



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



**The Botanic Garden
Conservation Plan**

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Estates Services

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THE BOTANIC GARDEN, OXFORD
CONSERVATION PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

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1 INTRODUCTION

The buildings of Oxford University's Botanic Garden were constructed over several phases from 1623 following an initial endowment from Henry Danvers, the 1st Earl of Danby, in 1621. The boundary walls and archways were built by Nicholas Stone, a master mason famous for his work with Inigo Jones. It was founded as a physic garden and renamed the Botanic Garden in 1840 by Professor Charles Daubeny. It continues to serve as the University's botanic garden whilst its original orangeries and laboratories now act as accommodation for the landowner, Magdalen College.

1.1 Purpose of the Conservation Plan

The University has an unrivalled portfolio of historic buildings, of which it is rightly proud. It has traditionally taken a thorough, holistic approach to building conservation, seeking to understand all the varied factors that make historic buildings significant to their diverse stakeholders, and using this to inform necessary change. It has become clear that this approach is vital to the conservation culture of an institution where so many of its historic buildings that are valued for their function also have extensive historical or architectural significance. This Conservation Plan represents the continuation of this tradition of seeking to understand what makes the University's buildings cherished assets, and of seeking ways to conserve these most important features for the enjoyment of future generations.

The success of this approach is such that it has now become codified in government policy: First in March 2010's *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historical Environment* then in its replacement, March 2012's *National Planning Policy Framework* (hereafter: NPPF). NPPF provides useful guidance on approaching the conservation of heritage assets, and postdates the University's existing literature. NPPF defines a heritage asset as:

'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).'

This designation clearly applies to the Botanic Garden.

The purpose of this Conservation Plan is to update the Botanic Garden's conservation policy to take into account the new guidance provided by NPPF. It will be of use both for informing responsible regular maintenance and in the preparation of future planning applications, as specified in NPPF paragraph 128.

The Conservation Plan should form the basis for the Botanic Garden's Conservation Policy and exists as part of an ongoing process. It will be renewed and updated at least every five years or following any major alterations or legislative changes.



Figure 1. Map showing the Botanic Garden (indicated in red) and the surrounding area, orientated with North at the top of the image

1.2 Scope of the Conservation Plan

This Conservation Plan will cover the exterior of the historic buildings, walls, arches, and listed items within the curtilage of the Botanic Garden, a grade-I-listed garden at the southeastern extremity of High Street in central Oxford. The plan will cover the exterior of the buildings as these are the areas managed by Estates Services: The grounds and buildings are owned by Magdalen College who occupy and manage the majority of the interiors.

The plan is not a catalogue and to facilitate its practical use will concentrate only on the most vulnerable aspects of significance, suggesting how they should be approached and conserved in the future. A brief list of the most significant architectural features can be found in **Appendix 5** and should be referred to when planning any repair or alteration work.

1.3 Existing Information

A Conservation Plan has not previously been produced for the Botanic Garden; however, there are various forms of existing information available:

There are several (9) listed building descriptions and a Parks and Garden list description for the constituent elements of the heritage asset (**Appendix 1**). These are the logical starting point for this plan, as they list the heritage assets main features and briefly assess their architectural significance.

Various planning applications have been made throughout the building's history, providing a fragmentary indication of the changes that have occurred over time.

There are several published books and articles that examine the development of architecture in Oxford and the history of the city and University. These publications provide an important resource for studying works of these periods in Oxford.

The plan draws on statutory guidance from NPPF prepared by HM's Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2012.

1.4 Methodology

The Conservation Plan is a document that assesses the current and predicted conservation needs of the buildings of the Botanic Garden and attempts to address them with a view towards maintaining or increasing the significance of the heritage asset. Its formulation to supersede any existing literature is a response to the requirements of NPPF, and it is prepared in accordance with the policies contained therein.

1.5 Constraints

The Botanic Garden and its environs are subject to various constraints imposed by Oxford City Council:

- HE.2 – Archaeology Area: Any planning application must incorporate sufficient information to define the character and extent of potential archaeological deposits, including the results of fieldwork evaluations.
- CP.3 – Limiting the Need to Travel: New development will be limited to accessible locations on previously developed sites.
- CS11 Flooding – Planning permission will not be granted for any development in the functional flood plain (Flood Zone 3b) except water-compatible uses and essential infrastructure.
- HE.9 – High Building Areas: Planning permission will not be granted for any development within a 1,200 metre radius of Carfax which exceeds 18.2m in height, except for minor elements of no bulk.
- HE.8 – Planning permission will not be granted for any development that will adversely affect the visual, historical or horticultural character of an historic park or garden or its setting, whether or not it is included on the statutory register.
- TR.3, TR.11, TR.12 – Car Parking Standards: The City Council will not allow any significant increase in the overall number of car-parking spaces in the Transport Central Area or development that provides an inappropriate level of car-parking spaces. It will attempt to reduce the level of non-residential car parking.

- The City of Oxford Smoke Control Order No. 2: It is an offence to emit smoke from the chimney of a building, from a furnace, or from any fixed boiler if located in a designated smoke control area.
- HE.7 – Conservation Areas: The Central (City and University) Conservation Area: Planning permission will only be granted for development that preserves or enhances the special character and appearance of the conservation areas or their setting. All trees in Conservation Areas with stem diameters greater than 75mm at 1.5m off the ground are protected.



UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

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2 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.1 History of the Site and University¹

The site of Oxford has experienced sporadic settlement since the Neolithic period. Bronze Age barrows have been found in the University Parks (linear barrow cemetery), the Science Area (double-ditched barrow), and on Logic Lane. A Roman bowl was found in dredging of the Cherwell adjacent to the Botanic Garden in 1885-6. Oxford has had a continuous history of occupation since at least the 8th Century AD. The University of Oxford itself has a long-standing tradition of exceptional education: Able to trace its roots to the 11th Century, it is known to be the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

The site of the Botanic Garden was a Jewish Cemetery from 1180 until Edward I's Edict of Expulsion, which expelled the Jews from England in 1290. Skeletons were found during excavations to fit a sewer in 1806. The Jewish cemetery originally also included a portion on the north side of the High Street but this was granted to the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in 1231. When graves were found there in 1958 it was not clear if they were related to the Jewish cemetery or to the hospital.

The site is located just outside the eastern gate of the mediaeval city of Oxford, in an area that has been extensively developed over the last 800 years. Merton College was founded in 1264 and was in its current location, to the west of the Botanic Garden, by 1274. St. Edmund Hall was founded to the northwest in 1278-1317, close to the 12th-century church of St. Peter-in-the-East which now operates as the college's library. University College was founded in 1249 and obtained its current property, on the southern side of High Street, in 1332. In 1903, Henry Wilkinson Moore's Durham building replaced 88-89 High Street, and the bridge over Logic Lane, connecting the building to University College proper, was constructed in the following year. The Queen's College was founded to the northwest of the Botanic Garden in 1340/1, being extensively rebuilt in the 18th Century, refaced in c.1905, and the cupola reconstructed in 1910. Magdalen College was founded in 1458, and has occupied its current location, just outside the mediaeval city of Oxford and to the north of the Botanic Garden, since 1474 (incorporating buildings of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist). The Eastgate Hotel has occupied the corner of Merton Street (previously King Street) and High Street since 1605. The current building was constructed in 1900 in a 17th-century style to a design by E.P. Warren; it was extended along Merton Street to its current extent in 1965.

The Botanic Garden stands adjacent to Magdalen Bridge. A wooden precursor to the bridge was in place by at least 1004 and this had been replaced by a stone bridge by the 16th Century. The original stone bridge was declared unsafe after flooding in 1772 and the current Magdalen Bridge was built in 1772-90 by John Randall to a design of John Gwynn. It was widened in 1835 and 1882. Excavation under the bridge in 1884 unearthed a Saxon iron spearhead and shield boss. A lead seal from a bull of Pope Alexander III, 1254-60, was also recovered.

¹ A short chronology of the Botanic Garden can be found in **Appendix 3**.

In April 1971 Oxford City Council designated the majority of the city centre as part of the Central (City and University) Conservation area, focused on Broad Street East, the Sheldonian Theatre, and the Bodleian complex (see **Appendix 2**). The Botanic Garden is sited towards the eastern boundary of this designation.

2.2 History of the Botanic Garden

The Botanic Garden was founded as the Oxford Physic Garden (*Hortus Botanicus*) at the urging of the famous soldier Henry Danvers, first Earl of Danby, in 1621. Danvers gave £5000 for the foundation of the garden in the northeast of Christchurch Meadow on land owned by Magdalen College. The land was initially raised to counteract flooding, involving the addition of 4000 loads of ‘muck and dunge.’ From 1623 Nicholas Stone, a master mason famous for his work with Inigo Jones, constructed the walls which delineated the extent of the original garden and remain one of its most striking features to this day. The three gateways, including the famous Danby Gate, were also designed by Stone and were constructed in 1632-3. He described his commission to construct them in a 1631 diary entry: ‘to mak 3 gattes in to the phiseck garden.’² The statue of Danvers above the main gate was completed by John Vanderstein in 1695 at a cost of £7 12s. The first representation of the walled garden was in Loggan’s 1675 map of Oxford (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2. Loggan’s 1675 map. North is at the bottom of the image. The Botanic Garden is the quartered square on the left-hand side of the image

² Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *Buildings of England: Oxfordshire* (Harmondsworth, 1974) 267.

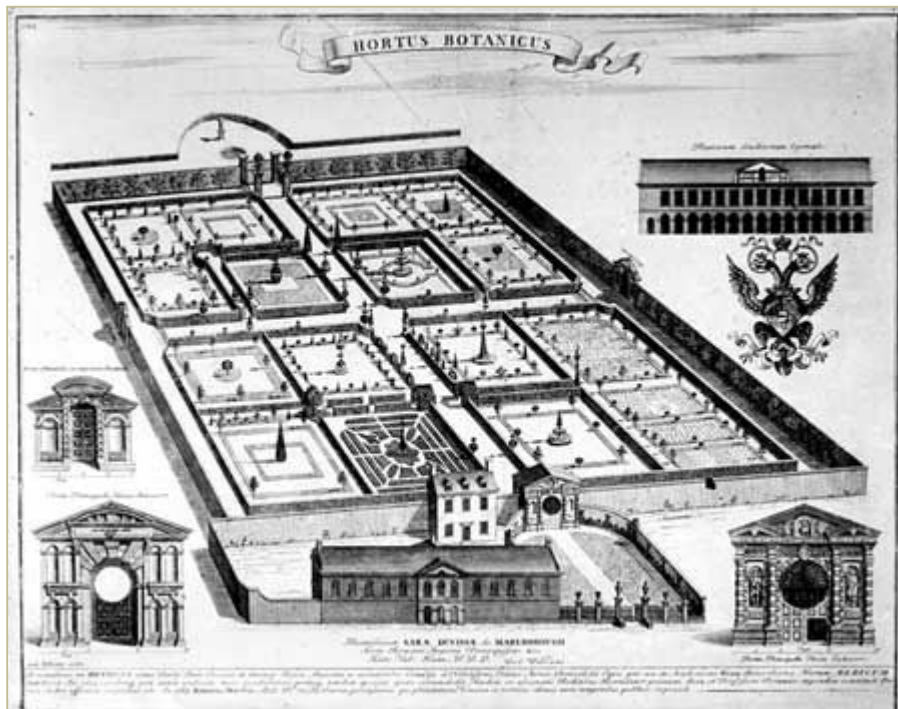


Figure 3. An early engraving of the Botanic Garden prior to the construction of the Daubeny Laboratory in 1733-5, photographed in 1914. Note the Danby Gate with its circular opening and elaborate walled approach

William Townsend, the Oxford mason-architect, constructed the first storey of the southern elevation of what is now the Library and Herbarium in 1733-35. At the same time he constructed the first storey of the southern elevation of the Daubeny Laboratory. The north elevation of the Library and Herbarium was added c.1835 to a design of H.J. Underwood and this included the addition of a porter's lodge to the west. A second storey, also by Underwood, was constructed atop both elevations c.1865.

Townsend built the first storey of the Daubeny Laboratory (now the core of the West Block) as the western orangery concurrently with the Library and Herbarium in 1733-35. It also received a second storey in c.1861. The rear portion of the Cottage (at the south-western boundary of the original wall) seems to date from the construction of the wall itself in 1623 but the majority of the extant structure was constructed in the 18th Century. The carved vase and plinth beyond the southern wall of the garden also dates from some point during the 18th Century. A range of lean-to greenhouses was also built upon the southern elevation of the northern wall in 1766 and was extant until the 19th Century.

The Botanic Garden underwent some alteration in the 19th Century, notably in 1840 when its name was changed from the Oxford Physic Garden to the Botanic Garden by Professor Charles Daubeny. Daubeny was something of a force for change within the garden, altering the traditional planting scheme of rectangular beds with more irregular forms in 1850 and adding a series of greenhouses along the outer edge of the eastern garden in 1851, the line of

which is still followed, though the actual houses were rebuilt in 1893, 1949, and 1972. The Daubeny Laboratory was completed in 1848.

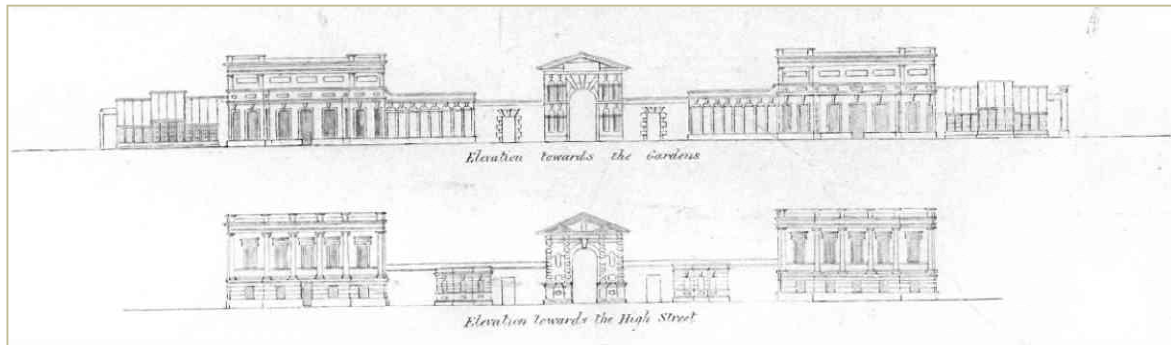


Figure 4. Elevations of the Botanic Garden dating from c.1888-1902

In 1884-8 Isaac Balfour (later Professor of Botany) restored Daubeny's beds to something closer to their original, rectangular form in order to display the plants according to the new Bentham and Hooker taxonomic system. At some point between 1848 and 1870 (based on historical photographs) the circular pond and fountain was installed in the centre of the garden. The lower pond had a similar fountain at some point but this is no longer extant (**Figure 5**).



Figure 5. Fountain in the lower pond, c.1875

The 20th Century saw the completion of the group of buildings along the northern perimeter of the gardens. The Manley Laboratory was constructed to the west of the Daubeny Laboratory in 1902 with an upper storey added in 1932. The Vines Wing was added to the east of the Daubeny Laboratory in 1910 in a design similar to Townsend's. This covered the western postern gateway (the twin to the eastern arch currently used as the primary entrance). When complete, this range formed a western counterpoint to the Library and Herbarium to the east, flanking the Danby Gate on either side.

The rock garden was built around the lily pond to the south in 1926. A further area to the south was incorporated into the garden in 1945 when part of Christ Church Meadow was leased from Christ Church College, representing the extent of the gardens to this day.

The buildings of the garden continued to be developed, though on a more modest scale than previously, into the second half of the 20th Century. In 1952 the cellar of the Library and

Herbarium was converted to a ladies' cloakroom. A temporary machine shed was built against the north-eastern boundary of the High Street frontage in 1954, and this was replaced by a permanent shed in 1957. In 1972 the Daubeny Laboratory was converted for use as accommodation for Magdalen College with ten flats and eight rooms. This involved altering the northern elevation and removing chimney stacks. A car park for nine cars was also created at the same time. Some alterations and repairs were conducted to the Long Library in the following year.



Figure 6. The Botanic Garden in 2010 orientated with North at the bottom of the image

Two new buttresses were constructed in 1991 to support the garden wall and the fence at the north-eastern boundary of the garden was replaced with a railing in 2001. This allowed access to the lavatories from within the garden but only controlled access into the garden from the north at this point.

In 2005 the timber ticket office was demolished and a new (extant) ticket office constructed. This involved the relocation of the iron gates from the south side to the north side of the Danby Gateway in order to control access to the site. Access to the site is via the eastern postern gateway, the vermiculated arch of which was reconstructed in 1970. The Charlotte building was also erected to the southeast of the site, involving the demolition of some historical potting sheds, in 2005/6. The lavatories to the east of the Library and Herbarium were renovated in 2010.

The Botanic Garden continues to serve the University and the public as both a teaching and leisure space, as well as providing accommodation for Magdalen College within its buildings.

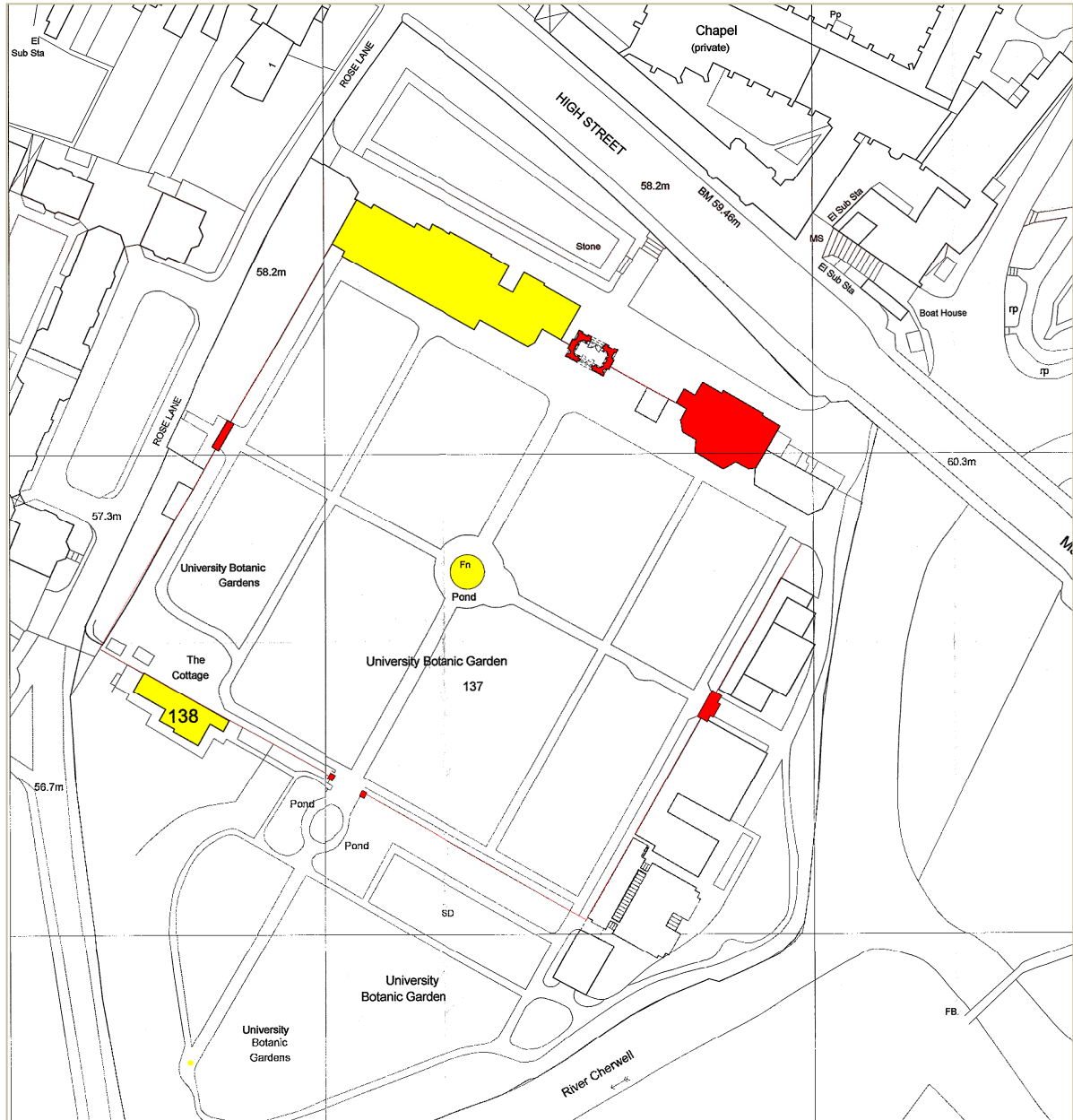


Figure 7. The listed buildings of the Botanic Garden. Items marked in red are Grade I listed, yellow are Grade II listed



SIGNIFICANCE

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3 SIGNIFICANCE

NPPF paragraph 128 specifies that in assessing planning applications:

‘Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of any heritage assets affected including any contribution made by their setting.’

The significance of the Botanic Garden has been publically recognised by various designations (see **Appendix 1**). The garden as a whole is Grade I listed on the Register of Parks and Gardens. The garden walls and gateways, the Danby Gate, and the Library and Herbarium were designated Grade I listed in 1954. The buildings of the West Block were designated Grade II listed in 1954, primarily to protect the original Townsend section of the Daubeny Laboratory. The walls of the northern boundary were designated Grade I listed in 1972, whilst the fountain, the 18th-century vase at the southern end of the main path, and the Cottage were designated Grade II listed at the same time. The gardens were included in Oxford City Council’s designation of its Central (City and University) Conservation Area in 1971, and in its subsequent revisions in 1974, 1981, 1985, and 1998 (see **Appendix 2**).

3.1 Significance as part of High Street East and the Central (City and University) Conservation Area

Oxford High Street is one of the most significant architectural spaces in the world. Its combination of civic buildings, commercial structures, colleges, and university buildings (all with some historical character and significance) is not replicated on such a scale anywhere else, even in its nearest equivalent, which might be Trumpington Street in Cambridge.

The character of High Street is not simple, being formed from the combination of a variety of factors. Despite its varied and lauded educational institutions, the preponderance of commercial establishments (and of shoppers and tourists on an average day) prevents the High Street as a whole from being characterised as an academic space. It encapsulates that relationship which defines Oxford beyond all other university towns: the dichotomy between City and University.

The eastern end of High Street is dominated by its relationship with Magdalen Bridge, which connects East Oxford to the city centre. The monumental façade of Magdalen College (and the softer foliage cover of the approach to the Botanic Garden) frames a wide and busy road, heavily used by vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

Architecturally the main contributing factors to the character of the eastern end of High Street are Magdalen Bridge, Magdalen College (and more specifically its tower), and the northern elevation of the Botanic Garden.

Magdalen’s southern elevation has a greater impact on High Street itself, with the Botanic Garden being obscured along most of its length by the tree cover and by its rose garden, as well as by its set-back and sunken position. Its impact is only really felt on High Street from directly in front of the Danby Gateway, roughly opposite the Magdalen Great Tower, where there is a long stepped approach directly from the street.

The eastern corner of the Library and Herbarium has some impact when approaching from the east along Magdalen Bridge. Its northeast corner, accompanied by its long windows and ionic pilasters, provides a pleasant, though not overwhelming, introduction to the buildings of the northern boundary from the west.



Figure 8. The approach to the Botanic Garden along Magdalen Bridge from the east

The rose garden is a pleasant space but is relatively underappreciated and underutilised by the public, perhaps because the busy motor traffic on the adjacent stretch of road prevents it from achieving any sustained sense of tranquillity.

The tarmac-paved area immediately in front of the Botanic Garden, sunken from High Street, feels like a rather mean space (having certainly diminished in quality in the last century, see **Section 4.1**), it is dark and dominated by parked cars. The approach to any part of the northern elevation except for the Danby Gateway (which benefits from a linear stepped approach from High Street) is narrow and runs parallel to the elevations, denying the observer a chance to properly appreciate the façades.

The Botanic Garden and its wooded setting contributes to the character of the eastern end of High Street; however, the impact of the significant buildings is hampered by the landscape setting, which prevents the buildings being properly viewed or appreciated from the street. The soft setting of the tree cover and rose garden act as something of a foil to the hard, striking southern façade of Magdalen College. The impact of the Botanic Garden at this point is not overwhelming but it is certainly a significant contributing factor in the character of the area.

3.2 Architectural Significance

The architecture of the Botanic Garden features a successful mix of styles and periods, significant examples ranging from the 17th-century gates and walls right through to the 20th-century façade of the Vines Wing. Nicholas Stone's walls and arches stand as the most significant aspects of the architecture, providing a notable combination of aesthetic, illustrative, and evidential value.



Figure 9. The Danby Gateway

The Danby Gate “is highly ornate and has all the unclassical profusion which Nicholas Stone also showed in the porch of St Mary. With Inigo Jones this has nothing to do, with Italy everything, but not Palladio, rather Serlio’s *Extraordinary Book* of archways which show that delight in the alteration of smoothed heavily rusticated parts characteristic of Stone’s gateway...In the lateral bays are niches with the (later) STATUES of Charles I and Charles II. In the main pediment cartouches, and in a niche Danby himself, 1695 by *John Vanderstein* (payment £7 12s. 0d.).”³ The triumph of the Danby Gate illustrates the burgeoning interest in the Renaissance in Oxford in the first half of the 17th Century. Classical elements had already been integrated into structures elsewhere in the city but the Danby Gateway, along with its fellow gateways, stand as “Oxford’s first consistently classical structures.”⁴ The archway is the most striking and certainly the most memorable architectural feature of the Botanic Garden and generates substantial aesthetic value.

³ Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J, *Buildings of England: Oxfordshire* (Harmondsworth, 1974) 267.

⁴ Tyack, G., *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (Oxford, 1998) 107.



Figure 10. The eastern gateway and wall looking southwards

The eastern and western arches recreate the themes of the Danby Gateway on a smaller and much plainer scale (**Figure 10**). The walls themselves are illustrative of plainer construction contemporary with the archways. They have a charming, worn aesthetic value that could not be easily recreated without 400 years of use, weathering, and care.

The buildings of the northern elevation form an attractive group. The easternmost historic building, the Library and Herbarium, stands separate from the other buildings, on the far side of the Danby Gateway. Its northern elevation, to a c.1835 design by H.J. Underwood, is an attractive Grecian façade of “2-storeyed ashlar on a rusticated ground floor and having a centre piece of 4 engaged Doric columns breaking forward, a moulded entablature, and a parapet. 5 tall sash windows in moulded frames with scroll-bracketed cornices: in the ground floor are 5 small sash windows.”⁵ It has some impact from Magdalen Bridge, its Grecian façade having the character of a triumphal arch from an oblique angle.

The buildings of the West Block now form a cohesive whole. The northern elevation of the Daubeny Laboratory, which forms the central portion of the group dates from 1848. It is less successful than the Library and Herbarium, with the ground floor feeling quite separate from the upper storey; however, the group as a whole ultimately succeeds. This sense of cohesion is better achieved on the southern façade, where the massing and design of the separate elements feels more uniform.

The Cottage is a pleasant example of 18th-century domestic construction. For the sake of privacy, it is set back within its own fenced garden. Its ashlar upper storey and red-brick chimney stack rise above the adjacent wall and foliage, where they can be appreciated as an aesthetically-pleasing aspect of the setting and surrounding of the gardens.

⁵ Listed building description, **Appendix 1**.



Figure 11. The southern façade of the West Block looking north-eastwards



Figure 12. The upper storey of the Grade-II-listed Cottage rising above the surrounding fence and foliage

3.3 Archaeological Significance

As noted above (**Section 2.2**) the site of the Botanic Garden has a long history of use and a rich archaeological record. A Roman bowl was dredged from next to the Botanic Garden in 1885-6. The site of the Botanic Garden was a Jewish Cemetery from 1180 until Edward I's Edict of Expulsion, which expelled the Jews from England in 1290. Skeletons were found during excavations to fit a sewer in 1806. The site was raised substantially in 1621 when the first Physic Garden was created, so it is unlikely that any garden-related excavation would interact with any earlier deposits. A clay pipe related to the early days of the garden (a common find for the period, c.1640-70) was found on the site in 1851, and there is likely substantial extant material related to its use since this point.

There has been no systematic archaeological survey of the site but its long history of occupation, coupled with sporadic finds, suggests that there is potentially extant archaeological material, with evidential value.

3.4 Historical Significance

The heritage asset is formed from a substituent group of significant historical buildings of various periods and characters, and the garden itself. The garden as a whole stands as the earliest example of a university physic garden in Britain: not only the oldest extant but the oldest to have existed. The layout of the gardens has changed dependent on the development of botany and taxonomy as disciplines and so has been altered at various points throughout its existence. The gardens retain their original boundary walls, which have only really been exceeded on riverside to the east and more extensively into Christchurch Meadows to the south, and certainly possess some illustrative value regarding the historical development of such institutions.

As the site of a historic Jewish cemetery, the gardens might be expected to hold some social value on these grounds. The cemetery is commemorated by a plaque of 1931 set on the gates and the Oxford Jewish Heritage Committee hopes to erect a more prominent memorial to the mediaeval Jewish cemetery in the future.⁶

3.5 Significance as a university botanic garden

“During the last four centuries it has been essential that successive generations of gardeners have ensured that the Garden has been used by the University and other visitors.”⁷ The Botanic Garden is an important educational and research resource. It is visited by over 6,500 school children a year as part of the Schools Educational Programme, whilst over 5,000 adults a year attend courses at the garden. The garden also contributes to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, actively propagating and distributing the rarer plants within its collection. The significance of the garden as a working garden, an attraction for visitors as well as a place of serious study and research, is central to its significance and is linked

⁶ <http://www.oxfordjewishheritage.co.uk/projects/botanic-gardens-first-jewish-cemetery>, accessed 4th October 2011.

⁷ <http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/Garden/History%20Sub/obg-history-4.html>, accessed 4th October 2011.

directly to its original purpose and the associated illustrative value (**Section 3.4**). This usage maintains the relevance of the heritage asset and funds its upkeep.

The Cottage serves as the home of the incumbent Professor of Botany but the other historic buildings of the Botanic Garden have developed uses not directly linked with the running of the garden itself, with the Library and Herbarium and the buildings of the West Block (except for one room retained for the use of the garden) serving as student accommodation blocks for Magdalen College.

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VULNERABILITIES

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4 VULNERABILITIES

The ability of the Botanic Garden to fulfil its current function

The Botanic Garden continues to fulfil much the same function as it was originally designed to, that of a university botanic or physic garden. The walls and gates continue to fulfil their original function providing a boundary and access points to the garden. The buildings along the northern wall are no longer related to their original function and act as accommodation for Magdalen College. The continued use of the garden as a botanic garden and of the historic buildings in some way that respects and does not detract from their essential character is important to their ongoing maintenance and conservation. The listed buildings and items have retained their significant character because the buildings have remained in use, and have been maintained and cared for.

The current usage funds the upkeep and conservation of the heritage asset and ensures its continued existence and significance. The significant features are not threatened and the numerous listings across the site ensure that any future alterations operate within the constraints of an accepted understanding of the site's significance as a contiguous group of heritage assets. It is important that the site and buildings retain contemporary and relevant uses into the future. Whilst some change is inevitable in order to retain the relevance and usage of the site and buildings, their historical characters should be respected in any future plans.

4.1 Maintenance

The external façades of the walls, gates, and historic buildings are the most significant architectural features of the Botanic Garden, generating substantial aesthetic value. The northern elevations along High Street (notably the Library and Herbarium and the Danby Gateway) contribute substantially to the character of the eastern extremity of the city centre. Within the site, the walls and the southern elevations provide a grand and pleasant setting for the paths and flora, contributing significantly to the character of the gardens themselves and of visitors' enjoyment of the site.

The elevations contribute extensively to their settings. For the most part they have aged well but they are open to weathering, erosion, potential vandalism, and (especially along High Street) pollution: damage which could detract from the significance of the heritage asset. The Headington freestone (Oxford's dominant building



Figure 13. Damage to Headington freestone on the eastern gateway

stone in the 17th Century) on parts of the original walls and arches has suffered particularly

badly, exemplifying the very qualities (being in many places “too soft and sandy for use”) that led to the abandonment of its use in Oxford in the second half of the 19th Century (e.g. **Figure 13**).⁸

The landscape setting of the heritage asset has changed throughout its existence. **Figure 3** gives a very different image of the north side of the garden than can be seen today, as does **Figure 14** which shows the open nature of the northern approach in 1901. The rose garden north of the Botanic Garden is a pleasant space but ultimately the historic buildings have lost their most impressive approaches, with their most significant elevations being relegated to narrow, dark, tarmac-paved spaces.

The approaches from the east and south (across the river and across Christ Church Meadow) remain spectacular. Equally from within the garden the historic features enjoy a setting of singular quality. From the west, along Rose Lane, there is not a great deal to be seen of the Botanic Garden. The approach is pleasant; the walls are obscured from the street, but enough is visible to give a feel for their character to the passerby (**Figure 15**). The major disappointment along this approach is the western gateway which has a narrow, gated passage through the foliage and cannot be properly appreciated from Rose Lane.



Figure 14. The northern elevation of the Daubeny Laboratory, looking east, 1901



Figure 15. The approach along Rose Lane looking south-eastwards

⁸ Arkell, W.J., *Oxford Stone* (London, 1947) 50, 52.

4.1.1 The Danby Gateway

The Danby Gateway is perhaps the single most important architectural feature in the Botanic Garden. It is an attractive piece and remains in a good state of repair, though the statues have suffered in their details, both full figures having lost their hands. The plinth especially has suffered from weathering and consideration could be given to cleaning throughout on the north façade where the stone has blackened in places. The southern façade, which is more sheltered from High Street, has fared rather better (see **Cover**), presumably having been cleaned and repaired c.20 years ago, but exhibits some minor damage as could be expected of a building of its age. It has lost some of its symmetry and feels somewhat crowded since the erection of the Vines Wing immediately to the west in 1910, as it was initially the grand gateway flanked by two posterns; however, it has significant aesthetic value and is the single most recognisable feature of the gardens (**Figure 16**).

Immediately to the southwest of the Danby Gateway is a lead cistern of attractive character marked with the University crest and dated 1780



Figure 16. The Danby Gateway from the north

4.1.2 Eastern Gateway

The eastern gateway is an attractive piece, reading as the Danby Gateway on a much smaller, less elaborate scale; notably it has a semi-elliptical pediment in contrast to the sharp triangular features of the Danby Gateway. Its aesthetic value is significant and the transition

through it from the riverside glasshouses into the garden-proper is an important element of the visitors' experience of the Botanic Garden. As mentioned above, the stone of the archway has suffered over time (Section 4.1, Figure 13), as Headington freestone is wont to do, and parts have been restored at some point (notably on the pediment). The damage at the lower levels is cause for some concern



Figure 17. Left, eastern gateway from the east. Right, the eastern gateway from the west

4.1.3 Western Gateway

The western gateway follows a similar design to the contemporary eastern gateway, though being taller, and consequently feeling narrower. As is to be expected, it has suffered from weathering in a manner akin to the eastern gateway, having lost a lot of its harder angles, though it has fared better at its lower levels, perhaps because it is not used regularly. As mentioned above (**Section 4.1**), the gateway is difficult to appreciate from the west where it is set back from the road in a locked precinct, but from the within the garden it is an important contributing factor to the character of the space.



Figure 18. The western gateway from the east

4.1.4 Walls

The 17th-century walls around the site are the subject of various Grade I listings. They are integral to the character of the site as an historic walled garden. They have been patched and repaired throughout their existence (e.g. **Figure 19**) but retain the integrity of their initial design, interacting particularly well with the gates and archways.



Figure 19. Weathering and repairs on the stretch of wall between the Danby Gateway and the Library and Herbarium

4.1.5 The Library and Herbarium

The Library and Herbarium retains Townsend's original 1733-35 ground floor on the southern elevation, as well as Underwood's c.1835 ground floor on the northern elevation and his c.1865 first floor on both elevations (**Figure 20**). Its Grecian façade is one of the most appreciable aspects of the Botanic Garden from Magdalen Bridge (**Figure 8**) and remains in good condition. It has suffered from the diminishment of its immediate setting, but this is perhaps less pronounced than for the other buildings of the northern boundary as the setting opens up considerably towards the east. There are various signs of repair and refacing to the stone work at various points on both elevations.



Figure 20. Left, the north elevation of the Library and Herbarium looking southeast. Right, the south elevation of the Library and Herbarium looking northwest

4.1.6 The West Block (the Daubeny Laboratory, the Vines Wing, and the Manley Laboratory)

The buildings of the West Block (**Figure 21**) are clustered around the central Daubeny Laboratory. This was built in 1733-35 by Townsend. The northern elevation was added by Underwood in 1848, and both elevations were raised by the addition of a first floor in c.1861. The Manley Laboratory was added to the west in 1902 (with a first floor added in 1932) and the Vines Wing to the east in 1910, both designed to harmonise with the Townsend building. As with the other buildings, there is evidence for repairs, patching, and refacing on both elevations. The northern elevations have suffered from the diminishment of the landscape setting (**Section 4.1** and **Figure 14**) but the southern elevations, which succeed in forming a more cohesive group, enjoy and contribute to a remarkable setting.



Figure 21. Left, the West Block from the north looking southwest. Right, the West Block from the south, looking northeast

4.1.7 The Fountain

The 19th-century fountain in the centre of the garden is a circular stone basin with a raised central basin and jet (**Figure 22**).



Figure 22. The fountain in the centre of the garden

4.1.8 Vase at the south end of the Main Walk

The 18th-century vase at the south end of the Main Walk is the terminal feature of the garden and is the subject of a separate Grade II listing. It is exposed and has suffered weathering as expected for an item of its age but is in good condition. There are other vases in the garden and there were originally more statues present, for instance a boar based on a Roman model (a popular early modern statue known since 1556, the oldest extant cast of which is in the Ashmolean's Cast Gallery).



Figure 23. The vase at the south end of the Main Walk, looking south

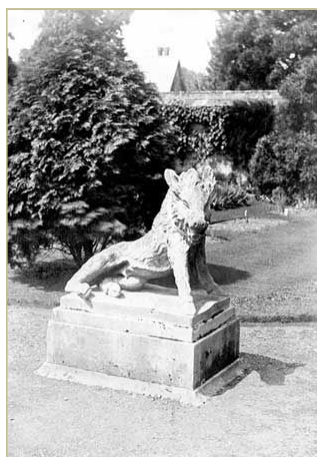


Figure 24. Boar statue (no longer present) in the Botanic Garden, photographed in 1914



5

CONSERVATION
POLICY

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5 CONSERVATION POLICY

Having established the significance of the Botanic Garden as a heritage asset made up of several significant constituent elements, and having identified ways in which the Botanic Garden is vulnerable to harm, it is necessary to recommend policies to reduce the probability of such harm occurring, and thereby conserve the significance of the site. In essence, these policies set parameters for managing the fabric of the site.

The Conservation Plan is intended as an active tool for the regular maintenance and long-term management of the Botanic Garden. It needs to be reviewed regularly, and revised as appropriate to take into account additional knowledge and changing priorities.

5.1 The Botanic Garden's current use, as a university garden, educational setting, research space, and visitor attraction, is vital to its continued significance. Equally, the use of the attached buildings in a manner that respects their historic character is also imperative. Permit, in line with NPPF paragraphs 131, 132, 133, and 134, alterations intended to facilitate its continued use in this way

The current and historic rôle of the Botanic Garden, as a university garden, represents an integral aspect of its character and overall significance. Limited alterations may be required to allow it to retain this significance in line with modern and future standards and requirements. If alteration is required in the future it should be permitted with the following provisos:

- Any alterations must be sympathetic to the Botanic Garden's significance as a heritage asset and, in line with NPPF paragraph 134, any proposals that involve 'less than substantial harm to the significance' should deliver 'substantial public benefits.' In line with NPPF paragraph 132, any proposals that involve 'substantial harm or loss' should be 'wholly exceptional.'
- Any changes should: '...preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset' (NPPF paragraph 137).

5.1.1 In order to ensure that the Botanic Garden can operate to modern standards, and that its significance can be maintained by making access as wide as possible, special concern should be applied to ensuring that disabled access remains adequate in future alterations

Ensuring that the heritage asset can be enjoyed as widely as possible will have a major positive impact on its significance. The Botanic Garden is already commendably accessible with level surfaces throughout and accessible lavatories, but access will remain a major concern in any future plans developed for the site, with the University seeking to exceed its statutory obligations and always viewing this as part of an ongoing process.

5.2 Note that the buildings of the Botanic Garden (and the garden itself) are subject to various Grade I and Grade II listings and ensure that appropriate consents are obtained for any works conducted on the buildings

In order to ensure the heritage asset's significance, alterations may be required in the future, and due to the listed status of the constituent buildings, even minor routine repairs in significant areas may need consent. Caution should be applied in order to ensure that any statutory duties are fulfilled. In cases of doubt **Estates Services should be contacted in the first instance**, and if necessary they will refer queries on to Oxford City Council.

5.3 Ensure proper consultation in advance of any work to the constituent buildings with the Local Authority Conservation Officer (through Estates Services) and any other interested parties

It is important to guarantee that the best advice is obtained at an early stage of any proposal to alter any significant elements in order to ensure that the significance of the site and its constituent elements is respected.

5.4 Refer to this Conservation Plan when considering repairs or alterations in any space

The Conservation Plan gives an overview of which aspects of the building are significant or vulnerable. Where original or significant material is extant, repairs should be carried out using the same materials and techniques and should not affect the significance of the asset without providing substantial public benefits in line with NPPF paragraph 134.

5.5 Any redevelopment needs to respect the character of the surrounding area and the Botanic Garden's setting adjacent to listed buildings (notably the High Street façade of Magdalen College and the Magdalen Great Tower)

The buildings of the Botanic Garden contribute to the character of the eastern end of High Street and the Central (City and University) Conservation Area (**Section 3.1**), interacting well with both the older and newer buildings around it. Any future alteration should be sympathetic to this fact, and should not diminish its rôle there.

5.7 Conservation of specific factors contributing to overall significance

The buildings of the Botanic Garden are of particular significance (see **Section 3.2** and **4.1**). An effort should be made to identify and conserve original and significant architectural features, and keep these in use where possible in line with **Section 5.1**; however, it is accepted that all materials have a natural life span and some degree of change must be permitted to keep the building safe, useable, and generally fit for its purpose as a working university garden. Some materials will have a very long life expectancy if given routine maintenance; others are impermanent and may need periodic replacement. Within the framework of understanding and valuing what is present in the building a degree of ongoing change is inevitable.

5.7.1 Any alterations to Danby Gateway will respect its significance and character

This is perhaps the most significant architectural element of the Botanic Garden. Any alterations to the Danby Gateway could significantly affect the character of the Botanic Garden, especially from High Street. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7.2 Any alterations to the East Gateway will respect its significance and character

This is an early and significant architectural element, which is particularly important to the visitors' experience of the garden. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7.3 Any alterations to the West Gateway will respect its significance and character

This is an early and significant architectural element, which, whilst unused, contributes substantial aesthetic value to the western side of the garden. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7.4 Any alterations to the garden walls will respect their significance and character

The garden walls are an original feature central to the character of the Botanic Garden. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7.5 Any alterations to the exterior elevations of the Library and Herbarium will respect its significance and character

The Library and Herbarium preserves elements of 18th- and 19th-century construction and retains its historic character to a better degree than the Daubeny Laboratory to the west. It is important to the character of the Botanic Garden, especially as it appears from Magdalen Bridge. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7.6 Any alterations to the buildings of the West Block (the Daubeny Laboratory, the Manley Laboratory, and the Vines Wing) will respect their significance and character

The buildings of the West Block, particularly the Daubeny Laboratory, are important to the character of the Botanic Garden. They are most attractive when viewed from the south, but are also an important contributing factor to the character of the northern boundary of the gardens. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7.7 Any alterations to the fountain at the centre of the garden will respect its significance and character

The 19th-century fountain in the centre of the garden is significant to the overall character of the interior of the gardens, being a focal and orientation point for visitors. Its contribution to the aesthetic value of the site is also important. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7.8 Any alterations to the vase at the south end of the main walk will respect its significance and character

The 18th-century vase at the south end of the main walk marks the terminus of the main garden walk, being an orientation point for visitors as well as an item of some historic and aesthetic value. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7.9 Any alterations to the Cottage will respect its significance and character

The Cottage is an attractive 18th-century house with possibly 17th-century origins. Its ashlar elevations add nuance to the character of the garden's setting. It functions as a family home and throughout its life can be expected to undergo minor alterations in line with this use. Any proposed future alterations that affect this feature will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for its historic character and significance in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.8 In the vein of NPPF paragraph 110, efforts should be made to ensure that the Botanic Garden's contribution to climate change is as minimal as is feasible for a building of its age, size, materials, and use. Any proposals for alterations should assess the feasibility of incorporating low and zero carbon technologies

Ensuring that the building is sustainable will be crucial to its long-term survival and significance. As stated in NPPF paragraph 110, development should seek to 'minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment.'

5.9 If during subsequent renovations or alterations any excavation work is carried out beneath the Botanic Garden or surrounding area, an archaeological assessment will be made of the potential for significant finds, and if appropriate an archaeologist will be given a watching brief as the excavation takes place

There is the potential for significant archaeological material across the site (**Section 3.3**). It is unlikely that any everyday gardening-related excavation will affect any deposits older than the construction of the garden itself; however, should any more substantial excavation work be carried out, an assessment of the archaeological potential should be made. This should include at least a desk-based assessment, but possibly geophysics and trial trenching. A watching brief will almost certainly be required for any such excavation.

5.10 A good practice of routine recording, investigation, and maintenance will be enacted and sustained. Such an approach will minimise the need for larger repairs or other interventions and will usually represent the most economical way of retaining an asset

5.10.1 Estates Services (or its agents) will ensure that a senior member of staff has responsibility for the administration and recording of a routine maintenance programme for the buildings

All buildings need to be routinely maintained if they are to stay in a good condition. This requires a detailed maintenance programme and, critically, someone who is responsible for ensuring that routine operations are carried out. A proper record of the repair and maintenance work in a maintenance log is a useful management tool. Such information will be recorded in the Estates Management software package *Planon*.

5.10.2 A detailed routine maintenance programme will be prepared for the site and buildings

Maintenance is best carried out as a series of planned operations. A well thought-out and properly-administered maintenance programme may appear to be time consuming but will result in better-functioning buildings with less need for emergency repairs.

5.10.3 The Conservation Plan will be circulated to all senior staff who work in the Botanic Garden and to all other members of the University who have responsibility for the building or its contents

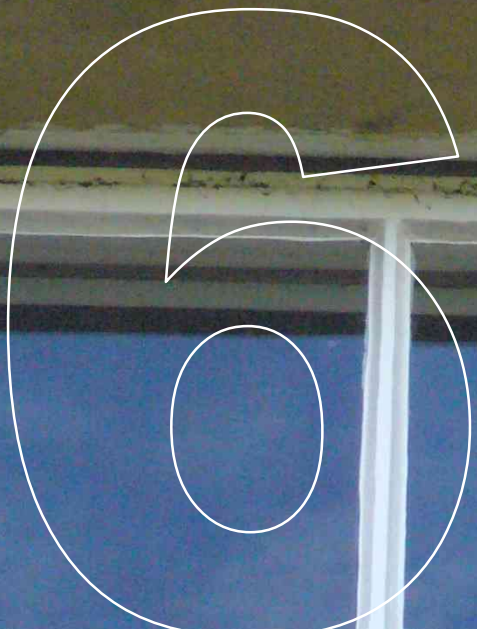
The value of the site and its buildings need to be appreciated by all senior staff managing or working there. Only in this way will the heritage asset be properly treated, repaired, and maintained.

5.10.4 The Conservation Plan will be made available to Oxford City Council, English Heritage, and any other party with a legitimate interest in the building

The Conservation Plan is intended to be a useful document to inform all parties with a legitimate interest in the site and buildings.

5.11 The Conservation Plan will be reviewed and updated from time to time as work is carried out on the building or as circumstances change. The recommendations should be reviewed at least at five-year intervals

Policy changes, alterations to the buildings, or other changes of circumstance, will affect the conservation duties and requirements of the building. The policy recommendations in the Conservation Plan will inform the future of the building and should be a useful tool for people carrying out maintenance work or where more significant alterations are being considered. The recommendations need to be kept up to date if they are to remain relevant.



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6.6 Image Credits

- Cover: Estates Services photograph.
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- Figure 1: Adapted from Google Maps (see **Section 6.5**).

- Figure 2: From British History.ac.uk (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figure 3: From English Heritage Viewfinder (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figure 4: Adapted from English Heritage Viewfinder (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figure 5: From English Heritage Viewfinder (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figure 6: From Bing Maps (see **Section 6.5**).
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- Figure 14: From English Heritage Viewfinder (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figures 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23: Estates Services photographs.
- Figure 24: From English Heritage Viewfinder (see **Section 6.5**).

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APPENDICES

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7 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Listed Building Descriptions

Summary

Grade	Item	Age	Description
I (Parks and Gardens) (1984)	Oxford Botanic Garden	Early C17	Walled university physic garden, the oldest of its kind in Britain (see list description).
I (1954)	Wall to the East of Magdalen College Bursary	C17/18	Ashlar, with a vase finial at the river end. All the listed buildings on the South Side [of High Street] form a group.
I (1972)	The Library and Herbarium of the Botanic Garden	1733-35 and c.1865	<p>The Library and Herbarium consists of 2 buildings, now including Magdalen College Bursary.</p> <p>(a) The South elevation was originally of one storey built to form the eastern-most orangery, or plant house, in 1733-35 for which William Townsend, the Oxford mason-architect, was paid in 1736. It was raised by one storey when HJ Underwood designed the porter's lodge on the west and (b) the North elevation. The South elevation now consists of 2-storeyed ashlar with a moulded cornice below it. There is a 2-storeyed 3-sided bay with a central doorway flanked by a window. The tall sash windows have plain recessed reveals and rusticated keystones. The additional storey of c.1865 is in the same style; at this time the building became the Professor's house.</p> <p>(b) The North elevation, c.1835 by Underwood is 2-storeyed ashlar on a rusticated ground fl. and having a centre piece of 4 engaged Doric columns breaking forward, a moulded entablature and a parapet. 5 tall sash windows in moulded frames with scroll bracketed cornices: in the ground fl. are 5 small sash windows.</p> <p>All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.</p>
I (1954)	Wall between Main Gate and Magdalen College Bursary	C17/C18	<p>Ashlar, including a small doorway with vermiculated surround.</p> <p>All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.</p>
I (1954)	The Main (or Danby) Gateway in the centre with its	1632	By Nicholas Stone in Headington Freestone. All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

	flanking wall and 2 doorways		
II (1954)	The West Block	First storey 1733-5, second storey c.1861	The West Block retains in its centre western-most orangery, originally of one storey built by Townesend in 1733-5; it was later raised by one storey (? c.1861). To the east and west of this original nucleus were built the other buildings. The whole South elevation now shows a homogenous whole (and has been graded II to preserve the Townsend part in particular) but the frontage is broken by the additions.
	The Vines Wing	1910	2-storeyed ashlar on the South in style similar to the Townsend building. On the North elevation is a moulded band at the 1 st fl., moulded cornice and small parapet. 3 1 st -fl. sash windows with rusticated keystones and plain recessed reveals; below each is a rusticated rectangular raised panel. The West part breaks forward and has a plain doorway with 2 sash windows on each side and in the 1 st fl. Is a 3-light sash window in a recessed frame with a rusticated keystone.
	The Daubeny Laboratory	1848	Has its own nucleus in the centre, the western-most one-storey orangery built by Townsend. The south elevation follows Townsend's design and consists of two-storeyed ashlar with a moulded cornice at the 1 st fl. and a parapet with a moulded cornice below it. At the 1 st fl. level are rectangular rusticated panels. The North elevation is of 2-storeyed ashlar and a parapet. 5 sash windows, the centre 3 breaking forward in plain reveals with rusticated keystones below each window in the first fl. are rusticated panels.
	The Manley Laboratory	1902	The South elevation follows the other two ranges on the east; the 1 st fl. was added in 1932. The North elevation is 2-storeyed plain ashlar with a moulded band at the 1 st fl., moulded eaves cornice, small parapet, and 2-light casement windows.
I (1954)	The garden wall and East and West gateways	C17 and later	Surrounding the Botanic Garden with the East and West gateways. 2 pedimented gateways, similar, but on a smaller scale, to the Main Gate.
II (1972)	Fountain in the centre of the garden	Probably C19	Circular stone basin with raised central basin and jet.
II (1972)	The Cottage, Christchurch Meadows/High Street	Rear dates to 1623 (building of boundary wall). Front C18	2-storeyed double-fronted ashlar with 2 unequal gables, a stone slate roof and a brick stack. In the West gable is a sash window and the East gable a casement, one in each floor. The east gable end is built in brick. The sash windows have glazing bars.
II (1972)	Vase at the South	C18	Stone vase on plinth forming the terminal feature of the main garden walk

	end of the Main Walk		
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Full list descriptions

List Entry Summary

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

Name: OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN

List Entry Number: 1000464

Location

The garden or other land may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first registered: 01-Jun-1984

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: Parks and Gardens

UID: 1433

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Garden

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

Early C17 walled university physic garden, the oldest of its kind in Britain.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Henry Danvers, first Earl of Danby, gave £5000 in 1621 for a Physic Garden which was sited in the north-east corner of Christ Church Meadow, on land belonging to Magdalen College, part of which had been the Jewish burial ground until 1293. The land, outside the city walls, was raised to counteract flooding by the addition of 4000 loads of 'mucke and dunge' (guidebook 1995). After this, during the 1620s, the walls were erected, the archways being built during the early 1630s by Nicholas Stone, Inigo Jones' master mason. The first of fifteen Superintendents, Jacob Bobart, who was appointed in 1642, published a catalogue of 1300 trees and plants growing in the garden in 1648. Bobart, upon his death in 1679, was replaced by his son, Jacob the Younger, who also became Professor of Botany. There followed a succession of Superintendents and Professors, and the fortunes of the garden waxed and waned, it being renamed the Botanic Garden by Professor Daubeny in 1840. In 1945 the area beyond the south wall was incorporated from Christ Church Meadow. The Garden remains (1997) part of the University, and an educational facility.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Oxford Botanic Garden lies close to the centre of Oxford at the east end of the High Street, next to Magdalen Bridge, the level site occupying former flood meadows in the Cherwell Valley. The 2ha garden is bounded to the east and south by the River Cherwell and beyond this Magdalen College School playing fields, to the south-west by Merton Field and Christ Church Meadow; to the north by the Penicillin Memorial Rose Garden (designed by Dame Sylvia Crowe mid C20, for Magdalen College) and The High and to the west by Rose Lane and adjacent college buildings.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance, at the centre of the north garden wall, lies set back from, and slightly lower than, the High Street, opposite Magdalen College tower. Iron gates (and formerly wooden doors) are set within the Danby Gateway (Nicholas Stone 1632, listed grade I), an imposing, two-storey, Mannerist archway in Headington Freestone, flanked by stone walls, with a small doorway with similar motifs close by in the wall to the east. Two lesser gateways (Nicholas Stone 1632-3, listed grade I), in similar style to, but on a smaller scale than, the Danby Gateway, give access to the walled garden, that to the west off Rose Lane via wooden doors, and that from the river to the east via iron gates, each set within contemporary garden walls.

GARDENS

The garden is dominated by 100m long, 5m high, ashlar walls (Nicholas Stone 1623 and later, listed grade I) with stone coping, enclosing the original, square Physic Garden. Short stretches of wall have been removed to create access in the north-east corner, and in the centre of the south wall, where the resultant opening is flanked by square pillars with vase finials. The Oxford Almanac (1766) shows the first successful glasshouses built in the garden, lean-to structures which lasted until the mid C19, sited against the north wall flanking the Danby Gateway. The north wall now (1997) has a C20 aluminium structure at its east end, adjacent to the original library and herbarium building (c 1735, 1835, listed grade I), now Magdalen College Bursary. This building consists of two sections to north and south: the south elevation, originally of one storey, was formed around the easternmost orangery, built by William Townesend 1733-5 and modified in 1835 by H J Underwood, who raised the building to two storeys and constructed the north elevation in similar style. At the west end of the wall is the West Block (listed grade II), its south facade in similar style to the Bursary, retaining at its centre the westernmost of Townesend's two orangeries.

The walled garden is divided by gravel paths into eight rectangular quarters largely containing narrow, rectangular beds within lawns, with two cruciform paths aligned on the central gateways, the whole surrounded by a perimeter path and overlooked by the late C15 Magdalen College tower. At the centre lies a circular pond (C19, listed grade II), with a stone basin surmounted by a central basin and jet. Throughout the garden is planted a collection of mature trees including, close to the south wall, one of Bobart's original yews.

Almost the whole of the outer side of the east wall, facing the lawn which runs down to the river, is occupied by a range of glasshouses, on the outline of predecessors erected by the then Professor of Botany, Charles Daubeny, in 1851 and rebuilt in 1893, 1949 and 1972. These buildings include a palm house, tropical water lily house, succulent house, service ranges and potting sheds. From this part of the garden there are views across the river to Magdalen Bridge and playing fields.

Outside the west wall a service area lies south of the gateway, while to the north are lawns with mature trees, the remains of a C19 pinetum planted by the Keeper William Baxter, who advised on the planting of local gardens, notably Park Town (qv) in North Oxford. South of the walled garden lies the area largely incorporated into the gardens c 1945. This area, bisected by an extension of the central north/south path aligned on the Danby Gateway, is arranged informally, and includes an herbaceous border, bog garden (rebuilt 1997), shrub beds and a rock garden (built 1926, rebuilt 1946, 1965, 1998) flanking a circular lily pond lying adjacent to the south entrance of the walled garden. The Cottage (1623, C18, listed grade II), attached to the west end of the south wall, has continued as the Superintendent's house since its initial erection. The rear portion, against the wall, is probably C17, the front

being C18, of ashlar with two storeys and two unequal gables.

Loggan's bird's-eye view (1675) seems to be the earliest depiction of the gardens, Hollar's map of 1643 showing meadows on the site. It shows the layout of narrow beds in geometrical patterns in each quarter, surrounded by low fences or walls, at the centre a small, circular pond or well, the whole surrounded by stone walls and the gateways which are illustrated alongside. A short path, flanked by shrubs clipped into topiary shapes, leads to the Danby Gateway from the north (no flanking doorways shown), to the east the outline of a path runs from the gateway to the river side, and to the south is what appears to be an extension of the river running parallel with the south wall, bounding a walk below the wall, reached from a small, central doorway, with a semicircular garden feature beyond. No features appear outside the west wall. A conservatory for evergreens, as Loggan illustrated on his view, now gone, may have been sited on a wall beyond the north wall adjacent to the High Street, shown in outline on Loggan's map of Oxford (1675).

In 1850, under the direction of Charles Daubeny, Professor of Botany, the shape of the beds was altered from narrow rectangles to irregular, informal shapes (OS 1878). Isaac Balfour, a later Botany Professor, directed further rearrangement, 1884-8, creating long, rectangular beds arranged to display the plants according to the taxonomic system created by Bentham and Hooker, which is the basis for the surviving layout (1997).

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University of Oxford Botanic Garden, guidebook, (1971, 1989, 1995)
N Pevsner and J Sherwood, *The Buildings of England: Oxfordshire* (1974), pp 267-8
Country Life, no 51 (19/26 December 1996), pp 48-51

Maps

Agas/Bereblock, Map of Oxford, engraved 1728 from 1578 original
Hollar, Map of Oxford, 1643
Loggan, Map of Oxford, 1675
R Davis, *A New Map of the County of Oxford ...*, 1797
A Bryant, *Map of the County of Oxford ...*, surveyed 1823

OS 6" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1881-2
2nd edition published 1901
3rd edition published 1926
OS 25" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1880
OS 1:500: 1st edition published 1878

Description written: October 1997
Amended: March 1999
Register Inspector: SR
Edited: March 2000

Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 52031 06057

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: WALL TO EAST OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE BURSARY

List Entry Number: 1369361

Location

WALL TO EAST OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE BURSARY, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first listed: 28-Jun-1972

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245497

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

Wall to East of

Magdalen College

Bursary

SP 5106 SW 10/422B

I GV

2.

CI7/CI8. Ashlar, with a vase finial at the river end.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Listing NGR: SP5210806091

Selected Sources

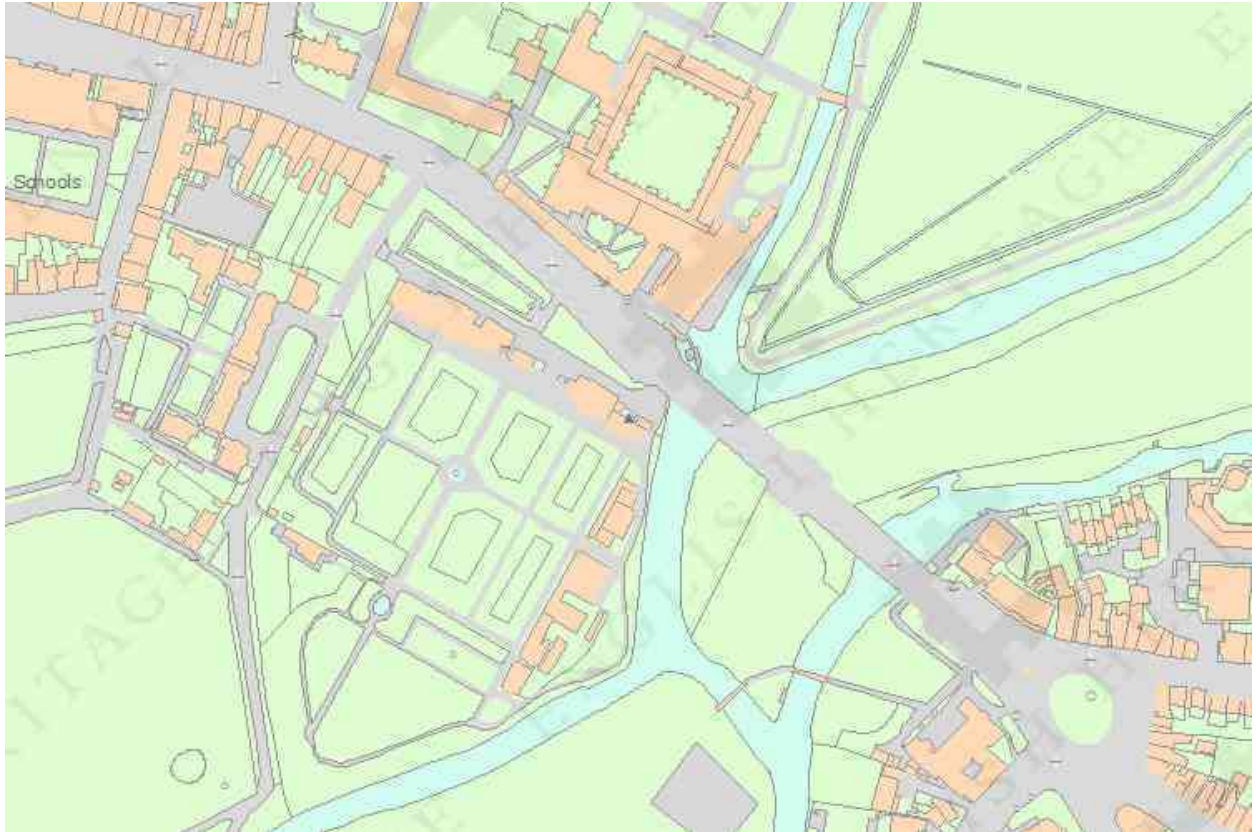
1. **Article Reference** - *Title:* Part 34 Oxfordshire - *Journal Title:* Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England

Map

Botanic Garden, Oxford.
Conservation Plan, April 2012

National Grid Reference: SP 52099 06097

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: THE LIBRARY AND HERBARIUM OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN

List Entry Number: 1320377

Location

THE LIBRARY AND HERBARIUM OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first listed: 12-Jan-1954

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245495

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

The Library and

Herbarium of the

Botanic Garden

SP 5206 SW 10/422 12.1.54.

I GV

2.

The Library and Herbarium consists of 2 buildings, now including Magdalen College Bursary.

(a) The South elevation was originally of one storey built to form the eastern-most orangery, or plant house, in 1733-35 for which William Townesend, the Oxford mason-architect, was paid in 1736. It was raised by one storey when H J Underwood designed the porter's lodge on the west and (b) the North elevation. The South elevation now consists of 2-storeyed ashlar with a moulded cornice at the 1st floor and a parapet with a moulded cornice below it. There is a 2-storeyed 3-sided bay with a central doorway flanked by a window. The tall sash windows have plain recessed reveals and rusticated keystones. The additional storey of c.1835 is in the same style; at this time the building became the Professor's house.

(b) The North elevation, c.1835 by Underwood is 2-storeyed ashlar on a rusticated ground floor and having a centre piece of 4 engaged Doric columns breaking forward, a moulded entablature and a parapet. 5 tall sash windows in moulded frames with scroll bracketed cornices: in the ground floor are 5 small sash windows.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Selected Sources

1. **Article Reference** - *Title*: Part 34 Oxfordshire - *Journal Title*: Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England
-

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 52085 06105

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: WALL BETWEEN MAIN GATE AND MAGDALEN COLLEGE BURSARY

List Entry Number: 1047284

Location

WALL BETWEEN MAIN GATE AND MAGDALEN COLLEGE BURSARY, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first listed: 28-Jun-1972

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245496

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

Wall between Main Gate

and Magdalen College

Bursary

SP 5206 SW 10/422A

I GV

2.

CI7/C18. Ashlar, including a small doorway with vermiculated surround.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Listing NGR: SP5206706114

Selected Sources

1. **Article Reference** - *Title:* Part 34 Oxfordshire - *Journal Title:* Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England
-

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 52067 06114

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: THE MAIN (OR DANBY) GATEWAY IN THE CENTRE WITH ITS FLANKING WALL AND 2 DOORWAYS

List Entry Number: 1320345

Location

THE MAIN (OR DANBY) GATEWAY IN THE CENTRE WITH ITS FLANKING WALL AND 2 DOORWAYS, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first listed: 12-Jan-1954

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245498

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

The main (or Danby)

gateway in the centre

with its flanking wall

and 2 doorways

SP 5206 SW 10/423 12.1.54.

I GV

2.

1632 by Nicholas Stone in Headington Freestone. RCHM 5.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Listing NGR: SP5205606121

Selected Sources

1. **Article Reference** - *Title:* Part 34 Oxfordshire - *Journal Title:* Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 52056 06121

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: THE DAUBENY LABORATORY THE MANLEY LABORATORY
THE VINES WING THE WEST BLOCK

List Entry Number: 1047285

Location

THE DAUBENY LABORATORY, HIGH STREET
THE MANLEY LABORATORY, HIGH STREET
THE VINES WING, HIGH STREET
THE WEST BLOCK, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire
District: Oxford
District Type: District Authority
Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 12-Jan-1954

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245499

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

The west block

SP 5206 SW 10/424 12.1.54. west block

II GV

2.

The West Block retains in its centre the western-most orangery, originally of one storey and built by Townesend in 1733-5; it was later raised by one storey (? c.1861). To the east and west of this original nucleus were built the Vines Wing, the Daubeny Laboratory and the Manley Laboratory. The whole South elevation now shews a homogeneous whole (and has been graded II to preserve the Townesend part in particular) but the frontage is broken by the additions.

(a) The Vines Wing of 1910. 2-storeyed ashlar on the South in style similar to the Townesend building. On the North elevation is a moulded band at the 1st floor, moulded cornice and a small parapet. 3 1st floor sash windows with rusticated keystones and plain recessed reveals; below each is a rusticated rectangular raised panel. The West part breaks forward and has a plain doorway with 2 sash windows on each side, and in the 1st floor is a 3-light sash window in a recessed frame with a rusticated keystone.

(b) The Daubeny Laboratory built in 1848, has as its nucleus in the centre,

the western most one-storeyed orangery built by Townsend. The south elevation follows Townsend's design and consists of two storeyed ashlar with a moulded cornice at the 1st floor and a parapet with a moulded cornice below it.

At the 1st floor level are rectangular rusticated panels. The North elevation is of 2-storeyed ashlar and a parapet. 5 sash windows, the centre 3 breaking forward in plain reveals with rusticated keystones below each window in the 1st floor are rectangular rusticated panels.

(c) The Manlev Laboratory, 1902. The South elevation follows the other two ranges on the east; the 1st floor was added in 1932. The North elevation is 2-storeyed plain ashlar with a moulded band at the 1st floor, moulded eaves cornice, small parapet and 2-light casement windows.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Listing NGR: SP5202706135

Selected Sources

1. **Article Reference - Title:** Part 34 Oxfordshire - *Journal Title:* Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England
-

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 52027 06135

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: THE GARDEN WALL AND THE EAST AND WEST GATEWAYS

List Entry Number: 1369362

Location

THE GARDEN WALL AND THE EAST AND WEST GATEWAYS, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first listed: 12-Jan-1954

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245500

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

The Garden wall and the

East and West Gateways

SP 5106 SE 9/421 12.1.54.

SP 5206 SW 10/421

I

2.

C17 and later. Surrounding the Botanic Garden with the East and West gateways.

RCHM (5). 2 pedimented gateways, similar, but on smaller scale, to the Main Gate.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Listing NGR: SP5197906104

Selected Sources

1. **Article Reference** - *Title*: Part 34 Oxfordshire - *Journal Title*: Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51979 06104

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: FOUNTAIN IN THE CENTRE OF THE GARDEN

List Entry Number: 1047286

Location

FOUNTAIN IN THE CENTRE OF THE GARDEN, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 28-Jun-1972

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245502

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

Fountain in the centre
of the garden

SP 5206 SW 10/421B

II

2.

Probably CI9. Circular stone basin with raised central basin and jet.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Listing NGR: SP5203006076

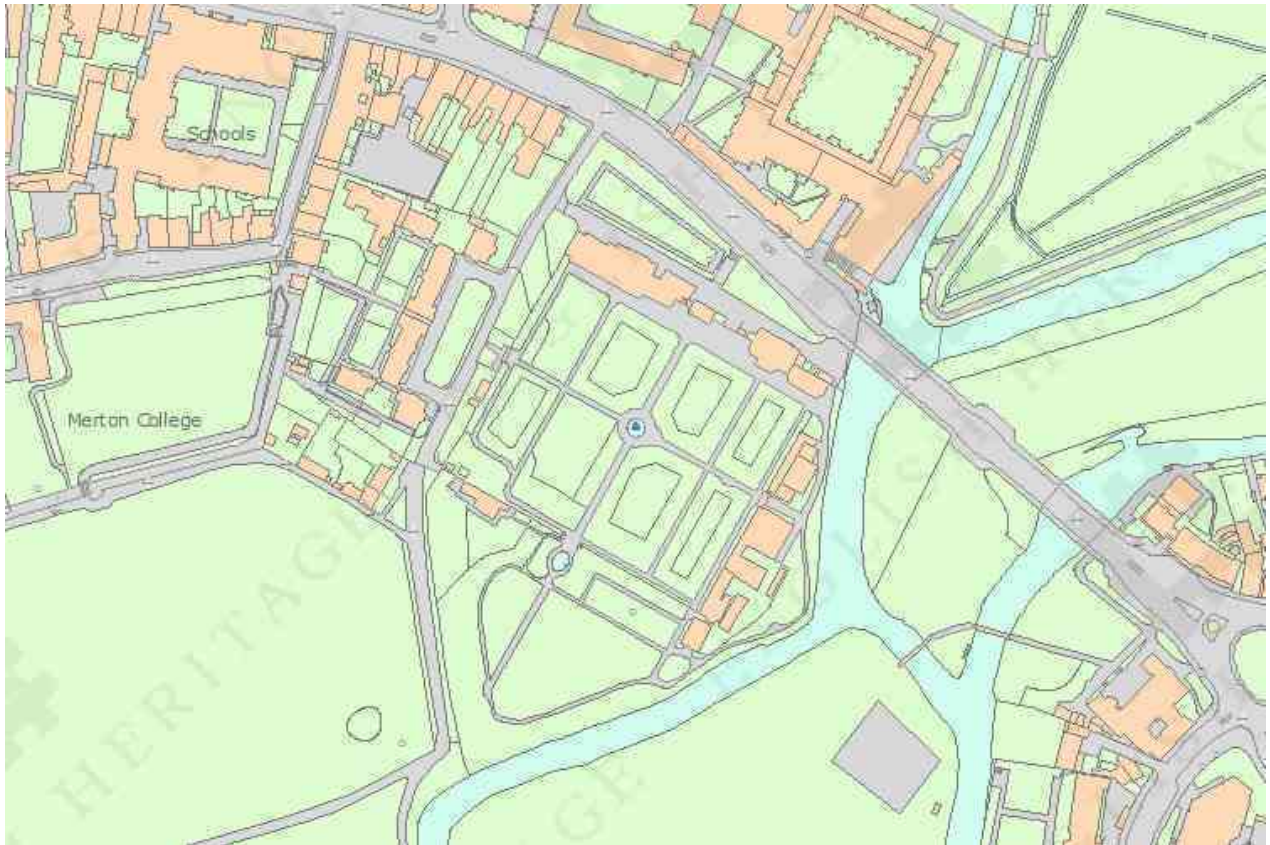
Selected Sources

1. **Article Reference** - *Title:* Part 34 Oxfordshire - *Journal Title:* Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 52030 06076

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: THE COTTAGE

List Entry Number: 1115526

Location

THE COTTAGE, CHRISTCHURCH MEADOWS
THE COTTAGE, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 28-Jun-1972

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245503

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

The Cottage

SP 5106 SE 9/613

II

2.

The part at the back is said to date from the building in 1623 of the wall of the Botanic Garden against which the house is built. The front may be C18 and consists of 2-storeyed double-fronted ashlar with 2 unequal gables, a stone slate roof and a brick stack. In the West gable is a sash window and the East gable a casement, one in each floor. The east gable end is built in brick. The sash windows have glazing bars.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Listing NGR: SP5197106046

Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Botanic Garden, Oxford.
Conservation Plan, April 2012

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51971 06046

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List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: VASE AT THE SOUTH END OF THE MAIN WALK

List Entry Number: 1115516

Location

VASE AT THE SOUTH END OF THE MAIN WALK, HIGH STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 28-Jun-1972

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245501

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

HIGH STREET

1.

1485

(South Side)

Botanic Garden

Vase at the South end
of the Main Walk

SP 5105 NE 13/421A

II

2.

C18. Stone vase on plinth forming the terminal feature of the main garden walk.

All the listed buildings on the South Side form a group.

Listing NGR: SP5197005970

Selected Sources

1. **Article Reference** - *Title:* Part 34 Oxfordshire - *Journal Title:* Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England

Map

Botanic Garden, Oxford.
Conservation Plan, April 2012

National Grid Reference: SP 51970 05970

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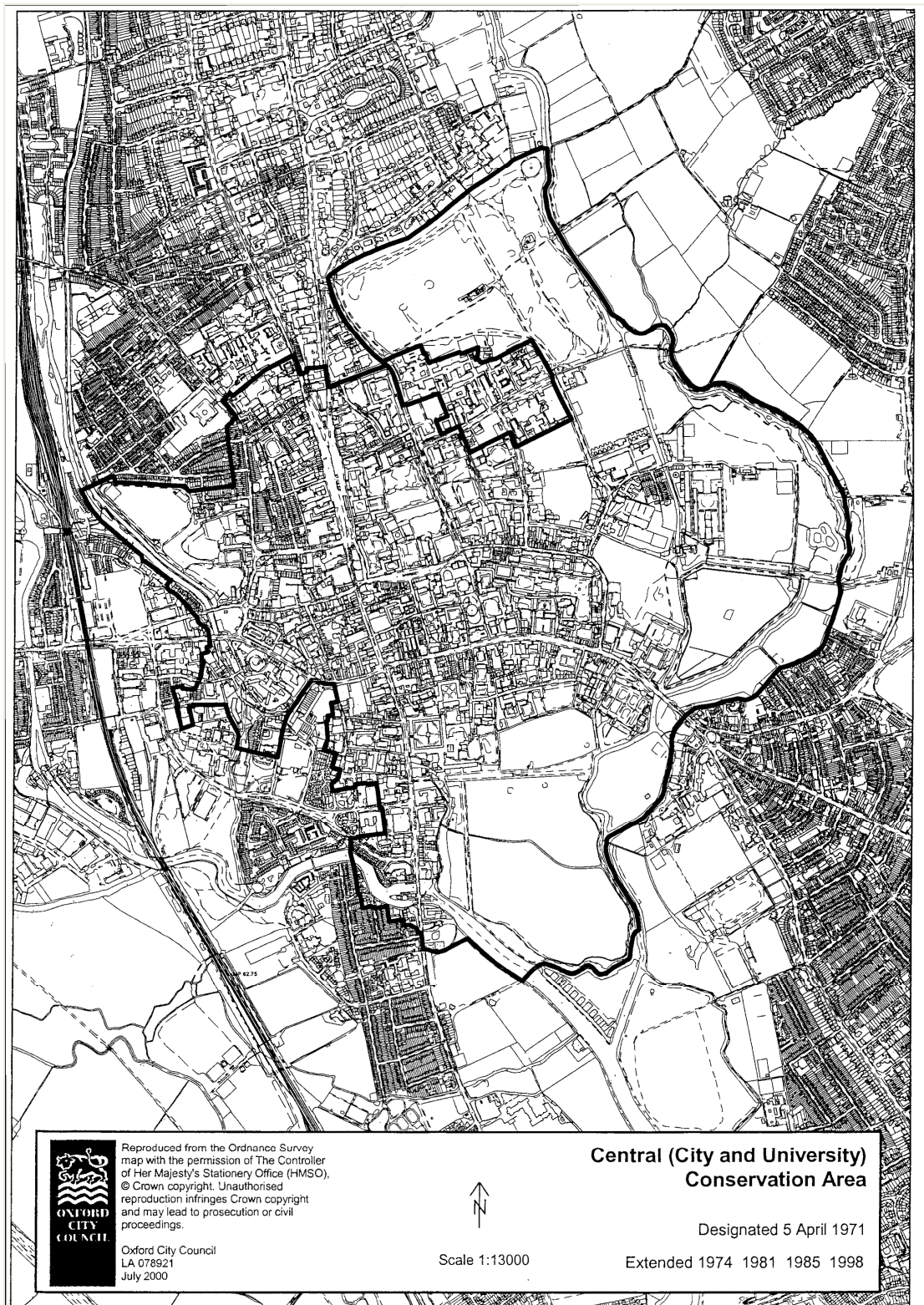


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Appendix 2 Conservation Area Description



Central Conservation Area, No. 5

The historic centre of Oxford forms one of the masterpieces of European architectural heritage. It is also a major regional commercial centre. Many of its historic buildings still function for the purpose for which they were built, and provide accommodation for the University of Oxford and its colleges.

From small beginnings as a settlement in the Saxon period, Oxford grew by the 11th century into one of the largest towns in England and a major trade centre. The Norman conquest brought the construction of the Castle and the establishment of major religious houses. The infant University arose in the 12th century and gradually grew into a major force in the city's life. The Saxons' rigid street layout and the fixed line of the 13th century defensive walls, together with the floodable river valleys, largely determined the plan of the historic centre as it is today. The gentle curve of the High Street, the great market place of St Giles and the older churches, together with the post-medieval timber-framed houses, belong to the town rather than the gown.

The University as it expanded, colonised the eastern half of the town with colleges and halls, building quadrangles of medieval and post-medieval gothic buildings, both within and without the walled town. The growth of the University's central institutions is well shown by the magnificent group of buildings situated between Broad Street and St Mary's Church. This group began in the 15th century with the building of the Divinity School and the Duke Humphrey's Library, a nucleus which expanded in the 17th century with the addition of the Schools' Quadrangle, Convocation House and Sheldonian Theatre. The group was further extended in the 18th century by the addition of the Old Clarendon Building and Radcliffe Camera to form a sequence of buildings and spaces of the highest architectural and historic interest, that today form the visual heart of the conservation area. Aspects of Oxford's 19th and 20th century change and growth may be illustrated by the considerable additions made to University and College buildings in Victorian and recent times, by the vigorous commercial and shopping centre, and by the welcome fact that the presence of the University ensures that many upper floors of buildings in the conservation area are in use for residential purposes, rather than unoccupied as in some historic towns.

Thomas Sharp, in his report to the City Council, published in 1948 as *Oxford Replanned*, set out and defined Oxford's special physical and architectural character and stressed its virtues and problems in a 20th century context. The Council, in its Review of the Development Plan, approved in 1967, approved much of the central area as an area of great historic value, and since 1962 the Council has protected the prospect of the city's unique skyline with its high buildings policy. The complementary views out of the city to its open country background have been similarly protected by the Green Belt and other policies.

The Council designated a large part of the central area as a conservation area in 1971. An extension taking in the Folly Bridge riverside was designated on 28th May 1974, a second extension covering part of Walton Street, Fisher Row and lower St

Aldate's was designated on 23rd February 1981, while a third covering Cornmarket and Queen Street was designated on 29th April 1985. On 9th December 1998, a fourth extension was made to the conservation area taking in part of the St Thomas' area, the University Observatory adjacent to University Parks and Magdalen College School playing field.

Appendix 3 Chronology of the Botanic Garden

1621	Henry Danvers, first Earl of Danby, gives £5000 for a Physic Garden to be sited in the northeast corner of Christ Church Meadow on land belonging to Magdalen College.
1623 onwards	The first walls are erected by Nicholas Stone, Inigo Jones' master mason
1632-3	Main (or Danby) Gateway and lesser arches constructed also by Nicholas Stone
1642	The first superintendent, Jacob Bobart, is appointed
1648	Bobart publishes a catalogue of 1300 trees and plants growing in the garden
1675	Loggan's map of Oxford shows the walled garden and its layout for the first time
1695	John Vanderstein completes a statue of Henry Danvers above the Danby Gate at the cost of £7 12s.
c.1735	South elevation of Library and Herbarium building constructed
1733-5	Townsend builds the orangery which now forms the first storey of the southern elevation of the Daubeny Laboratory
1766	Lean-to greenhouses built along the southern edge of the northern wall by this point. They last until the 19 th Century.
18 th Century	The Cottage is built against the southern wall, forming the superintendent's house (the rear portion seems to date from the erection of the wall in 1623)
18 th Century	The listed vase at the southern end of the Main Walk is constructed
1835	H.J. Underwood constructs the northern elevation of the Library and Herbarium building and raises a second storey on the southern elevation
1840	The Oxford Physic Garden is renamed the Botanic Garden by Prof. Charles Daubeny
1848	The first storey of the northern elevation of the Daubeny Laboratory is completed
1850	Daubeny alters the shapes of the beds from narrow rectangles to irregular informal shapes
1851	Daubeny builds a range of glasshouses along the outer side of the eastern wall, the line of which is still followed
1851	A clay pipe dated to 1640-70 is found in the Botanic Garden
c.1861	The second storey of the Daubeny Laboratory is completed
c.1865	The Library and Herbarium becomes the Professor's house
1884-8	Sir Issac Bayley Balfour (later Professor of Botany) creates long, rectangular beds designed to display the plants using his own adaptation of Bentham and Hooker's taxonomic system
1885-6	A Roman bowl is found in dredging of the Cherwell adjacent to the Botanic Garden
1893	Daubeny's glasshouses are rebuilt
Between 1848-1870	Circular pond and fountain fitted in the centre of the garden
1902	The first storey of the Manley Laboratory is built
1910	The Vines Wing is constructed
1926	Rock garden to the south built
1932	The second storey of the Manley Laboratory is constructed
1945	The area beyond the south wall is incorporated from Christ Church Meadow

1946	Rock garden rebuilt
1949	Daubeny's glasshouses are rebuilt again
1952	Cellar of Professor's House (library and herbarium) converted to a ladies' cloakroom
1954	A temporary machine shed is built against the north-eastern boundary of the High Street frontage
1954	Excavations unveil an early-17 th -century well close to the intersection of the paths
1957	A permanent machine shed is constructed
1965	Rock garden rebuilt again
1972	Daubeny's glasshouses are rebuilt for a third time
1972	Alterations to Daubeny Laboratory to form ten flats and eight rooms and alterations to the north elevation and removal of chimney stacks and formation of a car park for nine cars
1973	Alterations and repairs conducted to Long Library
1991	Two new buttresses erected to support the garden walls
1994	Additions to a greenhouse wall are demolished and the parapet restored to its original level
1998	Rock garden rebuilt for a third time
2001	Two display cases fitted to external railings in order to advertise the Botanic Garden
2001	A free-standing railing is erected to provide an access strip to the WCs and the fence at the north-eastern boundary of the gardens is replaced with railings
2004	Free-standing shed, garage, and replacement walls altered to form a composting area
2005	Timber ticket office is removed and a new ticket office is erected, involving the relocation of the iron gates from the garden side to the street side of the Danby Gateway
2010	Lavatories to the east of the Library and Herbarium are renovated

Appendix 4 Extract on the history of the Botanic Garden

From: Salter, H.E., and Lobel, M.D., 'The Physic Garden' in Salter, H.E., and Lobel, M.D., (eds.), *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 3: The University of Oxford* (1954) 49-50.
URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=63867>, accessed 7th October 2011.

THE PHYSIC GARDEN

The Physic Garden was founded by the munificence of Henry Danvers, Earl Danby, who in 1621 bought the lease of the occupier of meadowland just outside the boundary of the city, where once the Jews' cemetery had been, and obtained a new lease from Magdalen College. The site was suitable, 'being aptly watered with the River Charwell by it gliding', ([fn. 1](#)) but to be free from inundation the level of the garden had to be raised. Even so, it was flooded upon occasion, as for instance in 1663, when the rising waters 'drowned most part of the Phisick Garden and came up within 6 yards of Merton College walls', and in Oct. 1882, when the professor's house could only be reached on planks. ([fn. 2](#)) On the acquisition, inclosure, and laying out of the five acres Danby spent more than £5,000 and, besides, provided in his will that the impropriated rectory of Kirkdale in Yorkshire should be conveyed to the University in order to maintain the Garden and the teaching of botany. ([fn. 3](#)) Some time elapsed before the latter purpose could be achieved, but by the time of the Earl's death, in 1644, the Garden had assumed the appearance which not only members of the University but distinguished visitors from several countries were to admire during the 17th century.

In shape it was almost square and surrounded by 'a most stately wall of hewen stone 14 foot high', the building of which had spread over many years. The contracts, requiring the wall to be as good in appearance and workmanship as the walls of All Souls or Magdalen Tower, had been made by Nov. 1621, ([fn. 4](#)) but it was not until 1633 that Laud, then Chancellor, could record its completion. ([fn. 5](#)) By that time also the three gateways, in the centres of the northern, eastern, and western walls, had been finished. The chief entrance was the northern gateway, embellished with statues of Charles I and Charles II, ([fn. 6](#)) and with a bust of Danby over the centre. Inigo Jones has been credited with the design, ([fn. 7](#)) but there is no documentary evidence to support the attribution and there is a statement to the contrary in Charles Stoakes's list of works by his uncle, or grand-uncle, Nicholas Stone: 'The Curious Phisicke Garden hee desined & made the Entrances of Stone att Oxford now to be seene.' ([fn. 8](#)) That Nicholas Stone was the builder of all three gateways is clear from an entry in his diary: 'In 1631 Agreed with the Right Hon. Lord Earell of Danby for to mak 3 ston gattes in to the phiseck garden Oxford and to desine a new Hows for him at Corenbury in Oxfordsheer.' ([fn. 9](#))

Within the walls, the Garden was divided into quarters by two straight walks, which intersected at right angles in the centre. The walks were bounded by yew hedges on both sides, but the hedges on those running from east to west were cut down in the later 18th century and the others in 1834. Probably the workmen who, under the supervision of the eccentric Jacob Bobart, arranged the Garden were foreigners: at any rate 'outlandish workmen' were sent by Danby in 1639, when, so far as is known, no building work was in progress. ([fn. 10](#)) Outside the walls, as Loggan's print of 1675 makes clear, there was a long building, stretching along the south side of the High Street from the end of Magdalen Bridge

to the railings in front of the northern entrance to the Garden. This building, if not erected in 1670–1, was probably altered and enlarged considerably at that time, to serve as a residence for the Professor and a 'winter house for plants', the work being done by Thomas Robinson, mason, and Dew, plasterer. (fn. 11) Some seventeen years later Robinson was paid more than £70 for building the wall before the Physic Garden, that is, possibly, a wall where Loggan's print shows only a mound or balk, joining the 'winter house' to the north-east corner of the old wall. (fn. 12) Still later, in 1692–3 and 1693–4, he was paid more than £157 for other work, the nature of which is not indicated in the accounts but which may have been a further extension of the same building. His work was pulled down about 1780, and the site was thrown into the road to improve the approach to Magdalen Bridge. (fn. 13) The contents of the demolished buildings were transferred to a green house on the East side of the Garden, which, in 1795, was made into a library and lecture room. In the fourth decade of the 19th century improvements were carried out in the Garden and alterations and new building undertaken on the north side, parallel with the High Street; (fn. 14) there were also further additions and changes in the later part of the century and in the 20th. The modern plant houses between the eastern wall and the Cherwell date from 1894. They were rebuilt in 1948.

Footnotes

- 1 See the description by Thomas Baskerville, *Collectanea, Fourth Series* (O.H.S. xlvii), 187–91.
- 2 Wood, *City of Oxford* (ed. Clark), i, 609.
- 3 Ingram, *Memorials of Oxford* (1837), iii.
- 4 R. T. Gunther, *Oxford Gardens* (1912), 2.
- 5 *Remains of ... William Laud*, London, 1700, ii, 62.
- 6 These two statues, in the niches on either side, must be later than the gateway. According to tradition, which Hearne considered very unlikely to have been true, they were paid for by the fine imposed by the University upon Anthony Wood for words reflecting on the first Earl of Clarendon (Wood, *Life etc.* iv, 50).
- 7 Ingram, *Memorials of Oxford*, iii; R. T. Gunther, *Oxford Gardens*.
- 8 W. L. Spiers, *The Note Book and Account Book of Nicholas Stone* (Walpole Society), 137. The inclusion of the Banqueting Room at Whitehall and other works in the list possibly throws doubt upon its value; but Stoakes may have meant only that Stone was a contractor on such buildings, and he probably ought not to be understood as crediting his uncle with the design unless he expressly says so.
- 9 *Ibid.* 70.
- 10 Letter of Dr. Frewen to Laud, *Remains of ... Laud*, ii, 182.

- 11 Vice-Chancellor's Accounts, 1666–97. Robinson's bill for work in 1669–70 and 1670–1 came to £91 9s. 4d. and £40 10s. 8d.; Dew's, for 1670–1 only, to £35 0s. 10d.
- 12 Vice-Chancellor's Accounts, Sept. 1686–7. In the following year he was paid £42 4s. 'for makeing a Door Way and for raysing a wall at the East end of the Physick Garden' and pitching before the Ashmolean Museum. A wall is shown in Williams, *Oxonia Depicta*, viii.
- 13 See Gwynne's plan in *Surveys & Tokens*, 73 (O.H.S.). By this time the building contained a library as well as accommodation for the Professor of Botany. Ingram, *Memorials of Oxford*, iii.
- 14 A view of the new building in 1835 is given in Ingram, loc. cit.

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Appendix 5 Checklist of Significant Features

This checklist is intended for the use of those working or planning work on the site or buildings. It highlights features of architectural significance within the Botanic Garden; these may be original features or new additions that nevertheless contribute positively to the character of the building. As this is a Grade I (and in places II) listed building(s) any repair or alteration work to factors that contribute to the significance of the building will require listed building consent in order to avoid prosecution under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. **If planned work will likely affect any of the aspects featured in the list below advice should immediately be sought from the Building Conservation Team at Estates Services.**

The checklist lists both general significant features that affect the building as a whole and which should be held in mind if working in any space, and specific features of particular significance that should receive special regard if working in these particular spaces. The Further Information column refers to the relevant page reference in the Conservation Plan proper.

The Botanic Garden, Building # 137		
SIGNIFICANT FEATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Further Information
General:		
External elevations		p. 14-16, 21-25, 31-38, 42-44
Historic stonework including decorative features		p. 14-16, 21-25, 31-38, 42-44
Walls throughout		p. 14-16, 21-25, 31-38, 42-44
Specific Features:		
Danby Gateway		
-Any stone detailing and letters		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Vermiculated panels and banding		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Plinth		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Pediments		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Carved lettering		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Bust and two statues		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Medallions and any other carving		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Doric pilasters		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Niches		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Modillions		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
-Lead cistern		p. 14, 21-23, 33, 43
East Gateway		
-Archway and detailing		p. 14, 24, 33-34, 43
-Pediments		p. 14, 24, 33-34, 43

-Niches		p. 14, 24, 33-34, 43
West Gateway		
-Archway, detailing, and vermiculation		p. 14, 24, 35, 43
-Pediments		p. 14, 24, 35, 43
-Niches		p. 14, 24, 35, 43
-Carved lettering		p. 14, 24, 35, 43
Library and Herbarium		
-Stonework and detailing throughout		p. 15, 21-22, 24, 36, 43
-Banding		p. 15, 21-22, 24, 36, 43
-Doric pilasters		p. 15, 21-22, 24, 36, 43
-Ionic engaged pillars		p. 15, 21-22, 24, 36, 43
-Rusticated plinth		p. 15, 21-22, 24, 36, 43
-Modillions		p. 15, 21-22, 24, 36, 43
-Vermiculated keystones and panels		p. 15, 21-22, 24, 36, 43
West Block		
-Stonework and detailing throughout including pronounced ashlar joints		p. 15-16, 22, 24-25, 37, 43
-Banding		p. 15-16, 22, 24-25, 37, 43
-Vermiculated keystones and panels		p. 15-16, 22, 24-25, 37, 43
-Entablature at first-floor and roof levels		p. 15-16, 22, 24-25, 37, 43
Fountain		
-Central basin and plinth		p. 16, 37, 44
-Stone surround		p. 16, 37, 44
Vase at the end of the Main Walk		
-Plinth		p. 15, 38, 44
-Carved vase		p. 15, 38, 44
Cottage		
-Ashlar elevations		p. 15, 24-25, 44
-Slate roof		p. 15, 24-25, 44
-Rear section abutting garden wall especially		p. 15, 24-25, 44
-Sash lights		p. 15, 24-25, 44

PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING ANY REPAIRS OR ALTERATIONS ON THE ABOVE-LISTED ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES, CONTACT THE CONSERVATION TEAM AT ESTATES SERVICES ON (01865) (2)78750

Appendix 6 Labeled Site Map

