



GMAAS
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

Local Heritage Listing Project

Werneth and
Coldhurst,
Oldham

Gazetteer of Validated Candidates

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OLDHAM LOCAL LIST – WERNETH AND COLDHURST

Historical Overview of Werneth and Coldhurst

The Werneth and Coldhurst areas of Oldham have distinct but interconnected histories rooted in the town's industrial expansion during the 19th century. Both areas played key roles in Oldham's industrial success, but they also experienced the economic downturn that followed the decline of textiles in the mid-20th century.

Werneth lies to the south-west of Oldham's civic centre. It was historically a more affluent suburb during the 19th century, being home to some of Oldham's mill owners and featured grander Victorian housing alongside several textile mills. It developed as a mixed area with both working-class and middle-class residents, reflecting the wealth generated by the cotton industry.

Coldhurst is situated to the north of Werneth, straddling the main route to the town centre from Chadderton and incorporating part of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. Historically a relatively rural part of the Oldham township, consisting of scattered farms and open fields, Coldhurst experienced rapid urbanisation after the mid-19th century. In contrast to Werneth, much of the area grew rapidly as a dense working-class district, with tightly packed terraced housing built to accommodate the influx of workers drawn by employment in the mills and factories. By the early 20th century, Coldhurst was a fully developed urban neighborhood with housing, schools, churches, and local businesses. It became known for its close-knit working-class communities, many of whom were employed in local mills and engineering works. Parts of Coldhurst experienced decline after World War II, and saw waves of regeneration, slum clearance and the construction of new housing estates and tower blocks from the 1960s onward.

In recent decades, Werneth and Coldhurst have become some of the most diverse parts of Oldham, with significant South Asian communities contributing to the cultural life of the area. Regeneration efforts have aimed to improve housing, education, and local services while acknowledging the areas' deep historical roots.

Candidates for Local Listing in Werneth

Property Name and Photograph	Hartford Works Workshop – HER 5762.2.0 
Property Address	Parsons Street, Werneth, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> An extension to the Harford Works, first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1922. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building takes a rectangular plan form. Half of the building is tall single storey, whilst the other half appears to be two storey, with both sections featuring a north-light roof. The building is to a pared back and rather utilitarian design consisting of red brickwork pilasters rising flush from a plinth in the same brickwork with limited brick detailing at the top of each and carrying a continuous brickwork cornice and parapet with thin stone coping. To the three street elevations the upper part of each of the slightly recessed areas between the pilasters is filled with a modern metal cladding, some with domestically scaled windows.

	<i>Local Interest:</i> The building was almost certainly erected as workshops for the Platt Brothers, one of the leading manufacturers of textile machinery in Lancashire. The firm made a significant contribution to the industrial prowess of Oldham during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The utilitarian and functional design of the building has its own particular aesthetic that is representative of this type and age of industrial structure. <i>Group Value:</i> The building has a strong group value with the adjacent Grade II listed components of the Hartford Works.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Lodge to Werneth Park – HER 18922.1.0



Property Address	Frederick Street, Werneth, Oldham, OL8 1RB
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A detached, brick-built, two-storey lodge to Werneth Park, erected in the late 19th century; the lodge is identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1893. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building retains its original character and many architectural features. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The lodge makes some contribution to the character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> As a key component of Werneth Park, the lodge will have a social / community value to the generations of local residents who have cherished the park. <i>Group Value:</i> The lodge has a high group value with Werneth Park, the adjacent community centre and the Grade II listed lodge on Manchester Road. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The lodge is a prominent feature of Frederick Street, marking the entrance to Werneth Park.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	85 Windsor Road – HER 18923.1.0 
Property Address	85 Windsor Road, Werneth, Oldham, OL8 4AL
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> An architect's plan for the house occupying 85 Windsor Road was drawn up in 1875, although the plot is shown as a garden in the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1892. The building is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Revision map of 1909.

	<i>Architectural Interest:</i> A large, detached, two-storey (plus attic) residence occupying a prominent location at the junction of Werneth Hall Road with Windsor Road. A small single-storey element to the north-western elevation gave the original building an 'L'-shaped plan form. It is of red brick construction with some terracotta detailing in a matching red. Roofs are in slate with decorative red clay ridge tiles. The original brick boundary wall with terracotta copings remains to Windsor Road including two well-detailed masonry/terracotta gateposts serving a flight of steps to the front door. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> Whilst the original design intent and much of the original detailing remains evident there have been some less than sympathetic changes in more recent times. Nevertheless, the house makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of Windsor Road. <i>Group Value:</i> The building has a group value with other late 19th-century villas in the locale, including Windsor Villa. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The house is a notable feature of Windsor Road, not least due to its prominent location at the junction with Werneth Hall Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	Windsor Villa – HER 18925.1.0 
Property Address	98 - 100 Wellington Road, Werneth, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A detached, two-storey villa occupying a prominent location at the junction of Wellington Road with Windsor Road. The villa is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1892. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A detached, two-storey, double-fronted building of brick construction with stone quoins. It has an irregular plan form and a hipped slate roof, and provides an interesting example of a late 19th-century villa.

	<i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The villa makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Group Value:</i> The building has a group value with other late 19th-century villas in the locale, including 85 Windsor Road. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The villa occupies a prominent location at the junction of Wellington Road with Windsor Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	Vicarage – HER 18926.1.0 
Property Address	84 Wellington Road, Werneth, Oldham, OL8 1RR
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Identified as a vicarage on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1894. The vicarage was built for the vicar of the Church of St Thomas. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> An impressive two-storey property of brick construction with extensive use of stone for window and door surrounds and a slate roof. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the area. <i>Group Value:</i> The vicarage has a group value with the nearby Grade II listed Church of St Thomas and associated gates and railings.

	<i>Landmark Status:</i> The villa occupies a prominent location at the junction of Wellington Road with Coppice Street, whilst its distinctive architecture stands out from the adjacent properties making it a feature of the local street scape.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Werneth Primary School and Clock Tower – HER 18927.1.0



Property Address	Coppice Street, Oldham, OL8 4BL
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The school and its impressive clock tower was established in 1891 and was among several modern board schools featuring central halls, gyms, cookery rooms, and spacious playgrounds, reflecting late Victorian educational reforms in Oldham. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A fine example of a late 19th-century school with an unusually large and impressive clock tower. The size of the school was essentially doubled with the addition of an new block in the 20th century, although this building is not included in nomination of Local Listing. <i>Local Interest:</i> The school has been a key component of the local community infrastructure since the late 19th-century. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The school and its associated clock tower makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The school has served several generations of local residents who will have a personal association with the building, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The school, and the clock tower in particular, is a prominent local landmark.
Score	10

Candidates for Local Listing in Coldhurst

Property Name and Photograph	Westwood Moravian Chapel – HER 3092.1.0 
Property Address	300 Middleton Road, Oldham, OL9 6JH
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The chapel is identified on the Ordnance Survey 1:1500 Town Plan of 1892. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Westwood Moravian Chapel is a brick-built chapel with stone dressings. Central entrance approached by steps flanked by pilasters rising to pinnacles. Arched window above entrance with wooden tracery. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a very positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area.

	<i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The chapel has served several generations of local residents who will have a personal association with the building, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Group Value:</i> The chapel has a high group value with the adjacent manse and Grade II listed former Sunday school. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The chapel is a prominent landmark feature of this section of Middleton Road.
Score	10

Property Name and Photograph	Manse – HER 3092.1.1 
Property Address	298 Middleton Road, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The manse is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:1500 Town Plan of 1892. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The two-storey building is of brick construction with limited but effective stone embellishment. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Group Value:</i> The manse has a high group value with the adjacent Westwood Moravian Chapel and Grade II listed former Sunday school.

Score	9
Property Name and Photograph	Osborne Mill – HER 6050.1.0 

Property Address	Osborne Street, Oldham OL9 6QQ
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Osborne Mill was built in 1872-73 to a design by the leading mill architect Abraham Stott. The mill was taken over by Osborne Mill Co Ltd in 1889. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> No.1 mill is brick built, of four storeys and 8 x 4 bays. A four-storey extension of 1903 doubled the size of the mill. No.2 mill was built in 1912 is similarly of red brick but of five storeys and 17 x 5 bays with a steel and concrete internal structure and Flat roof. Engine houses are attached to the east sides of both mills. <i>Local Interest:</i> A 1971 documentary film is available on BFI Player that shows cotton spinning at the mill, including the spinning mules, mill engine and gears, and mill workers. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The mills make an important contribution to the character and aesthetic quality of the historic textile-manufacturing townscape. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The mills provided employment for several generations of local people and some will have a personal association with the mills, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Group Value:</i> The mills have a group value with the nearby Grade II listed Manor Mill and Werneth Mills, forming an important cluster of historic textile mills. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The mills are a notable landmark feature on Osborne Street and Waddington Street.
Score	11

Property Name and Photograph

Werneth Mills – HER 6153.1.0



Property Address	Featherstall Road North, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Werneth Mill No 1 was built in 1875 to a design by the celebrated mill architect, Edward Potts, for the Werneth Spinning Company. The mill was destroyed by fire on 7 October 1899, but was rebuilt the following year under the direction of George Stott. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> No.1 mill is brick built, of four storeys and 16 x 4 bays, with a multi-ridge roof, brick-arch rectangular windows and an embellished brick tower. A five-storey warehouse of 11 x 5 bays is attached to mill. No.2 mill is similarly brick built, of four storeys with windows and roof of a similar design to No.1 mill. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The mills make an important contribution to the character and aesthetic quality of the historic textile-manufacturing townscape. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The mills provided employment for several generations of local people and some will have a personal association with the mills, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Group Value:</i> The mills have a group value with the nearby Grade II listed Manor Mill and Osborne Mills, forming an important cluster of historic textile mills. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The mills are a notable landmark feature on Featherstall Road North.
Score	13

Property Name and Photograph	Westwood Primary School – HER 18914.1.0 
Property Address	Middleton Road, Westwood Oldham OL9 6BH
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Identified as a school on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1892, which shows a U-shaped range comprising ‘infants’ and ‘boys & girls’ blocks. An extension designed by Winder & Taylor was opened in October 1892 and the enlarged footprint is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map of 1909. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building is largely in a red brick and some of the architectural detailing is achieved through the use of brickwork such as for some window heads and polychromatic brickwork. Limited use of stonework is used for additional architectural detailing such for window cills and some window and door heads (notably the Middleton Road infants school block windows and main entrance),

	gable copings and associated eaves corbels. Roofs are pitched terminating in a mix of gables and hips and with red clay ridge tiles. An interesting example of a late 19th-century school. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of Middleton Road. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The school has served several generations of local residents who will have a personal association with the building, contributing to their sense of place.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Former Friends' Meeting House – HER 18928.1.0



Property Address

Greaves Street,
Oldham OL1 1QN

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The building was erected in 1870 to a design by Peter Alley. It was reported in <i>The Builder</i> in January 1870 that the new Friends' Meeting House 'has a rather ornamental appearance, with vestibule leading directly to a light, plain meeting room and also a large committee room at one end of it, arranged for being used separately or for being thrown open as a gallery on special occasions.' <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building's decorative classical design is reflective of high status community buildings of the period, but is rare in terms of the design of a Friends' Meeting House that typically have a more restrained character. <i>Local Interest:</i> The building is reflective of the urban industrial prosperity and culture of the town in the 19th century. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> Constructed in red brick, the building has numerous classical decorative features including a substantial pediment over the central bay set above a dentiled cornice, arched openings to entrance porches set on pilasters and interesting brick detailing to the arched window openings. These qualities afford the building aesthetic value. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The building served several generations of local people and some will have a personal association with it, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building is a notable landmark feature on Greaves Street.
Score	10

Property Name and Photograph	1 – 3 Ascroft Street – HER 18929.1.0 
Property Address	1 – 3 Ascroft Street,

	Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The building dates to the late 19th century. It is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1892, which identifies the building as an aerated water manufactory. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic industrial character of Ascroft Street and the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. <i>Rarity Value:</i> The building provides a rare surviving example of a 19th-century aerated water factory. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building is a prominent feature on the north-west side of this tight backland area, otherwise largely concealed from the rest of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area other than oblique views westwards along Ascroft Street.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	The Old Bill – HER 18930.1.0 
Property Address	35 Greaves Street, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The building dates to the late 19th century and was originally a good-quality warehouse or office. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Constructed in sandstone, the building exhibits a high detailed façade with decorative arched window openings, quoins and pilasters and a prominent dentiled pediment. The side return is similarly detailed with a dentiled cornice and numerous arched window openings.

	<i>Local Interest:</i> The quality and exuberance of the architecture reflects Oldham's industrial prosperity and civic pride during the late 19th century. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The handsome architecture of the building makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. <i>Group Value:</i> The building has a high group value with adjacent civic buildings. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building occupies a prominent location at the junction of Greaves Street with Firth Street and its decorated façade and prominent dentiled pediment makes the building a notable landmark.
Score	10

Property Name and Photograph	Victoria House – HER 18931.1.0 
Property Address	Greaves Street / Firth Street, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Victoria House dates to the early 20th century and was erected as a purpose-built billiard hall. The building is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Revision 1:2500 map of 1922, subsuming the footprint of workers' housing shown on earlier mapping. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Purpose-built as a billiard hall, the building has a low height and large footprint which reflects its original function and at odds with the prevailing composition of the surrounding buildings. The building has a handsome façade constructed red brick with distinctive faience whilst the steep pitched roof has large rooflights that again reflect the internal function. The building was erected in accordance with plans prepared by the architectural practice of Winder and Taylor in 1912, and provides an unusual example of a billiard hall, especially in terms of its hipped and pitched roof rather with skylights than the more typical barrel vaulting.

	<i>Local Interest:</i> The building was originally used as a billiard hall, then council housing offices and a college before becoming vacant. Oldham Boxing used the building in 2011. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The hall demonstrates the rapidity with which the core commercial and civic central part of Oldham gave way to areas where lower land values allowed a mix of uses. <i>Social and Communal Value:</i> The building has been used for different social and community functions throughout its lifespan.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	3 Greaves Street – HER 18932.1.0 
Property Address	3 Greaves Street, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The building dates to the early 20th century and is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map of 1909. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building has a classical stone facade with corner quoins and lugged architraves at first floor and prominent details, and downpipes add interest. The original rear elevation is concealed by a later extension in red brick. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building is reflective of the industrial prosperity of the town in the Edwardian period and makes a positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. <i>Group Value:</i> Located opposite the former Town Hall, it forms a key component of ‘set-piece’ architecture just to the north of the Grade II listed building by Edgar Wood.

Score	9
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Property Name and Photograph

5 Queen Street – HER 18938.1.0



Property Address	5 Queen Street, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The building is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map of 1909. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Particularly attractive frontage in the Queen Anne revival style, in red brick with gabled roofline and oriel bay to first floor. Stone entrance surround with pilasters, and prominent stone string courses. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building is reflective of the industrial prosperity of the town in the 19th century and makes a significant contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of Queen Street. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The oriel bay in particular makes the building a notable feature of the Queen Street townscape.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	Albion House – HER 18933.1.0 
Property Address	31 Queen Street, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Plans for the building, which was intended as a club, were submitted to Oldham Council in 1877. The building is identified as the Albion Club on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1892. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Red brick Victorian office building with prominent stone detailing, painted white. Arched fenestration openings at second floor; pilastered central bay projects slightly beneath pediment. Basement windows have been infilled with brick, but maintain stone architraves. <i>Local Interest:</i> The quality of the architecture reflects Oldham's industrial prosperity and civic pride during the late 19th century.

	<i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The handsome architecture of the building makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The decorated façade gives the building prominence as the terminating feature in views along the public realm of Firth Street.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Old Bank Public House – HER 18934.1.0



Property Address

50 Yorkshire Street,
Oldham

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A bank in this location is first annotated on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Revision 1:2500 map of 1922, although this only occupied the northern part of the current building's footprint. A plan for the construction of a new bank, presumably the current building, was submitted to Oldham Council in 1938 (CBO/4/11/21418). <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Neoclassical bank building, in channelled ashlar to Yorkshire Street with return elevation in red brick with stone dressings to Waterloo Street and Bow Street. Prominent isolated position at the junction of a historic local route, emphasised by single central projecting entrance bay with arched doorway and first floor window. String courses continue stone along returns to either side, handsome window surrounds and keystone detailing. Single-storey service extension to rear, also in red brick. <i>Local Interest:</i> The quality of its architecture reflective of the town's prosperity in the early 20th century. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building is reflective of the industrial prosperity of the town in the early 20th century and makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the street scene. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building occupies a prominent position in the townscape, emphasised by its isolation and that it stands at the junction with Bow Street
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Greaves Arms – HER 18935.1.0



Property Address	13 Yorkshire Street, Oldham OL1 3RZ
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The Greaves Arms was erected in 1925. It replaced an earlier inn that stood on the site, originally known as the Blue Ball dating to the first half of the 18th century; it was lastly named after its owner in 1826 becoming the Greaves Arms. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building is a substantial stand-alone building of an eclectic architectural style; constructed in terracotta and red brick with stone dressings, it successfully juxtaposes the surrounding architectural styles and materials. <i>Local Interest:</i> The reconstruction of the pub in 1925 allowed it to be set back further from the war memorial that had been erected in 1923, allowing a greater public space for remembrance around the memorial. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The Greaves Arms makes a very significant contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the street scene. <i>Group Value:</i> The Greaves Arms has a group value with other historic buildings in the locale. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The public house has served the local community for nearly a century, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building occupies a landmark position in views eastwards along High Street as Church Terrace rises and banks away.
Score	10

Property Name and Photograph

Hilton Arcade – HER 18936.1.0



Property Address	Albion Street / Curzon Street, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The arcade was built in 1883 to designs by Wild Collins and Wild, a partnership established in 1876 who designed at least 22 mills in the Oldham region at the end of the 19th century as well as churches and schools. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The last remaining arcade and fragment of the early commercial development in the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. High-quality Victorian arcade design with modern shopfronts and a restored glass roof set above steel trusses. The upper floors and windows are almost entirely original including rare light fittings. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The arcade makes a significant contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The arcade forms part of Oldham's social history and the development of retail around the Market Place/High Street all of which established Oldham as a regional shopping centre. <i>Rarity Value:</i> An rare surviving example of an urban arcade. <i>Group Value:</i> The arcade has a strong group value with the adjacent Curzon Street Parade. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The arcade and its wider block form a prominent feature in the High Street townscape that dominates the surrounding modern development. It forms a significant historic landmark in the long views along High Street.
Score	10

Property Name and Photograph	Curzon Street Parade – HER 18937.1.0 
Property Address	8 – 20 Curzon Street, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A Victorian retail and office building dating to 1893, abutting the Hilton Arcade. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The three-storey (plus attic) range of commercial properties is in red brick with stone dressings. Gabled roofline to north, stone dressings to arched first-floor fenestration are especially ornate, some with carved terracotta friezes above. Most windows retain decorative overlights. The interior incorporates some unusual and impressive decorative ironwork. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a very significant contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. <i>Rarity Value:</i> An rare surviving example of an urban parade.

	<i>Group Value:</i> The arcade has a strong group value with the adjacent Hilton Arcade. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building forms a prominent feature in the Curzon Street townscape, forming a significant historic landmark in the long views along High Street.
Score	10