Thank you for completing this NOMINATION FORM
East Devon District Council is inviting nominations to determine its Local Heritage Assets - comprising buildings and other features of the historic environment – which are locally distinctive or have particular importance to the local community

1: Name and contact details of Assessor [This information will not be publically available]
Jeremy Woodward jaydoubleyou@onetel.com

2: Date of completion:
10th January 2016

3: Ref No [to be completed by EDDC]

4: Name of Heritage Asset:
Knowle park and gardens

4a: Address/Location:

The Knowle,
Station Rd,
Sidmouth,
EX10 8HH

4b: Owner:
[Address, if different to above]

4c: Location: *[Google map or OS ref]*
SY 12120 87973

5: Unit of Record:
Building ☐ Structure ☐ Complex ☐ Open Space **X** Street ☐ Landscape ☐
Other feature - specify ☐

5a: Heritage Asset type(s) *[e.g. 4 terrace houses; semi-detached villas; pillar box; gardens]*

"A good candidate for Sid Valley Heritage Site status is Knowle and its surrounding open land in Sidmouth. The house is quoted by Pevsner in his _Buildings of England' as having once been "one of the most famous houses in Sidmouth. The long thatched _cottage ome' with forty rooms, built in 1810 under Lord Despenser's close personal supervision. . . . . It was owned by the collector and connoisseur T.L. Fish from 1810 - 1861. He made picturesque improvements, and opened his _Marine Villa' to the public." It later became an outstanding hotel, easily reached by travellers arriving at Sidmouth Railway station until the Beeching cuts. Because of its history, even though now it houses East Devon's District Council's offices, it should certainly be recorded as a herlitage site.

Knowle is mentioned, as having been a great example of a _cottage ome', in other reference books about English Country Houses, notably _Life in the English Country House' by Mark Girouard, published by Yale University Press in 1979. It is from this book that I have photocopied the 'two attached photographs of Knowle Cottage as depicted in 1834.

Although, over the decades as Council offices, it has been much altered, there still remain the attractive grounds which are mentioned by Pevsner: "Something of the fine grounds remains, although diminished by council car parks, with some garden structures around Knowle Drive (Gothic arch, the footage of a grotto, derelict summer house." Until recent years, two of the elegant rooms on the ground floor, facing Lyme Bay were used as the local register office and were a popular venue for weddings. One fireplace still retains a surround of Dutch blue and white tiles, popular in the l9th century.

Photocopy of page 221 (Life in the English Country House) (Nominee 1)

"Knowle old hotel and 16 acres of gardens and grounds. Used for concerts and social events. Garden and park on Arboretum trail. Much wildlife, beautiful lawned terraces, sea views. An important asset and amenity for Sidmouth." (Nominee 2)

"2 Upper lawn terraces of Knowle Park. The lawn terraces of Knowle Park: the 2 upper

terraces of green lawn, giving a prospect down valley and also setting off the old existing building. Valuable green public open space, particularly if the office buildings are destroyed and built upon." (Nominee 3)

Comments by nominees January 2015

6: Designations/Classifications:

Listed Building □ grade ..... Conservation Area □ Protected Species □
Local Heritage Asset □ SVA Blue Plaque □ Sampson Society □

7: Age: Earliest phase Later phases

8: External materials:

Walls Roof
Windows original pre1939
Chimneys

9: Condition:

10: Current use of building/area:

11: Rarity: Is the building /structure rare of its type within the streetscape?
Yes □ No □ If yes, explain why:

12: Contribution: Does the building contribute to the visual character/distinctiveness of the area/group of buildings *[e.g. defined features, landscape character, visually dominant]*
Yes □ No □
If yes, explain why:

13: Historic integrity of the area or complex:
high □ medium □ low □

14: Any additional information in support of this nomination
[eg: specific features; further background; social history; association with notable persons/events]

15: Sources:
Public consultations January/February and June 2015

16: Each nomination should include 1-5 referenced digital photographs.

google maps

Please send your completed form together with relevant supporting information to:
Conservation Officer, EDDC Council Offices, Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8HL
or e-mail StevenGuy@eastdevon.gov.uk Thank you.