



CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

CHARACTER AREA 02: HEADINGTON HILL NORTH



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

This document covers the Conservation area of Headington Hill North. Because it has already been assessed by Oxford City Council in a Conservation Area Appraisal which also covers Headington Hill South we have not undertaken a separate character assessment. A full description of the area's assets and its issues can be found by consulting the Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) at: www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decP/Headington_Hill_occw.htm.

Headington Hill stands to the East of the Cherwell valley, and when viewed from the west, its hillside forms a green landscape background to the historic city centre and also provides a number of good views down to the city's skyline. The northern part of the hill, between Marston Road and Headley Way and above Cuckoo Lane, comprises a residential area, which was originally laid out in late

Victorian times on a grand scale but subsequently much divided. The southern part of the hill contains the public parks of Headington Hill and South Park, together with schools, parts of Oxford Brookes University and the residential area of the historic Headington Hill hamlet. The retention of trees and characteristic buildings, the provision of public footpaths and the protection of viewpoints, together with their 'view cones' looking down on Oxford, are seen as important elements of its public enjoyment.

ISSUES

Issues identified by residents and shared with the Headington community at large include traffic congestion, increased student footfall and littering. Issues special to the area include concern about the deterioration of footpaths and road surfaces; unchecked tree growth blocking the views which are a defining part of the area's character; the loss of some significant Victorian or Edwardian buildings and the detrimental effects of infilling on gardens and green spaces.

GUIDANCE FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

None