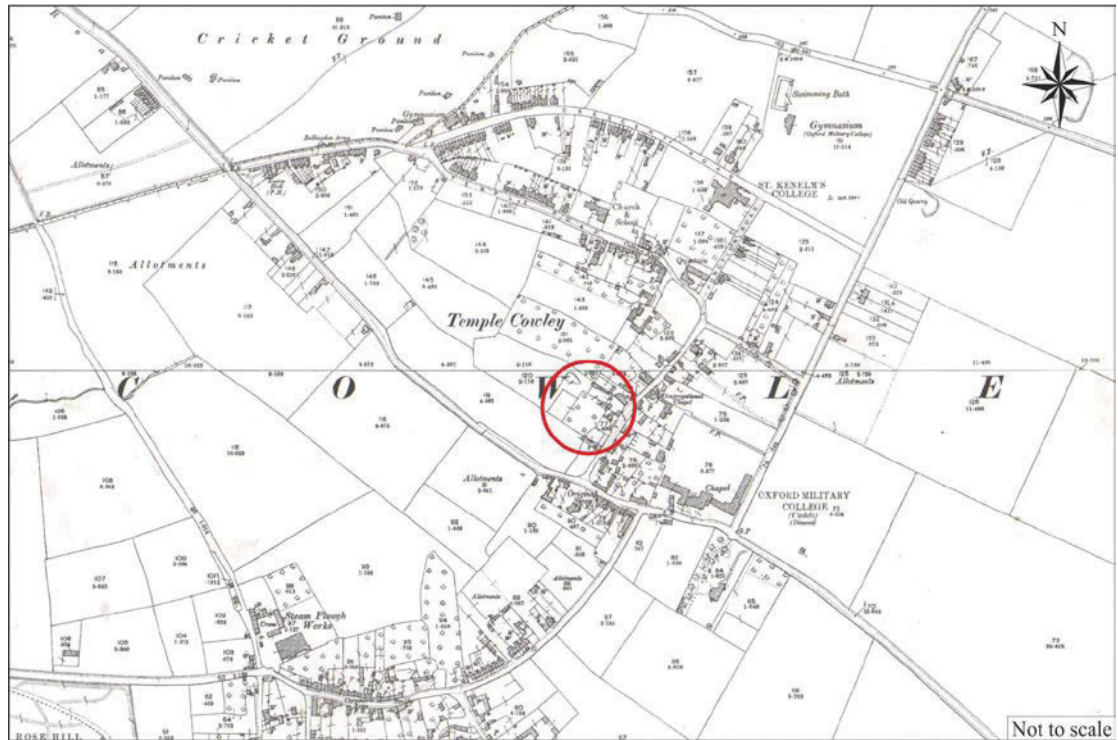


Figure 9 Ordnance Survey map of 1899-1900

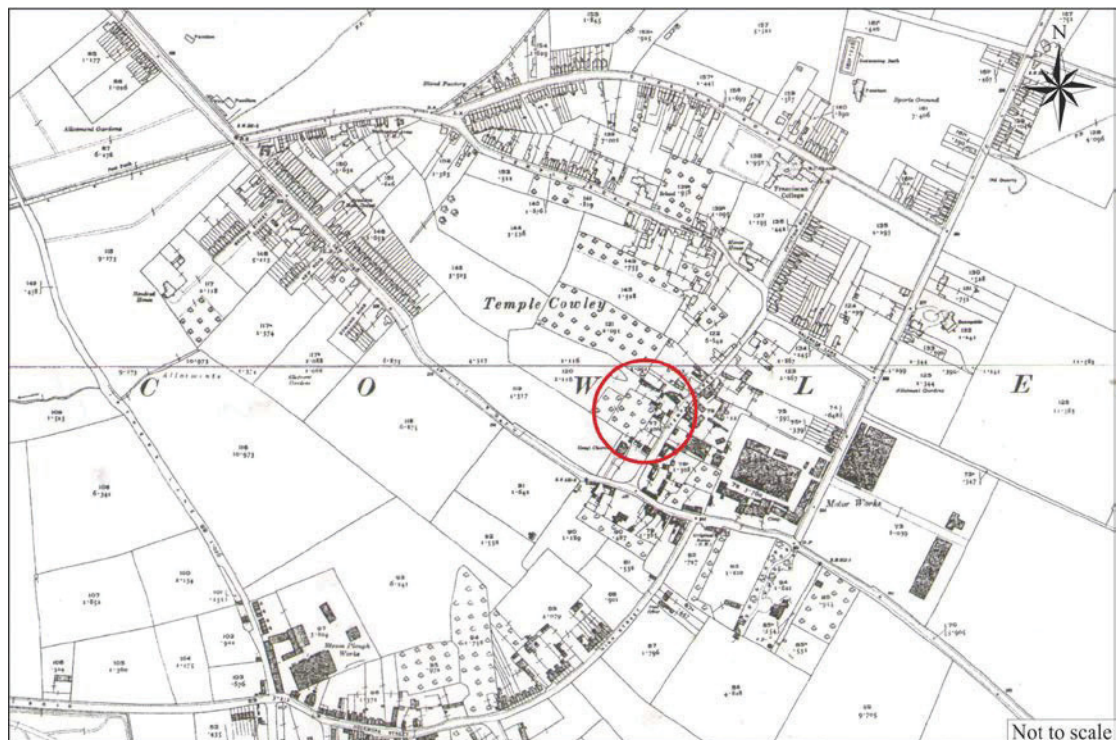


Figure 10 Ordnance Survey map of 1921

The Inclosure Map of Cowley parish dated 1853 (OHC P432/2/M1/1), shows a series of buildings marked in pink on the east side of Temple Road (Fig. 6). Some of these buildings still survive in a relatively complete form, while others survive only as butt joints and quoins marked in a limestone wall. Their presence indicates that this is not the surviving boundary wall of the Templar Precinct, but is a reworked wall with 17th, 18th and 19th century components joined together in the 20th century. There is a further

series of buildings marked on the west side of this road, many of which have subsequently been demolished at the southern end, and one of them has been described as the location of a barn. The problem with there being a barn here is that all of the buildings are marked in pink/red, which is indicative of domestic dwellings only. If there was a barn here, and there is a long east to west building that could be considered to be the size of a barn, it has already been converted into a domestic dwelling. There are also the outlines of two ponds, although they are not coloured blue on this map. One of these lies in the vicinity of library and the other could lie under the swimming baths or be located to the west of it. It is probably the representation of this map and the Tithe Map that has been used to make the claim that medieval fish ponds were located in the vicinity of the library. In theory there could be other reasons why these features were created, for example quarries. Agricultural buildings are located to the south of the larger pond.

The Tithe Map of Cowley parish dated 1865 (OHC 112/M) shows the sequence of buildings similar to that of the Inclosure Map (Fig. 7). The buildings are located on the east and west of Temple Road and on the north and south of Cowley Road/Oxford Road. Two ponds, both coloured blue, are located to the west of Temple Road in the vicinity of the library and swimming baths. The large pond has a straight west side perhaps indicating that it has been damned. The manor is shown as an L-shaped building.

The Ordnance Survey maps at 1: 2,500 shows buildings on the east and west of Temple Road, and the north and south side of Cowley Road/Oxford Road. The buildings on the first two, First Edition of 1878 (Oxon. XXXIX.8), and the Second Edition (Oxon XXXIX.8), are relatively consistent with the earlier maps with the buildings shown (Figs. 8-9). The small pond on the west side of Temple Road is not marked and the area is shown as a possible orchard. The larger pond is still marked; any agricultural buildings that lay to the south are gone. It is only on the Third Edition of 1921 (Oxon. XXXIX.8) where significant change starts to occur with the layout of the buildings (Fig.10). The development of the manor site as a motor car works has commenced with a two large buildings constructed along Hollow Way. Buildings have also been demolished on the west side of Temple Road, right at the Cowley Road end, where a new chapel or church has been erected.

4 Description

The Library and Swimming Baths are located on a large square to rectangular building plot on the west side of Temple Road. The Library is a structure of a single date, which is winged and balanced symmetrically. To the northeast of this there is car parking for the library, while between the library and swimming baths there is further parking. The swimming pool is a large rectangular building with one or two minor extruding appendages, chiefly on the southeast side. This building in places butts up to the back of the proposal site.

Architecturally the swimming baths are a rather disparate structure in appearance with facades having variations in design and materials. There are at least some seven individual components that can be recognised through the different use of materials alone. All of the components were built in the 20th century, but at various times, chiefly in the 1930s, 1950s and 1980s.

The southeast façade (plate 1) is the main elevation as it faces onto the Temple Road and the back of the library. At its north east end there are some low flat roof extensions. On the right hand side there are some low components of the building built in a yellow-orange brick. Here the main entrance to the establishment can be observed, a double door, with modern blue sign above and board alongside. Adjacent and to the left the building juts forward and is white-grey. The end wall of this building has a central panel and an extractor unit on its left side. The roof above these areas is flat but with a raised unit located within it. Behind this is a yellow-orange brick wall with windows and above this with a flat roof beyond which is a pitched roof. Standing above this lean-to roof is a redbrick wall which has a gable end of a flatly pitched roof. The main part of the building is a flat blank wall of yellow-orange brick. Connecting this to the other components on the right side of the elevation there are a series of windows above and around a single door. Above most of this part of the elevation the roof is flat with pyramidal roof lights. On the left end there is a half gable in yellow brick with the roof sloping right to left. There is a double door and window at the extreme west end.



Plate 1 Southeast façade

The southwest façade has a blank wall of yellow-orange brick. Above this are two sloping roofs. On the right hand side the roof slopes down from a half gable. On the left hand side there is a further pitched roof. To the right of this main façade there is a low brick extension with painted panel.

The northwest façade has a central concrete frame on top of which is located a water tower. To the right of this there is a gable end, and between these two features a series of steps. To the left of this there is a yellow-orange brick wall with a large door in. This appeared as infill alongside another wall of deep red bricks with door alongside it. In front of this was a further staircase using yellow-orange brick, while above both of these walls is a red brick gable end, with slight pitch and a chimney or vent at the top of the gable.

The northeast façade (plate 2) contains a lower red-brick wall that is staggered in three sections along its main façade. There are two sets of high windows in the central section and a series of louver vents in the right hand one. Above this is a flat roof

from which rises a further red-brick wall with a series of windows. Above this the roof is slightly pitched, with a flue or chimney at the right hand end. To the left of this is the southeast extension of yellow-orange brick, which also has a part of the façade extending, and also a significant part of the wall glazed, and a porch. Beyond this there is a further low extension, with a flat roof, which uses a white grey brick, and a painted white panel.



Plate 2 Northeast façade

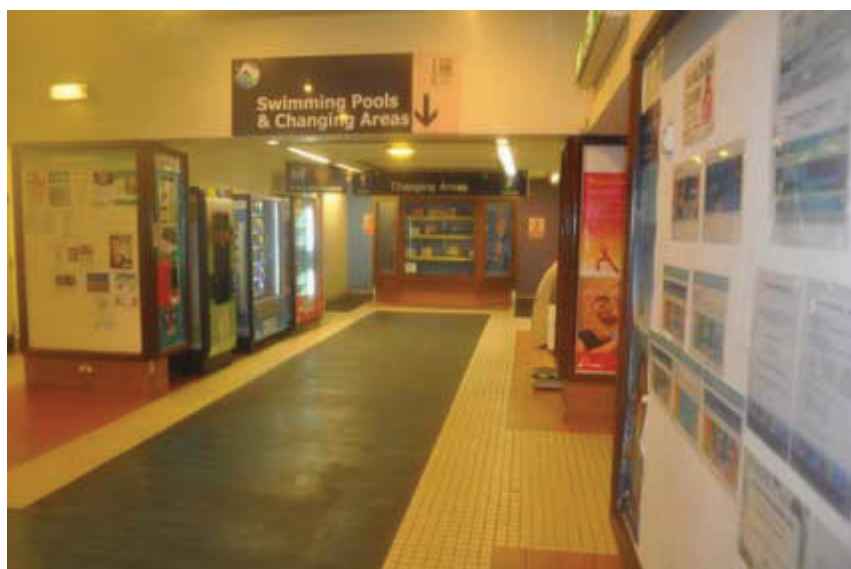


Plate 3 Main entrance lobby

The main entrance on the northeast side of the building enters into a room which is essentially T-shaped (plate 3). In the east arm is the entrance lobby, which contains a kiosk, with upper glass panelling on all sides. The wall on the north side contains modern window casement in a wall with a central band of blue tiles, and above this is a white band with wall lighting. There is a recess of the north side of the west arm (not part of the main T-shape which contains vending machines). The ceiling has a series of inset circular lights. A glass cabinet lies at the west end of the main arm and the changing rooms are accessed of the south side of the west arm. The south arm of

the T-shaped hall is far higher, extending up into the two storey part of the building. There is a flight of stairs, steel framed with wooden hand rails, on the west wall leading to a door at the top. Under the stairs there is access to male and female toilet facilities, through side doors. At the far end of the south arm there is a combination of two double doors that lead directly into the swimming baths. On the east wall of the south arm is a fresco-mural design using marine animals, with a number of circular window lights. A series of free standing steel columns are also visible in this part of the hall. In the remaining part of the east-arm of the hall there is a pair of wooden steps, leading to a raised area of wooden flooring. Two small offices are located on the south side and in the southeast corner a corridor leads towards the sauna facilities.

The changing rooms are essentially large rectangular rooms, with central seating, seating around part of the exterior, cubicles and lockers. The walls were decorated with tiles of three colours, blue, turquoise and white. The floor tiles are larger and an off-white to beige colour. The two changing rooms are similar in their design.

The changing rooms link from the west arm of the hall through into the swimming baths. The swimming baths are a large rectangular, almost square room with a series of steel column supports running north to south offset on the west side. On the east side is the large pool with markers for racing channels. There is a series of double doors on the northeast corner and a single double door in the southeast corner. The tiles in the pool are white, and those around the swimming pool beige. A facility for spectators lies on the east side of the pool, with seating terraces. The ceiling has exposed steel girders, with three shafts set in section in a triangular formation. There is a triangular framework connecting the transverse steels. On the west side of the offset columns are two smaller pools, a beginner's pool and a diving pool. The beginner's pool is square in shape. There are elongated windows in the west wall, with rounded heads and bases, probably set in a prefabricated frame. The diving pool is also of a square shape, with diving platforms located on the east side of the pool and seating on the south side. The west and south walls have raised concrete pilasters. On the south wall the pilasters are painted white and the internal panelling black, for effect. On the west wall it is all painted white. There is glass panelling in the southwest corner.



Plate 4 Beginner's Swimming Pool

Double doors in the northwest corner lead into a long narrow room, which contains the boilers. The boilers are above ground; however, there are steel ladder stairs to a large L-shaped cellar which contain a series of tanks and ducting for the chlorine. This cellar runs under the beginner's pool and also under the ladies changing room. This means that if there was any archaeology under the three pools, boiler room and ladies changing rooms it this has already been compromised by the excavation for pools and cellars.



Plate 5 Gym

The main stairs in the south arm of the hall leads up to the gym. Double doors open into a small lobby with large modern mullioned and transomed windows. Further doors lead into the gym proper, which has four similar windows on the south side, and three on the north side. There is a small segregated room in the northwest corner, which glass panelling. The ceiling is panelled. This first floor is located in the dark red brick structure that looks externally as if it is the oldest part of the swimming baths and to which the later 1980s extensions have been added. If this is the case then it is possible that the partial remains of a swimming bath may lie underneath all of the changing rooms.

The passageway that leads to the sauna area leads into a rectangular room with contrasting dark green and light green wall tiles. Beige floor tiles are used in this room and others in the sauna area. Swing doors on the west and north side of the lobby area enter changing rooms, while two openings on the east side of the lobby enter a C-shaped passage in which there are showers, and a toilet within the area around which the passage raps around. On the north side of the passage is the sauna with wooden seating. On the south side is a room with side seating and all over brown tiling.

5 Date

The Swimming Pool at Temple Cowley is all of a modern date. The earliest structure was constructed in the 1930s and the pool was opened officially in 1938. Subsequent building phases have been carried out, which are noted in City Council planning

applications after the Second World War. In 1958 a planning application was approved (Ref. 58/07344/A_H). A further application was made in 1959 when an application was made to construct a garage for an invalid chair to the rear of baths and library (Ref. 60/08960/A_H). Further work did not take place on the baths until 1983 (Ref. 83/00205/GF), when a child welfare clinic was built adjoining the Temple Cowley Baths. The largest single group of alterations took place in 1986 (Ref. 86/00873/A), when part of the building saw the conversion into changing rooms and the construction of a 1st floor for multi-purpose activities. A major extension took place so that three pools could be incorporated on the site. The clinic building was converted to incorporate a sauna/solarium and administrative offices, along with a linking system to the pool buildings. The last application was in 1987 (Ref. 87/00990/GF) when an application was made to insert an internally illuminated sign above the main entrance.

6 Architectural and historical setting

The Temple Cowley Swimming Pool is located on the edge of the Temple Cowley Conservation Area, which was designated as such on 24th March 1986. The area has been established in a location where several institutions were located. The first of these was the medieval preceptory of the Knights Templars later used by the Hospitalers, the Salesian College of the 19th century, the Military Academy which later became the William Morris Car Factory on the site of the Temple Cowley Manor, Saint Christopher's School and Saint Luke's Church.

Of the minor buildings in the area there are a series of stone houses and cottages which survive of the 17th and 18th centuries. These are few in number and predominantly located on Temple Road. Superimposed over these earlier sites are the remains of 19th and 20th century development.



Plate 6 Historic buildings on east side of Temple Road

The oldest surviving historical fabric above ground is to be found in the stone built cottages along the Temple Road on the east side. This group of buildings and the connecting limestone wall is perhaps reminiscent of the building line and boundary

wall on the east side of the Templar Preceptory at Little Witham in Lincolnshire (Mayes 2002). The way that the buildings are spaced and connected with irregular pieces of walling can be seen to parallel the layout along Temple Road. This does not necessarily mean that these are medieval features, but it may mean that there are post-medieval rebuilding and reworking of structures that the outline of which may have originated in the medieval period. Though other places, outside of the possible western boundary of the Templar Preceptory may have previously been far more important, little above ground survives of them and what does is more distantly spread. Due to this the conservation area as a whole seems a rather disparate and eclectic grouping of structures. One feature that can be noted in the surrounding conservation area is the survival of limestone walls as boundary walls. In places these are undated but one can suspect that the tradition may be older and related to the medieval orders even if some walls only imitate the earlier development. The stone walling is evident higher up Temple Road and in Salegate Lane. This may well be derived from the same source as Sally Port, see above. There are also walls in the vicinity of Saint Luke's Church. These are particularly difficult to date and some of these also show elements of earlier buildings located in them. Drawing parallels with the Little Witham site it is possible that they may have marked some inner enclosure around the halls and chapel. Some of these limestone walls can be recognised on the west side of Temple Road, in the walls on the north and south side of the proposal site.

Vivian (nd) suggested that the chapel and fishponds lay to the west of the Temple Road, but could produce little evidence to substantiate this. In light of the plan of Little Witham in Lincolnshire (Mayes 2002, 4-6) it would seem unlikely that the chapel was thus located. The chapel of the religious order in that example appears to be an important building at the heart of the Templar complex adjacent to the great and lesser hall. The Lincolnshire complex had a mill and fishponds located externally to this precinct as these features required specific topographical and geological and geographical considerations. It is thus geographically apparent that fishponds, if they did exist, would be located on the downhill side of the Templar Preceptory, thus the west side of Temple Street. One would perhaps suspect a spring to feed these features and the larger pond could contain a significant stone dam.



Plate 7 Limestone walling on west side of Temple Road

The cottages in this part of Temple Street, on the lower west side, appear to have been demolished in the early part of the 19th century and replaced by a library, a swimming baths and a Unitarian Chapel. These were all built in a deep red coloured brick and it is evident that two of these three structures survive. The swimming baths are the exception, however, it should be noted that parts of the building are of a deep red-brick and is presumably part of this early building opened in 1938. The building has been overhauled in the past and much of this structure has been masked or damaged.

Historically Swimming Pools of the early 19th century have been relatively ignored as significant monuments. There is a trend within English councils in general to demolish such buildings, with significant protests most notably at Birmingham (<http://thebirminghampress.com/2013/11/the-insane-vandalism-of-birmingham>) and on the Wirral (<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/wirral-council-turn-down-300000-6283921>). In these two cases the baths in question architecturally have some merit and represent significant architectural styles and developments. In the case of the Temple Cowley baths part of the structure may date to the 1930s, but due to the redevelopment there is little left of this structure. Besides this it does not appear to contain the more significant architecture that the Birmingham and Wirral baths possess.

7 Appraisal

The Temple Cowley Swimming Pool site is located on the edge of the Temple Cowley Conservation Area. There are two factors for consideration here, one concerning the nature of the conservation area and the second concerning the nature of the building (See Appendix B).

Even though it is apparent historically why the Temple Cowley Conservation Area was created, with the Templar Precinct, the Temple Cowley Manorial Centre, the Military College, and the early car factory, it is difficult to perceive the area as having any form of cohesion. Modern development of the area has seen key parts of the alleged protection area destroyed, for example the remains of the manor, with the construction of modern buildings in the conservation area that are not all in keeping and have left the area looking rather disparate in its overall appearance. The Swimming Pool lies on the west side of Temple Road, while on the east side of Temple Road there are a series of limestone buildings classed as 17th century and later which are joined together by high limestone walling. The visual effect is rather similar to that evident in the excavation that was uncovered at South Witham. It is not necessarily the case that these features, as they stand, are part of the earlier complex, but that they could be part of reworking of the Templar complex.

As a building, the Temple Cowley baths originated in the 1930s as one of a series of early 20th century public monuments along with the library and Saint Luke's which formed a new cohesive civic centre for Temple Cowley. Architecturally the other buildings constructed at this time remain more or less in their original architectural forms. However, although some components of the earlier building may survive, it is apparent, that more than any other of these monuments, that the Swimming Baths have been refurbished or rebuilt and that any original architectural integrity has essentially been lost. The Cowley baths does not, therefore, fall into the same category of building as those at Birmingham and Wirral.

As part of the cultural heritage of the area it can be argued that the baths has a value, as it has been a centre for sporting activity and social gathering and interaction over a number of years. The building started in the 1930s as part of the Keynesian investment in public works in an effort to revitalise the depressed economy of the time and linked architecturally to other public buildings in the area constructed at the same time. The later building programme in the 1950's is linked to post-war feeling of optimism and a move away from the austerity years that swept the country. So while of little importance architecturally, historically it is linked to major events, policies and the attitudes of the people over its lifespan.

The heritage value (English Heritage 2008) of the area needs to be assessed in terms of site and building separately as each has its own intrinsic values that are not mutually shared.

The Evidential and Historical value of the site as a whole is considered high due to the presence of a known Templar precinct and its associated historical connections, although the sites Aesthetic and Communal values are low. There is a moderate to high potential of buried archaeological remains being present on the site, however within the footprint of the present building these are likely to have been destroyed by construction. Any such archaeological remains present would likely to be of Regional or even National significance depending on the state of preservation.

The buildings itself has low Evidential and Aesthetic value, a low to moderate local Historical value, but a moderate to high Communal value. The building itself is of little merit architecturally, but can be considered to have Local significance.

It is set on the edge of the Conservation Area and as such any proposed re-development would need to be sympathetic to the character of the area, preserving it at the very least. Any proposed development would fall under the following policy of the Local Plan:

POLICY HE.7 - Conservation Areas

Planning permission will only be granted for development that preserves or enhances the special character and appearance of the conservation areas or their setting. Planning permission will not be granted for proposals involving the substantial demolition of a building or structure that contributes to the special interest of the conservation areas.

The high Communal value of the building would recommend its retention in present form and operation. However, we understand that following a process of option appraisal for this site, it has already been determined that its retention in its present form and operation, are not considered economically viable and that the buildings are to be replaced by a new facility currently under construction. The high Evidential and Historical value of the site as a whole, coupled with the potential high significance of any surviving features would recommend a programme of archaeological work prior to and possibly during development. However, the exact nature of this could only be determined when development plans are finalised, but could include trial trenching as a first stage.

8 References

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Historic Maps

- OHC CP/103/M/1 1767 Jeffery's Map
1793 Davis' Map
OHC P345/M/1 1823 Bryant's Map
OHC P432/2/M/1 1853 Inclosure Map of Cowley
OHC 112/M 1865 Tithe Map
OS 1: 2,500 1878 XXXIX.8
OS 1: 2,500 1899 XXXIX.8
OS 1: 2,500 1921 XXXIX.8

Appendix A Gazetteer of Historic Environment Record

ID	Period	Identifying Number	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Description
1	Iron Age	PRN 3838-MOX6266	454940	204360	Iron Age coin
2	Iron Age	PRN 26145-MOX23545	454700	204800	Barracks Lane: Iron Age quarrying
3	Roman	PRN 3817-MOX6250	454430	204050	Town's Road/Saint Luke's Road: Pottery kiln and occupation of the 1st to 4th century AD
4	Roman	PRN 14409-MOX6253	454450	204250	Police Station, Cowley Road: Roman sherds of the 3rd-4th century
5	Roman	PRN 15947-MOX6255	454540	204410	77 Temple Cowley Road: Roman kiln
6	Roman	PRN 3818-MOX6267	454870	204830	Quarry Lane: A Roman inhumation from Cowley Barracks
7	early medieval	PRN 8865-MOX10040			Drove road or ridgeway from Oxford to Stokenchurch
8	early medieval	PRN 26145-MOX23545	454700	204800	Barracks Lane: early medieval quarrying
9	medieval		454520	204450	Temple Cowley Preceptory Pricinct
10	medieval	PRN 26014-MOX2314	454410	204320	Medieval occupation layers 11th-12th centuries AD
11	medieval	EOX1585	454580	204250	Nuffield Press: 11th century finds and 13th century features
12	medieval		454480	204480	Possible line of preceptory wall
13	medieval		454620	204440	Salegate Lane: Reference to a probable medieval gate into the precinct
14	medieval		454460	204400	Ponds on early maps, located where medieval fishponds are considered to located
15	medieval	PRN 15946-MOX6254	454400	204500	Saint Christopher's School: medieval features
16	medieval	PRN 14409-MOX6253	454450	204250	Police Station, Cowley Road: medieval pits
17	medieval	PRN 15947-MOX6255	454540	204410	77 Temple Cowley Road: medieval pits of 11th-14th centuries
18	post-medieval	PRN 6265-MOX6251	454580	204250	Temple Cowley Manor: 17th century structure
19	post-medieval	PRN 15947-MOX6255	454540	204410	77 Temple Cowley Road: post-medieval cottage
20	post-medieval	PRN 17308-MOX15679	453988	203992	Beauchamp Lane: listed 17th century cottage with later alterations
21	post-medieval	PRN 17309-MOX15686	454423	204592	48 Temple Road: 17th century listed building
22	post-medieval	PRN 5168-MOX12147	454700	204760	Cowley Marsh clay pits
23	post-medieval	PRN 17306-MOX15011	454531	204544	74 Temple Road: an early 18th century grade II listed building
24	post-medieval	PRN 17311-MOX15782	454515	204513	76 Temple Road: late 18th century building
25	Modern	PRN 8865-MOX10040			Turnpike Road of 1719
26	Modern	PRN 15946-MOX6254	454400	204500	Saint Christopher's School: 19th century
27	Modern	PRN 17305-MOX1499	454639	204264	Temple Cowley Manor: Military barracks and other later buildings

28	Modern	EOX2287		454220	204577	Temple Cowley Middle School: 19th and 20th century ditches
29	Modern		454400	204320		Unitary church or chapel
30	Modern		454430	204360		The Library
31	Modern		454400	204400		Temple Cowley Swimming Baths
32	Modern		454500	204280		Saint Luke's Church
33	Modern		454420	204450		Air raid shelter

Appendix B Character Assessment Survey

SURVEY DETAILS	
STREET/BUILDING/ AREA NAME	Temple Cowley, Temple Road, Temple Cowley Swimming Pool
DATE	28/11/2013, 17/12/2013
TIME	
WEATHER	Dry and Wet

1: INITIAL REACTION: What do you first see as making the most important contribution to the character of the area? Is the area's character defined by the public or private spaces, groups of buildings or particular views, the presence of particular materials or its trees and greenery? Do these reflect particular aspects of the area's history? Are less tangible features, such as the activity, noises and smells of the area significant? Please provide a few brief reasons for your choices.

FEATURE	COMMENTS	VALUE -5 TO +5
SPACES	The building has developed over time.	0
BUILDINGS	The building is rather disparate architecturally and adds little value to the conservation area.	0
VIEWES	The building is set back from the road and hidden behind the library.	
LIGHT/DARK	Open and light in the area.	+3
SURFACES	The area is built over or tarmaced over, thus providing little natural drainage or soak-away.	0
GREENERY & LANDSCAPE	Little Greenery and landscaping in the area, much of the area is built or car parking. Some Trees and hedges.	+1
USES AND ACTIVITY	Significant use and activity value	+5
NOISES AND SMELLS	No noise or smell pollution only	0
GENERAL COMMENTS	The significance of the building is that it is an important recreational building for the community against the fact that it is not a particularly pleasing architectural structure.	

2: SPACES: A 'space' is normally the gap between buildings and other features. They may be formally designed or develop informally over time. They may be enclosed by surrounding buildings, trees and foliage, have structure created by the alignment and spacing of surrounding buildings or property boundaries, and be narrow or wide and open. The character of areas can depend on their uses and vibrancy, as well as the choice of paving, kerbs, seating, telephone or post boxes or the presence of formal planting or other greenery.

FEATURE	COMMENTS	VALUE -5 TO +5
FORMAL / INFORMAL SPACES	Formal spaces used for car parking	0
GAPS BETWEEN BUILDINGS	Gaps between the buildings have developed informally	+1
MEANS OF ENCLOSURE	The space is enclosed by brick and limestone walls	+2
BUILDING PLOTS	The building plot is large	0
WIDE/OPEN SPACES	The area around the building is open	+1
NARROW / ENCLOSED SPACES	No	0
WINDING / STRAIGHT SPACES	No	0
RELATIONSHIP OF THE SPACE TO BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	The building forms part of a civic area in Temple Cowley established in 1937	+2
USES AND ACTIVITY	Significant recreational uses and activities	+5
PAVING MATERIALS	Concrete kerbing	0
STREET FURNITURE	The street frontage has some varied features of which the most significant are the listed structures on the east side of Temple Road	+5
IMPACT OF VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC	Parking may be a problem in that area, but this may not be to do with the Swimming Pool but with student accommodation in Crescent Road	0
USABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE SPACE	Accessible	+2

3.0 BUILDINGS: Do buildings make an important contribution to the character of the area and if so what features are significant to their contribution? Do buildings reflect an important period in the area's history and is this reflected in their past or current use? Do buildings share a uniform scale and size, or is there a high degree of variation that is visually attractive? Are the buildings very old or do they form a single development with shared or similar architectural detailing? Do styles of windows, doors or other features add to the visual interest of the buildings, reflect their origins and use, or form part of a designed scheme? What condition are the buildings in? Have changes increased or reduced their interest, or have they lost important features?

FEATURE	COMMENTS	VALUE -5 TO +5
CONTRIBUTION OF BUILDINGS TO THE SPACE	Historic buildings on the east side of Temple Road, significant. Having said this the overall style and range of buildings is extremely varied.	+5
SIZE/SCALE	varied	0
AGE	The older buildings are more important (17 th -18 th century) and the adjoining limestone walls	+5
MATERIALS	Limestone, but a lot of later materials. The buildings of the civic centre structures are built in brick	+2
WINDOWS	Windows variable in size style and appearance.	+3
DOORS	Doors variable in size, style, age and appearance.	+3
ROOFS / CHIMNEYS / GABLES	Roofs variable in size, style, age and appearance.	+3
USES (PAST AND PRESENT)	Past uses in the area are significant historically, although what survives of this in the conservation area is minimal.	+5
CAN YOU TELL IF A BUILDING HAS BEEN ALTERED?	It is possible to examine a building and see if it has been altered.	0
CONDITION		0

4.0 VIEWS: Are there views of interest and distinction? Is a view well known because of a historical event, painting, prose or poetry, or is it popular with local residents as a part of a public place? Are views glimpsed through gaps between buildings, channelled by lines of trees or buildings, or open and expansive? Does the shape of a street create a series of views, or is a single viewing point particularly important? What features of the view contribute to its interest? Does a landmark, such as a building or group of trees, form a focal point? Does the view include an attractive frontage or roofscape? Is the view urban or rural in character? Do background features like the city's rural setting contribute to the view's attractiveness?

FEATURE	COMMENTS	VALUE -5 TO +5
HISTORIC / POPULAR VIEWS	Temple Cowley does have a significant historic core.	+5
FORM OF VIEW: SHORT OR LONG, UNFOLDING, GLIMPSED, CHANNELLED OR WIDE AND OPEN	The street does create a series of focal points, the long view up Temple Road is significant	+5
FOCAL POINTS	The Library and thatched cottage act as the main focal points on this part of Temple Road	+2
STREETSCAPE	The swimming baths lies back from the street scape	0
ROOFSCAPE	The roof scape is rather disperate with some significant components, such as the old buildings, and others less so	+2
URBAN/RURAL VIEWS		
VIEWS OUT OF THE SPACE	In some ways as the swimming bath is set back from the street it is surrounded by walls and other buildings	0

5.0 LANDSCAPE: What landscape features contribute to the area's character and how do they affect it? Do hedgerows or grass verges create a rural feel or do street trees provide a leafy suburban character. What hard surfaces are present, are they attractively designed or do they use materials that are out of keeping with the area? Does their maintenance affect their contribution? Is a river or canal a significant feature in the area? Does it have scenic or wildlife value?

FEATURE	COMMENTS	VALUE -5 TO +5
LEAFY AND/OR GREEN IMAGE	Little greenery in the area, except the school playing field	0
HARD URBAN LANDSCAPE	The area around the swimming pool is more open	+3
PUBLIC/PRIVATE GREENERY	Little greenery in the area	+1
DOES WATER FORM A KEY FEATURE OF THE AREA	No open external water, but water is an important part of the internal activity of the building. Historically this was the case with two ponds recorded in the area.	+2
TOPOGRAPHY	The structure is built into the slope and uses the topography to make it a less imposing building	0

6.0 AMBIENCE: Many less tangible features, such as activity, changes in light during the day, shadows and reflections affect reaction to an area. How does the area change between day and night? Do dark corners or alleyways feel unsafe at night time? What smells and noises are you aware of and is the area busy or tranquil? What affect, if any, does vehicle traffic have on character?

FEATURE	COMMENTS	VALUE -5 TO +5
ACTIVITIES	Significant recreational activity	+5
LEVEL OF ACTIVITY	High level of activity	+5
TRAFFIC	Traffic is a problem, but this is probably not a result of the Swimming Baths	0
DARK, SHADY, LIGHT, AIRY	Open airy space	+1
DAY AND NIGHT	Day, early morning and evening use	0
SMELLS		0
NOISES		0

7.0: FINAL REACTION: Take a moment to consider the notes and scores that you made, in your initial reactions survey sheet and the subsequent pages. Are there any features that you would now rate as having a greater positive or negative value, or are there particular aspects of these features that you would highlight as having a high significance to the character of the area? Try ranking the features in order of their relative importance in forming the area's character and appearance.

RANK IN ORDER OF CONTRIBUTION BETWEEN 1 (HIGH) AND 9 (LOW)

FEATURE	EXAMPLE	YOUR HIERARCHY
BUILDINGS	1	1
SPACES	5	3
LONG/SHORT VIEWS	2	2
LIGHT/DARK	4	4
SURFACES	3	5
GREENERY & LANDSCAPE FEATURES	6	6
NOISE, SMELL AND TRAFFIC	7	7

8.0 SPIRIT OF PLACE: Having undertaken the survey and scoring now try to sum up the character of the area in a few brief sentences, picking out the most significant positive and negative features of its character and appearance.

Historically the area should have much spirit and soul, as emphasised by the creation of a Temple Cowley Conservation Area. This spirit clinging on in the characteristics of the old buildings in the area (on the east side of Temple Road) has been badly treated by modern development in the area, some of which undermines the characteristic of the area.

The swimming baths are not architecturally important, but they do form a focus for recreation in the area, and as such form part of the recent cultural heritage and history of the area. The building started in the 1930s and part of the Keynesian investment in public works in an effort to revitalise the depressed economy of the time. The later building in the 1950's linked to post-war optimism and a move away from the austerity years.