

APPENDIX 2

Report of Consultation on Heritage Significance Assessment for Oxford Stadium, Sandy Lane

Question 1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“The report provides an accurate statement of the stadium's history and assessment of its heritage significance.”

Answer	Count	%
Strongly agree	53	73.61
Agree	13	18.06
Neutral	2	2.78
Disagree	0	0.00
Strongly Disagree	4	5.56

Table 1. Additional information presented in answer to question 1.

Additional comments
Bringing good elements of past life into current living is a part of heritage
Oxford speedway won the Division 3 in 1950. Winning every competition on 1964.
Oxford Stadium has a lot of Oxford history down the years
Blackbird Leys, Oxford Stadium, Car Factory all closely linked down the years
Its part of Cowley always has been
The report is accurate but in my opinion understates the historic communal value of the stadium.
There are further historical factors that can be taken into consideration.
No other venue like it in Oxfordshire no other stadiums offer these track sports
Oxford Stadium has been great part in the lives of a significant number of people from Oxfordshire
Oxford needs the stadium

Keep the stadium as a multi-functional site, even some new venues would be welcome.
Very valuable community asset for many years
We think it should reopen for greyhound racing
This stadium has so much heritage. Especially the speedway that oxford people have been supporting.
I can't comment on the accuracy of the report but it is well written and covers key events.
Very well written and interesting report
The stadium is down at heel, partly wrecked by the current owner, but is significant for the area.
Accurate statement of its history however well overstates it's heritage significance.
The last paragraph of the "Historic Interest" section on page 8 looks incomplete. It ends in "etc."
See report from Montagu Evans LLP

Question 2. Please tell us what information you feel should be taken into account by the review panel when considering whether the stadium should be included on the Oxford Heritage Assets Register

Information provided
Being a resident of any city includes a focus on sports and activities. Oxford is famous for this stadium as a part of their being. It cannot be replaced by conforming sports facilities, so therefore the Dogs and Speedway need a home unless the local character is to be diminished. Imagine Manchester without football, Hull without Rugby - the soul of the cities is carried by tradition and activity.
It's part of oxfords history and a social hub
The history of the stadium and how much it means to the young and older residents of Oxfordshire
The stadium although a venue for large crowds has unlike many other sport stadiums never been a place that has seen any crowd disturbance. This is especially true of speedway a team sport where the supporters of each teams have always stood together where the banter between the fans is never malicious and never becomes violent. Speedway is a family sport

<p>catering for all ages from the youngest to the oldest family members not many professional sports can make this claim. This motor cycle sport can be enjoyed as a spectator or a participant but it does need a stadium and track like the one Oxford Stadium provides and should continue to provide. It is an asset to our community. Its heritage is that it has a long history represent the very best of memories of very enjoyable relaxing evenings entertainment for hardworking peoples where the professional sports people can demonstrate that hard gained skills can bring there rewards and admirers from a good clean health life. The stadium has provided work for so many people over the years. Once the stadium jobs, speedway and greyhounds has gone those jobs will not be replaced.</p>
<p>As a community asset we have used the Go Kart course for running cycling events for young riders aged 8-16.</p>
<p>The stadium pre-dates Blackbird leys, and so the birth of the estate around the stadium, is linked very closely. Oxford Stadium is know by people all over the county and further a field. Car workers in the factories hayday would flock to the speedway and greyhounds.</p>
<p>The history the site has within the local community and it's residents</p>
<p>The quality of the food there was always really interesting.</p>
<p>The fact that it is a vital community hub.</p>
<p>The stadium pre-dates Blackbird leys and the surrounding area. Down the years workers would use the stadium, and the local estate would cherish it also, as a place for recreation and entertainment.</p>
<p>As a person born, brought up and still living and working in Oxford, I feel that the stadium forms part of the living heritage of Oxford and more specifically, the culture of Cowley, Rose Hill, Littlemore, Headington, Barton, Florence Park, Marston and the Leys. These communities are being eroded by the demise of the car works, the expansion of Brookes and the Hospitals and the rise in houses of multiple occupancy. Very few resources remain where the community can meet and benefit from social interaction and networking opportunities. The majority of the population in the areas of the city who traditionally have used the Stadium do not have access to Oxford University and Brookes facilities etc., neither do these giants of Oxford cater for the interests of the general populace.</p>
<p>The report gives a very comprehensive summary of the Stadium and the way it has evolved. From our perspective as motorcyclists the existence of a training facility that is tied so closely to greyhound racing is significant. Motorcycle training and greyhound racing have been linked for the past 25 years as a symbiotic relationship; so sites at Wembley, Catford, Manchester,</p>

<p>Swindon & Birmingham have all co-existed with motorcycle trainers. The heritage here is that a generation of people have learned to ride and in many cases gone on to be instructors at the Oxford Stadium.</p>
<p>thi war here long b/4 lots of oxford so the need to keep it is vital for the working class of oxford</p>
<p>We have lost so much of Oxfords Heritage and it would be a great shame if this were to go the same way Lets preserve what little is left</p>
<p>The stadium has provided, and can still be used to provide, numerous events of benefit and entertainment for the local community. If this facility were to be lost then the local community would be deprived of a source of potential value - in addition to the loss of the historical significance of the stadium - that would be near impossible to replace. The would be a tragedy at a time when the local community needs more safe and enjoyable places to go not less.</p>
<p>Any alternative provision of the culture, leisure and services provided by the site. The new houses should be allowed if a new stadium was provided, perhaps on the green belt next to greater leys.</p>
<p>The further historical factors include the fact that three of greyhound racings original races, The Cesarewitch, The Trafalgar Cup and Pall Mall were all run at Oxford. All three races date to pre Second World War. There are many other smaller facts of interest such as the fact that Ballyregan Bob had his last appearance before moving to America and Scurlogue Champ raced there as well.</p>
<p>Stadiums form an integrel part in any community, local people and the people of Oxford have frquented this Stadium for over 100 years. Stadiums were and still are a huge part of local ife and form great platforms for the publics social activities.</p>
<p>the stadium has been there since 1938/9 and has been a place of entertainment for the people of oxford</p>
<p>Oxford are working for a world class city for everyone. The stadium is world class and provides top entertainment when its up and running. The history the stadium has had on many previous generations is never ending. This does not mean there is no future. If run properly by proper management, the stadium has a big future.</p>
<p>World speedway championship qualifiers,British Speedway championships, test matches have all been staged here, plus major greyhound races and British trainers championship. A great asset to the county's sporting links</p>
<p>The viability of the stadium activities has been deliberately and artificially</p>

<p>compromised in the past 5 years in order to exploit the potential financial opportunity offered by densely-developed housing. This site has not only historic value as part of the heritage of Oxford as a whole, but current and future amenity value as an operating recreational site.</p>
<p>This is a venue used for the leisure time of hard working people and the families at affordable prices. A place of joy with no recorded over drinking or violence. it holds so many good memories that are important to people, excitement and fun.</p>
<p>Oxford Cheetahs are one of the most successful speedway teams of all-time, with seven league championships, including five at the top level. Their home deserves some protection.</p>
<p>Dear Sirs, As a lifelong supporter of Greyhound Racing and Speedway Racing at Oxford Stadium, I feel that the O.H.A.R., is our only hope of survival, surely you cannot let this wonderful facility fall to housing, enough is enough, I sincerely hope that the consultation team will see that being listed on their register is going to be a wonderful option ior the stadium to rise again and continue its duty as a very much reverred place in the hearts of Oxford and surrounding citizens., please help it will be such a loss.</p>
<p>The report clearly describes the history of the stadium, its associated sports and local significance and value with only some insignificant points of detail that could be noted. It fully records and captures the heritage value and significance of this site</p> <p>In addition to greyhound racing the stadium is the only permanent venue that has been used for motor sport in the city and surrounding area; it is unique in Oxford outside of the university in being an oval arena stadium (in almost daily use throughout its history) rather than a ground or a pitch and it remains an important surviving site of working class and professional sport and recreation with a continuity of use over decades, as clearly identified in the report.</p> <p>Its diverse and constant use is of great significance to the often neglected and disregarded traces of industrial and working class life in the 20th century in Oxford, and its value cannot be underestimated</p> <p>A link to the broader history of local sports is that the Oxford amateur speedway club formed in 1936 (Oxford Mail 26/01/09) was linked to the famous Oxford Ixion motorcycle club, and used the stadium at the invitation of local entrepreneur and stadium builder Lesley Vernon Calcott between 1939-1941. The threads of unofficial, amateur and professional sport and recreation that are drawn together in this site from the 1920s onwards are part of its clear continuing value and relevance.</p>

<p>It could be noted that alongside the greyhound paddock and now rare Totalisator building from 1939 the terracing and speedway pits, shop, office changing rooms and workshops built in 1949 by Calcott all survive completely intact and are fully serviceable (as of 2012). The current large restaurant and grandstand is of a particular type associated only with such stadia (two early stands stood on the side of the track, the original destroyed by fire in 1942, and the replacement structure standing until 1985).</p> <p>There are numerous publications and journals both local and national that could be used as sources for the report in particular in connection to the well-documented sport of Speedway. Further specific published sources that could have been identified include:</p> <p>Shailes, A Potted history of Oxford Speedway 1939 to 1990,</p> <p>Baiden, The History of Oxford Stadium 2009</p> <p>Bamford and Shailes, The Story of Oxford Speedway 2006</p>
<p>The stadium will always be a part of that area of Cowley which grew and developed in 50's & 60's and will always be remembered by those who attended the various activities that were on offer through to it's closure in 2012.</p>
<p>The retention of the site as a stadium is very strongly supported by my constituents, as evidenced by responses to a survey I undertook in Blackbird Leys, the more than 2000 people who have signed a petition calling for the Stadium to be saved, and many people who have spoken to me about this on the doorstep. People refer to the unique contribution the Stadium has made to Oxford recreation through the variety of sports there over the years and its social facilities. Reference has been made to me both about the overall heritage value of the site, and specifically the tote building at the rear.</p>
<p>Important part of the rich sporting heritage of Oxfordshire. So much history that should not die just because more money can be made from destroying it.</p>
<p>Local popular site with local Oxford people as people in Oxford have not many amenities like this outside of the University campus. It will be missed as a meeting place for enthusiasts. The site could be managed much better as a diverse functional site for the local people of Oxford.</p>
<p>The unique use of the old buildings on site and how they have been adapted to make affordable use of them. The support of the speedway team has been a valuable asset to Oxford bringing people to the city from all over the world, as well as promoting the city world wide with its success over the years. A community facility used by many people were people would often meet</p>

socially and form relationships.
The reason its part of Oxford
The surrounding area is poor enough on leisure activities and diversity in leisure needs to be maintained. Not everyone wants to go to a pool/gym there needs to be more choice. There are other areas that housing could be developed without having to deny Oxford this facility.
To many homes and not enough public enjoyment
its a tragedy to what has happend to the speedway ,the dog racing go karts and all the other social activites dancing , snooker . gym, squash , these develepers have deliberately and slowley wound it down from the time they purchased it . hopefully to have a big pay day.with the hope of planning being granted .this has always been their motive . this is a historic site with the speedway being intrduced from day dot.and been known as the oxford cheetahs for decades.my great grandfather rode for the club , my father rode for the club ,and myself for many years , at this historic venue which is world renowned throughout the speedwat world .many hundreds of thousands of people from throughtout the country and beyond have watched and enjoyed many forms of activities .this site is historic and must not be destroyed.
I have nothing to add to the very comprehensive information provided in the report.
If this is felt by the residents in this part of Oxford to be a building of architectural and historic importance that is important, but given that it is unlikely that it could become a self-financing tourist attraction, other uses will need to be found for it, consistent with the conservation aims. Unless these can be found, then the stadium should be removed to prevent it degenerating into an eyesore and something else should be done with the land. There are many things that could be kept and preserved to record aspects of social history (which is what this particular case is largely about) but in my opinion we should only conserve things, which are beautiful and/or have a valid alternative use.
Oxford is a popular destination and is increasingly being characterised by bland housing estates. The preservation of historical landmarks and buildings, over and above the historic original city, is essential to provide character and amenities to the suburbs housing the growing population.
Has association with the local area, local people and local businesses for over 80 years. Used as a sport and leisure facility, it's association with Oxfordshire and surrounding areas. The stadium and its site has become an icon and heirloom ie; part of the landscape. A sports and social facility which is a rarity in the 21st century.

<p>I believe Oxford staged a speedway world championship event, numerous test meetings, British final. On the greyhound front Oxford have staged a British Trainers championship. Grade one event the Pall Mall stakes, the oldest event in the calendar the Cesarewitch, the BBC TV Trophy. It has always been very popular and worthy of being a stadia that the people of Oxford and surrounding areas supported. Everyone knows the GRA deliberately ran the Stadium down. It was profitable as the last general manager ran the venue as if it were her own. Good house keeping!</p>
<p>Oxford needs housing not a under used stadium</p>
<p>The total Heritage culture of the City, ie not all dreaming spires and quads, or leafy north Oxford. Ordinary folk much involved with the car plant and other industrial processes have to be considered. But it will have to be saved from the depredations of the current owners who seem interested only in the site value, covered in housing.
Everyone has culture: need one say more.</p>
<p>Go Karting has been a value school for many pro drivers over the years and the track at Oxford has been the starting point for more than one National Champion.</p>
<p>The stadium has been a leisure facility for over 70 years. The speedway teams who used the track were one of the top teams over the years and the track was known as one of the best. The same for the greyhound track. People from all over would come to this great sporting venue. Many other groups still use the facility ie; dance classed, karts. Local people have grown up with this great facility on their doorstep. It is a great socialising and relaxation venue and with the many other activities which are still going on, it helps keep children off the streets and gives them guidance in social interaction. It brings local people together to relax and socialise. It also bring revenue into the local area and employees a large number of people, whether they be caterers, cleaners, dog trainers, speedway riders, gate staff, security staff etc. Hundreds of children attend the dance classes and adults attend the ballroom classes. Families have fun on the go-karts.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existence of other similar assets elsewhere in the country 2. Cost of maintenance of asset against it's perceived benefit to the community and whether the funding could be better spent on preserving alternative assets as not everything can be preserved.
<p>see attached report</p>
<p>We consider that, as an important element of the 20th-century recreational amenities of the city, it is important that any proposed redevelopment of the site should be evaluated inter alia against the value of the Stadium and its</p>

<p>associated developments to the heritage of the city, as well as to all communities of the city as a viable operational facility. This category of development is not well represented either locally or nationally in registers of heritage assets, and the absence of such protection has already allowed the permanent loss of such facilities elsewhere.</p>
<p>Working class heritage assets are just as important to the city's character and history as other, more obvious, heritage assets. This stadium clearly meets the heritage criteria and stands as an icon for the working men and women that have been historically based around the Cowley plant.</p>
<p>It might seem at first glance to be a strip of underutilized land adjacent to a Railway line, in an Industrialized sector of Cowley, outside the Ring Road. Development for housing might appear to be a suitable use for that land, but the infrastructure is already under strain to provide services, utilities, and road access, because of the adjacent proximity to Blackbird Leys with its large local population. Just for the sake of making more money for a Property Developer, and generating more income from Council Taxes, (the excuse being that "the pressure for affordable housing is intense") does not immediately justify the loss of the facility to sport and entertainment.</p>

Question 3. Do you feel that Oxford Stadium's heritage interest is of a significance that merits consideration in planning decisions?

Answer	Count	%
Yes	70	92
No	4	5
Not sure	2	3

Additional comments
Housing without soul (facilities) is going to breed big problems, lack of pride, lack of "soul".
The stadium really should belong to the people of Oxford/Oxfordshire.
oxford needs it
It has to be. To lose the stadium would be a sad day for Oxford and its many, many fans.

This a n important sports arena and function facility for the community
No planning for houses should be allowed on this site.
without any doubt I do!!!
Public meetings on planning permissions should be widely advertised.
Please please do not build any more house at the stadium
Oxford Stadium has a long and prosperous history and with investment will be prosperpous once again.
A working class icon and resource, as stated in the report.
Stadium is not a pretty sight, but that should not blind us to the reality of its significance
If it's preserved it will quickly become a run down ugly derelict.
see attached report