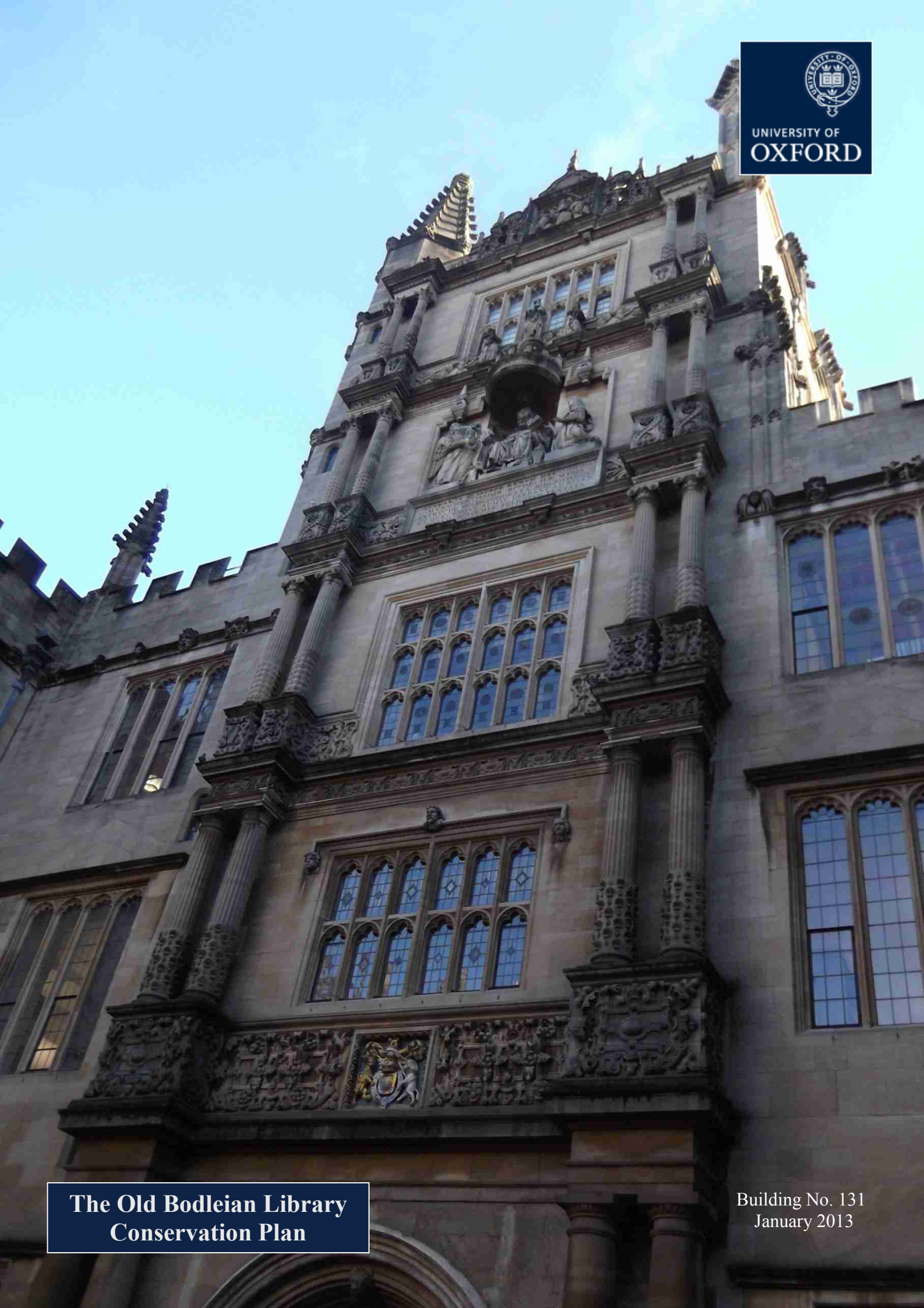




UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



**The Old Bodleian Library
Conservation Plan**

Building No. 131
January 2013

Estates Services
University of Oxford
January 2013

THE OLD BODLEIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD

CONSERVATION PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Old Bodleian Library was constructed in various stages between 1426 and 1624. It consists of Duke Humfrey's Library and the Divinity School below, as well as the additions of Arts End, Selden End, and the Old Schools Quadrangle. Discounting a lapse in the second half of the 16th century, it has served as the University of Oxford's main library since its opening in 1488, with portions of the building originally not under the library's control being slowly annexed by it throughout the 19th century. It continues to serve as a functioning library, being one of the most famous in the world and one of only five copyright libraries in the country, and the central feature of the Bodleian Library group, which stretches throughout Oxford.

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 Old Bodleian Library.

The purpose of this Conservation Plan is to update the Old Bodleian Library'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 Old Bodleian Library'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.

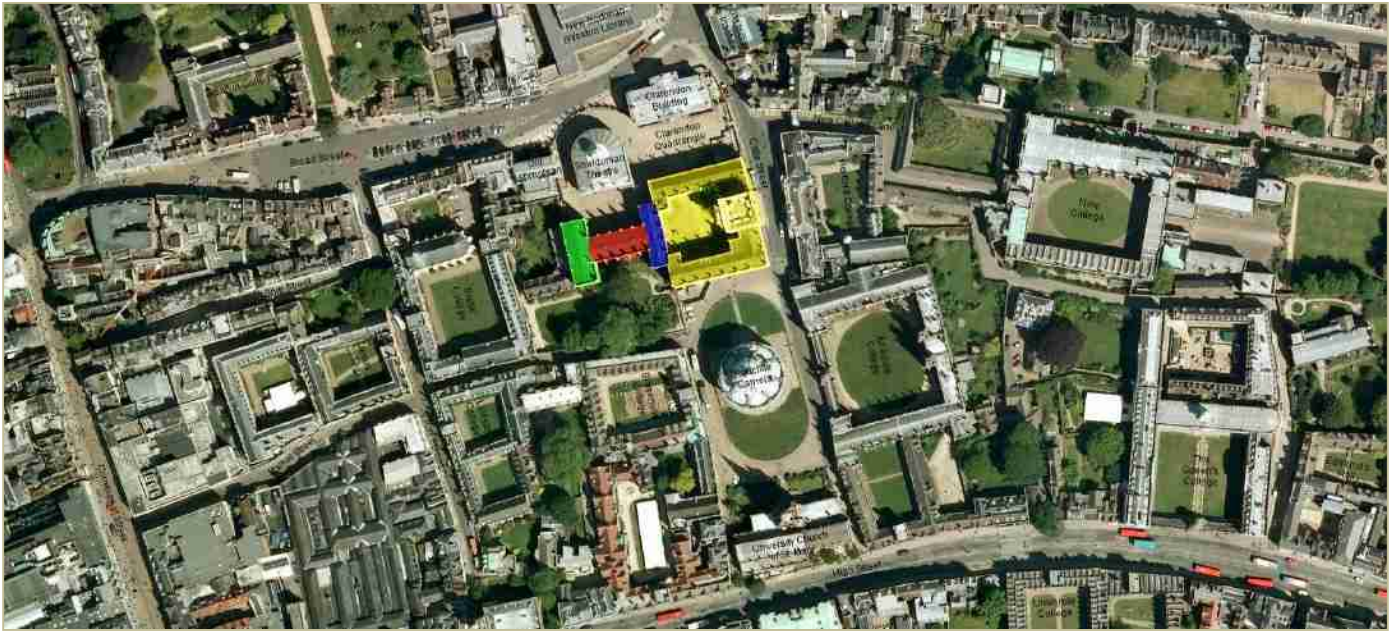


Figure 1. Map showing the Old Bodleian Library and the surrounding area, orientated with North at the top of the image. The original Duke Humfrey’s Library/Divinity School portion of the building (1426-90) is highlighted in red, the Arts End/Proscholium extension (1610-12) is highlighted in blue, the Old Schools Quadrangle extension (1613-24) is highlighted in yellow, and the Selden End/Convocation House/Chancellor’s Court extension (1634-40) is highlighted in green

1.2 Scope of the Conservation Plan

The plan will cover the interior and exterior of the Old Bodleian Library, a Grade-I-listed building on Catte Street in central Oxford. In this case, the Old Bodleian Library refers to: the Old Schools Quadrangle including the Tower of Five Orders, the attached ranges, and quadrangle itself; Duke Humfrey’s Library and the Divinity School below; Arts End and the Proscholium; and Selden End, the Convocation House, and Chancellor’s Court.

This plan is not a catalogue and to facilitate its practical use will concentrate only on the most vulnerable aspects of the building’s 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 4** and should be referred to when planning any repair or alteration work.

1.3 Existing Information

The Old Bodleian Library is a famous building of great historical interest and there is extensive useful information available regarding it:

The Bodleian Libraries own archives contain various useful resources regarding this building, including historic plans and correspondences. Some useful information is also held in the University Archives.

The original 1952 listed building description (**Appendix 1**) is characteristically brief for a listing of its age, but does give some indication of the features that were thought to make up the particular character for which the building was originally listed.

There are various published books and articles regarding the history and development of the Oxford University and the Bodleian Library. The publications provide a vital resource for studying this building.

Planning and listed building consent applications have been made during the building's recent history and these provide a fragmentary indication of the changes that have occurred in the building over time.

This document 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 Old Bodleian Library and attempts to address them with a view towards maintaining and enhancing 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 Old Bodleian Library and its environs are subject to various constraints imposed by Oxford City Council:

- CP.3 – Limiting the Need to Travel: New development will be limited to accessible locations on previously developed sites.
- HE.2 – Archaeology Area: Where archaeological deposits that are potentially significant to the historic environment of Oxford are known or suspected to exist anywhere in Oxford but in particular the City Centre Archaeological Area, planning applications should incorporate sufficient information to define the character and extent of such deposits as far as reasonably practicable.
- 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.
- 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. 1: 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.



UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

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2 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.1 History of the Site and University¹

The site of Oxford has had sporadic settlement since the Neolithic period. Bronze Age barrows have been found in the University Parks (linear barrow cemetery) and in the Science Area (double-ditched barrow). 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 Old Bodleian Library lies in the monumental centre of the city and University: the conjunction of Broad Street East, Catte Street, and Radcliffe Square. The site forms the heart of the non-collegiate University and marks the conjunction of its most conspicuous monuments. These are the Radcliffe Camera to the south (1737-48), the Old Ashmolean Museum to the northwest (1679-83), the Sheldonian Theatre to the north (1664-69), and the Clarendon Building to the north (1711-13). This grouping stretches as far north as the New Bodleian Library (1936-40) and as far south as the University Church of St. Mary (there was a church on this site since at least the 11th century, though the current building has its origins in the 13th century) on the southern edge of Radcliffe Square. The area is also bounded by some of the University's most significant collegiate buildings, including All Souls College (mostly first half of the 18th century), Brasenose College (mostly 16th and 17th century), and Hertford College (mostly 19th century).

The site of the Old Bodleian is at the northern edge of the mediaeval city of Oxford, just within the city walls. The northern mediaeval walls followed the same line as the earlier Saxon walls, running along what is now the southern side of Broad Street, which itself corresponds roughly to the location of the city ditch. A city wall bastion was located immediately north of the site of the Old Schools Quadrangle. Exeter Lane, a continuation of Ship Street, ran between the city wall and what is now the northern extent of the Divinity School, terminating at Smith Gate at the northern end of Catte Street. The eastern stretch of the Saxon city walls probably ran northwards through the sites of Radcliffe Square and the Old Schools Quadrangle, but this was later moved eastwards, probably in the 11th century.² In the mediaeval period, the site of Radcliffe Square was bounded on the east by Catte Street and on the west by the now-defunct Schools Street, which ran from the western side of Radcliffe Square northwards through what is now Exeter College Garden and through the site of the Proscholium.³ Radcliffe Square held a series of gardens, tenements, and schools, until their demolition for the construction of the Radcliffe Camera in the mid-18th century.

Following the construction of the Divinity School in the 15th century, the site of the Old Schools Quadrangle continued to house the Osney Schools (rebuilt in 1557 as the Public

¹ A short chronology of the Radcliffe Camera can be found in **Appendix 3**. Floor plans are available in **Appendix 5**.

² Hassall, T.G., 'City Walls, Gates, and Posterns' in Crossley, A., and Elrington, C.R., (eds.), *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 4: The City of Oxford* (London, 1979) 300-304.

³ Munby, J., 'The Topography of Schools Street, Oxford' in *Oxoniensia XXXVII* (1972) 246-8.

Schools) on the eastern side of Schools Street, directly opposite the Divinity School, as well as gardens and tenements (**Figure 2**).⁴ The schools in this area of the city had attracted scholars from across Europe since Henry II had granted Oxford its charter in 1155. The Public Schools were retained after the construction of Arts End and the Proscholium in 1610-12, briefly leaving a very narrow gap between the buildings, and were not demolished until the construction of the Old Schools Quadrangle in 1613-24.

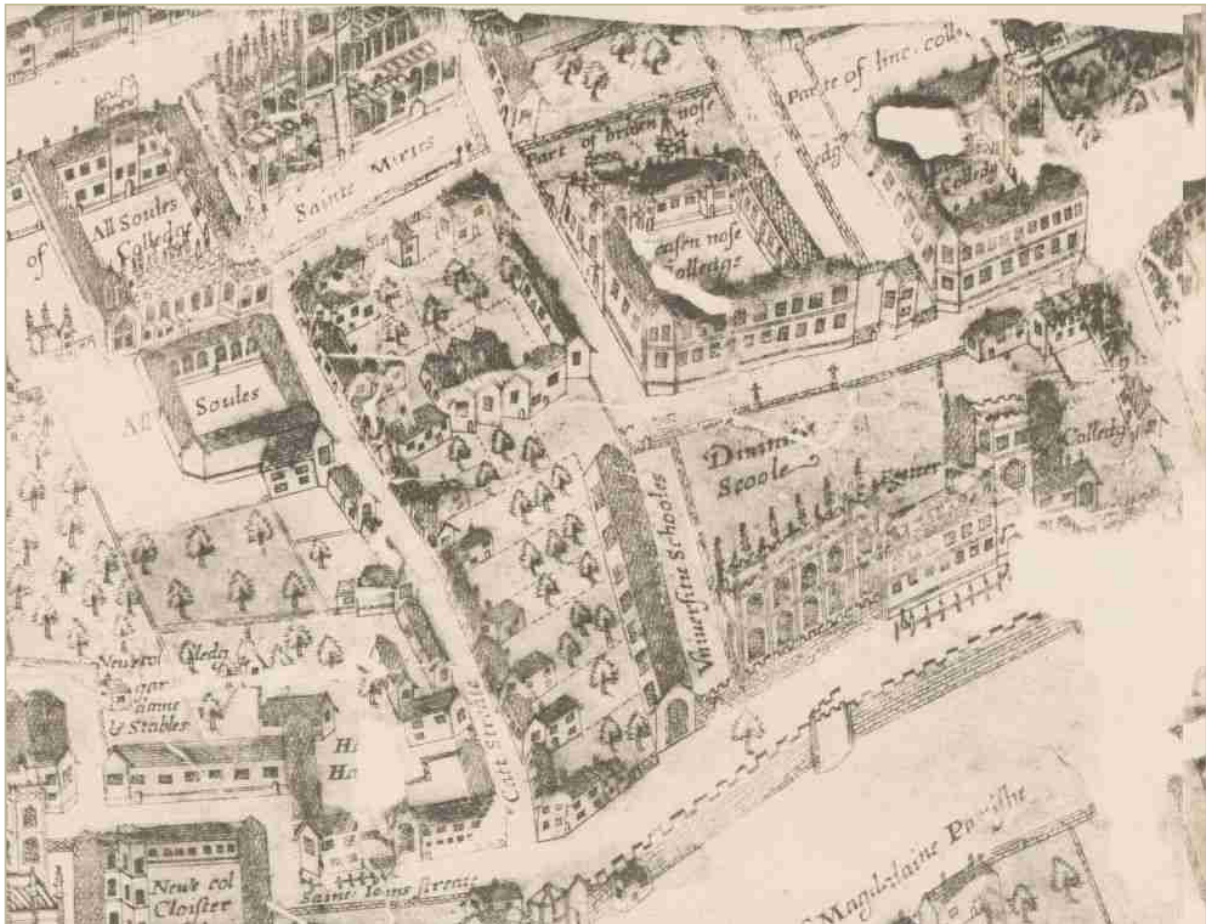


Figure 2. Detail of Agas’s 1578 map of Oxford, orientated with North at the bottom of the image, showing the Divinity School prior to any extension

Since the building of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey’s Library in 1487, the principal non-collegiate buildings of the University have been situated in a cluster around Cate Street and the eastern end of Broad Street. Each phase of the Old Bodleian Library was constructed in amongst groups of tenements that were themselves only cleared as later buildings were constructed, the last tenements being removed with the construction of Radcliffe Square in the 1730s. In 1703 Hawksmoor proposed the formation of a formal university campus centred upon the Bodleian and the eastern end of Broad Street. Whilst this never officially occurred, a similar effect has been achieved almost by default, with the urban space of eastern Broad Street, Cate Street, and Radcliffe Square being defined by University buildings, and remaining a focus for ceremonies, protests, and tourism.

⁴ *Ibid*, 246.

2.1.1 History of the Bodleian Group

The Old Bodleian Library is a constituent element of the Bodleian Library complex, which consists of a group of buildings around Radcliffe Square, Catte Street, and the eastern end of Broad Street: the New Bodleian; the Clarendon Building; the Radcliffe Camera; and the Old Bodleian itself. There are also many other libraries across Oxford which are part of the Bodleian, such as the Radcliffe Science Library and the Bodleian Law Library.

The history of the library begins in the 15th century. Following humble beginnings in the Church of St. Mary, the Old Bodleian Library was first established with donations made by Duke Humphrey of Lancaster, and in 1488, a room was opened above the Divinity School (see below, **Section 2.2**). This had gone into decline by the middle of the 16th Century. In 1598 Sir Thomas Bodley funded the reinstatement of the library, which was opened in 1602 in the old library building and was called Bodley's Library. This was located on the south side of Broad Street.



Figure 3. An aerial view of the Bodleian Complex looking southeast

Since the establishment of 'legal deposit' through an agreement with the Stationers' Company in 1610, whereby a copy of every book published in England could be installed in the new library, the Bodleian has continued to suffer from a lack of space. Extensions to the building were made in the 17th Century in an attempt to provide more space, including the Arts End and the Selden End of Duke Humfrey's Library.

The Clarendon Building was constructed from 1712 to 1713 for the use of the University Press. This formed an integral portion of the Bodleian Complex.

Between 1737 and 1748 the Radcliffe Library was constructed to the south of the Bodleian with funds from a bequest by Dr John Radcliffe, an eminent physician of his day. It was designed by James Gibbs. This was initially a separate entity from the Bodleian but by 1860-62 the two were integrated and the Radcliffe Library became known as the Radcliffe Camera.

Lack of space remained a problem and by 1834 there were estimated to be around 220,000 books and 21,000 manuscripts in the Bodleian. Space was gained during the 19th Century by removing some of the collection to the University Galleries (now the Ashmolean Museum) and through the integration of the Radcliffe Library, whilst the construction of the Examination Schools in 1876-82 gave the Bodleian access to the ground-floor of the Old Schools Quadrangle which had previously served as the University's examination space. In

1909-12 an underground book store was installed beneath Radcliffe Square. After its construction, the library was the largest in the world and the first to feature modern compact shelving in the form of Gladstone Shelving.

This, however, only solved the problem temporarily and in 1925 the idea of a new library was put forward by Bodley's Librarian, A.E. Cowley. The New Bodleian Library was constructed in 1936-40 to a design by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, with a large stack capable of holding 5 million books and with a subterranean connection to the rest of the Bodleian site.

By the early 21st century it became clear that the New Bodleian Library was not equipped to meet modern archive storage facilities and in 2010 its stack was relocated to an off-site storage facility at Swindon. The New Bodleian has been closed since autumn 2010 for extensive alteration work, which will further integrate it into the urban area of eastern Broad Street and will reopen as the Weston Library by 2015. The Old Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera continue to operate as reading rooms.

2.2 History of the Old Bodleian Library (please refer to floor plans in Appendix 5)

Cobham's Library and the Construction of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library

The original setting for the University of Oxford's library was a small room above the Congregation House in the Church of St. Mary. Some books had previously been kept in chests and chained to desks in the church, but the first provisions for this library space were made in 1320 by Bishop Thomas Cobham of Worcester. Cobham died in 1327, but his library was finally begun in 1367, being fully established and furnished by 1409.⁵

In the early 15th century, it was decided by senior members of the University to construct a grand school for the study of Divinity. Contributions for this endeavour were invited as early as 1423, and construction began in 1426. The site was formally conveyed to the University by Balliol College the following year.⁶ The original building was designed to be single storeyed, with the size of the buttresses suggesting that a vault was intended in the original design.⁷ Money quickly became an issue and in 1439, the University complained to Richard Winchcombe, who had been master mason since at least 1429, about delays.⁸ In the same year as this complaint, Thomas Elkyn replaced Winchcombe as master mason, and was advised by the University to eliminate all 'supervacuuous curiosity' in the work.⁹ There is a clear change in the work at this point, which can be most easily traced on the south side, which was only a few feet high when Elkyn took over. A sense of economy can be traced here where 'mouldings are simplified in windows that were still unfinished at the date of

⁵ Macray, W.D., *Annals of the Bodleian Library* (Second edition; Oxford, 1890) 3-4.

⁶ Myres, J.N.L., 'Recent Discoveries in the Bodleian Library' in *Archaeologia* 101 (1967) 151, n.4; Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 6; and Balliol College Archives ref. A.7.17.

⁷ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), 152-53.

⁸ *Ibid*; Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *An inventory of the historical monuments in the City of Oxford* (London, 1939) 1.

⁹ Anstey, H., (ed.), *Epistolae Academicae Oxon. Volume I* (Oxford, 1898) 192.

Elkyn's appointment, niches are omitted, and the southern buttresses, unlike the northern, are left unpanelled above the plinth.¹⁰

Between 1439 and 1446, Humphrey, the Duke of Gloucester and youngest son of Henry IV, donated c.600 manuscripts to the University, which were deposited in the by-then overflowing Cobham Library.¹¹ In the first manifestation of the Bodleian's perennial space problem, it was decided that more room was required to hold this glut of manuscripts. In July 1444, the University wrote to Humphrey explaining that they intended to erect a suitable building to house his donations and offering him the title, and clearly the financial responsibilities, of founder. Humphrey accepted this offer and it was decided to build the new library above the Divinity School, which were still under construction. It is likely that at this point it was decided to not construct the vault over the Divinity School, or at least to make it shallower than was originally intended. Equally, this is when it must have been decided to construct the turret staircase at the western end of the building (demolished in c.1634) to give access to the upper portion of the building.¹²

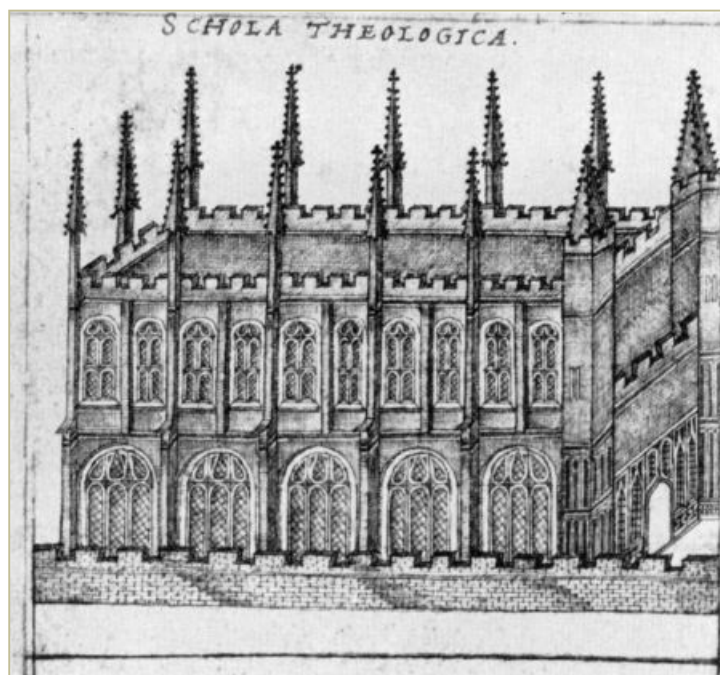


Figure 4. John Bereblock's 1566 engraving of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library from the northwest

There was some delay in the construction at this time, exacerbated by the death of Thomas Elkyn in 1449. In 1453, Robert Jannyns, (mason for All Souls College and the chapel tower at Merton) and another mason advised on the appropriate overall height of the building. They seem to have assumed at this point that the Divinity School would have a flat wooden ceiling rather than a vault, which has resulted in the sills of the windows in Duke Humfrey's Library,

¹⁰ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), 152.

¹¹ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 6.

¹² Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), 153.

designed to correspond to a lower floor level, being far closer to the floor than one might expect.¹³ The western wall was reaching its full height by the end of the same year. Work began on a temporary roof over Duke Humfrey's Library in 1457 and this was thatched in 1464/5. There is a record of the lead roof over Duke Humfrey's Library being repaired in 1473, so this must have been in place by this point.¹⁴ By 1466, furnishings were already being considered for the Divinity School and for Duke Humfrey's Library above.

In 1479, Thomas Kempe, Bishop of London, donated 1,000 marks (£666.14s.4d.) to the University. This made it possible to return to the original plan of constructing a vault over the Divinity School, albeit a lower one than originally conceived due to the presence now of a library above.¹⁵ The vault was constructed from 1480 to 1483 by William Orchard. The constraints imposed by the decision to construct the library above resulted in Orchard constructing a shallow vault which sprang from only about halfway up the window height of the Divinity School, though, of course, even a shallow vault took up far more space than a flat ceiling.



Figure 5. Robert Potter's reconstruction of Duke Humfrey's Library in 1488 based on the "silhouettes" of the original lecterns, found on the walls when the room was cleared for restoration work in 1959

Thomas Kempe donated several books for Duke Humfrey's Library in 1487 and it was opened the following year.¹⁶ The Divinity School below was declared finished in 1490.¹⁷

¹³ *Ibid.* The floor level has changed several times, but the modern floor is at the same level as the original floor, as evidenced by the "silhouettes" of the original furniture on the external walls.

¹⁴ Salter, H.E., (ed.), *Medieval Archives of the University of Oxford, Vol. II* (Oxford, 1921) 306-8.

¹⁵ Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *op. cit.*, 1; Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967) 154; and Tyack, G., *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (Oxford, 1998) 66.

¹⁶ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 12; Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), 152.

Both rooms only saw a short tenure of use prior to a period of some neglect. Duke Humfrey's Library only served its original purpose for 60 years, for when Edward VI's commissioners, tasked with the reformation of the University, visited in 1550, they destroyed all of the illuminated manuscripts, deeming them overly popish.¹⁸ This violent event cemented the destruction of an institution already plagued by problems that threatened its existence. There had been a habit of manuscripts being lent out with petty securities which resulted in the borrowers keeping them, diminishing the library's collections. Moreover, the library belonged to the pre-print age, having no endowment and relying upon gifts of manuscripts. It had no funds to buy new printed material, which was becoming increasingly available and important by the early 16th century. This left Duke Humfrey's Library far behind the well-endowed college libraries and increasingly irrelevant in a period when teaching was being transferred from the University to the colleges.¹⁹ In January 1555/56 the University elected to sell the library's shelves and lecterns, which no longer held any manuscripts, rather than attempting to replace their contents.²⁰ The library was briefly taken over by the Faculty of Medicine. The Divinity School also suffered from some neglect during this period: 'Brambles and nettles grew against the walls: the stained glass was smashed: the citizens of Oxford used it, and its neighbourhood, for a market for pigs and as an airing ground for laundry.'²¹ Betjeman notes that in the 1930s the Proscholium was still colloquially referred to as the "Pig Market", and here seems to be following a tradition that the OED can trace from 1681 to 1957.²² The site of the Proscholium may have been used as a pig market during Edward VI's reign, but it is surely unfair to say the building itself was (as Cardinal Newman did in 1838) as it had yet to be constructed by that point.²³

Thomas Bodley: Arts End, Selden End, and the Old Schools Quadrangle

When Thomas Bodley entered Magdalen College as an undergraduate in 1560, Duke Humfrey's Library was a recently-deceased institution. Bodley entered Merton College as a Fellow in 1564, before leaving for a successful career as a diplomat in Europe. Bodley married Ann Ball, the widow of Nicholas Ball, a merchant and Mayor of Totnes in Devon, in 1586, four months after her husband's death, and found himself a wealthy man.²⁴ In February 1597/98, at the end of a successful career abroad, Bodley wrote to the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, stating his intention to refound Duke Humfrey's Library: '...there hath bin heretofore a publicke library in Oxford, which, you know, is apparent by the roome itself remaying, and by your statute records. I will take the charge and the cost upon me, to reduce

¹⁷ Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *op. cit.*, 1.

¹⁸ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 13.

¹⁹ Myres, J.N.L., 'Oxford libraries in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries' in Wormald, F., and Wright, C.E., (eds.), *The English library before 1700: studies in its history* (London, 1958) 236-55.

²⁰ *Supra*. n.18.

²¹ Betjeman, J., *An Oxford University Chest* (London, 1938) 138.

²² 'Pig Market' in *Oxford English Dictionary*, available online: <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/243825?redirectedFrom=pig+market#eid>, accessed 29th January 2012.

²³ Newman, J.H., 'Memorials of Oxford' in *British Critic* XXIV (July 1838) 327: 'The ordinary exercises and scholastic acts in the University being suspended during the religious troubles of Edward VI.'s reign, the present ante-chapel, as it may be called, of the Divinity School was converted into a garden and a pig-market; and the schools themselves, being abandoned by the masters and scholars, were occupied by glovers and laundresses.'

²⁴ Philip, I.G., *The Bodleian Library in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (Oxford, 1983) 7.

it again to his former use...'.²⁵ At this time France, Spain, the Pope, and the Hapsburgs were all either building great libraries or enlarging their collections, and though Bodley never mentioned these continental developments in his reasoning, citing a concern to simply regain what had been lost in Oxford, a manifestation of this *zeitgeist* can certainly be traced in his actions.²⁶

Bodley's plan for Duke Humfrey's Library was rather simple: to refit it with shelves; to seek benefactions of books to fill the shelves; and then to seek endowments to ensure the future of the institution and allow it to continue to obtain books. Bodley's first task proved to be a greater undertaking than originally envisaged, as the timbers of the room were found to be rotten and the fitting out of the library consequently took two years. A new floor was fitted and it was at this time that the panelled ceiling was conceived; some original 15th-century rafters are extant behind the 16th-century panelling and it seems the original ceiling was '...renovated and decorated by Bodley, but not wholly rebuilt by him.'²⁷ The higher set of plain corbels in Duke Humfrey's Library, set between the lower, carved 15th-century corbels, was probably fitted at this point.

In June 1600, Bodley began searching for benefactions of books for the building, and in November 1602 Duke Humfrey's Library reopened with an inventory of over 2,000 books.²⁸ The room was fitted up as a chained stall library and heavy book presses, filled with chained printed books, replaced the low lecterns with manuscripts that the library had been designed to hold; the weight of these new fittings and holdings was later to have implications for the structural integrity of the building.

In 1605, Thomas Sackville, the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, donated a bust of Bodley, which is still displayed in Duke Humfrey's Library opposite that of Charles I donated in 1636. Bodley donated a bell in 1611 to announce the closing of the library. This was later lost but was rediscovered under some boxes at the bottom of a



Figure 6. East door of Divinity School with exposed blocked window and original panelling behind, exposed during restoration work in the 1960s

²⁵ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 15; Bodley's letter is reprinted in John of Glastonbury, *Chronica: sive historia de rebus glastoniensibus* (Hearne, T., (ed.); Oxford, 1726) 612.

²⁶ Philip, I.G., *op. cit* (1983), 2.

²⁷ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), 166.

²⁸ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 18-19, 29.

staircase in 1866. Bodley secured the endowment of the refounded library in 1609, with the purchase of property in Maidenhead and London.²⁹

Bodley's effort to secure donations of books was very successful and soon outstripped the library's capacity. Bodley was keen to extend the library and plans had been drawn up as early as 1608. The north part of Schools Street had been conveyed to the University by the City of Oxford in 1558 (this area can be seen gated off in **Figure 2**) and in 1610 some further land in front of the Divinity School was conveyed by Exeter College. In July 1610 the first stone was laid for the eastern extension of the library: the Proscholium and Arts End. The Proscholium was constructed as a grand antechamber to the Divinity School and, whilst the original eastern doorway was retained, it necessitated the demolition of the original porch, the foundations of which are extant beneath the floor of the Proscholium. The two windows on the eastern wall of the Divinity School were blocked up and covered over as the external wall became an internal partition (**Figure 6**).³⁰

The eastern wall of Duke Humfrey's Library was removed for the construction of Arts End above the Proscholium. Arts End was an extension to Duke Humfrey's Library and was the first example of wall shelving surmounted by galleries in an Oxford library, something that became the norm in the 18th century.³¹ The stone panelling preserved in the western wall of the Proscholium suggests that the eastern façade of the Proscholium and Arts End imitated the panelling scheme of the original 15th-century façade of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library, its Gothic styling being deemed appropriate for a repository of sacred learning.³² The 7-light perpendicular-tracery window of Arts End also probably followed the model of the demolished eastern window of Duke Humfrey's Library.³³ The window was later embellished with 3 antique pieces of stained glass donated by Alderman William Fletcher in 1797.³⁴

The Proscholium/Arts End extension was completed in 1612 and Thomas Bodley died in January of the following year. In December 1610, Bodley had made his famous agreement with the Stationers' Company, the foundation for subsequent Copyright Acts, that a perfect copy of every book published by their members would be supplied to the Bodleian. This agreement ensured that the Bodleian would always struggle for space to house its acquisitions.

The Public Schools, opposite the Divinity School, had been retained when Arts End was constructed in 1610-12, leaving a narrow gap between the buildings. Prior to his death, Bodley had been in discussions with Sir John Bennet about replacing what he described as the 'ruinous little roomes' of the Schools with something grander. By April 1612, the University had negotiated with the owners of the tenements on Catte Street for their land

²⁹ *Ibid*, 31, 37, 42.

³⁰ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), 159-60.

³¹ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1958), 237.

³² Cole, C., 'The building of the Tower of the Five Orders in the Schools Quadrangle at Oxford' in *Oxoniensia* XXXIII (1968) 93.

³³ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), 160.

³⁴ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 38.

should the proposed building go ahead and were seeking benefactions from bishops to pay for the work, with Bennet offering to shoulder a tenth of the costs.³⁵ When Bodley died he left further funds for the Schools, as well as money specifically intended for the construction of an additional storey to provide further space for the adjacent library (what would become the Picture Gallery and later the Upper Reading Room), much to the chagrin of his disinherited step-children.

The first stone of the Old Schools Quadrangle was laid on 30th March 1613, the day after Bodley's funeral. The main fabric of the lower two storeys was in place by 1615 and of the third storey by 1618, but work continued until 1624. The construction was plagued by delays, not least caused by the frequent deaths of most of the senior builders concerned with it: The chief mason, John Akroyd, died in 1613; he was succeeded by his partner, John Bentley, who then died in 1615; Bentley's younger brother Michael, took over but died in 1618. The chief carpenter, Thomas Holt, finally took over as superintendent, and, with Akroyd and the elder Bentley, was commemorated with the title of architect in later inscriptions. Holt was an experienced and skilled carpenter but the building's woodwork was the cause of various subsequent problems.³⁶

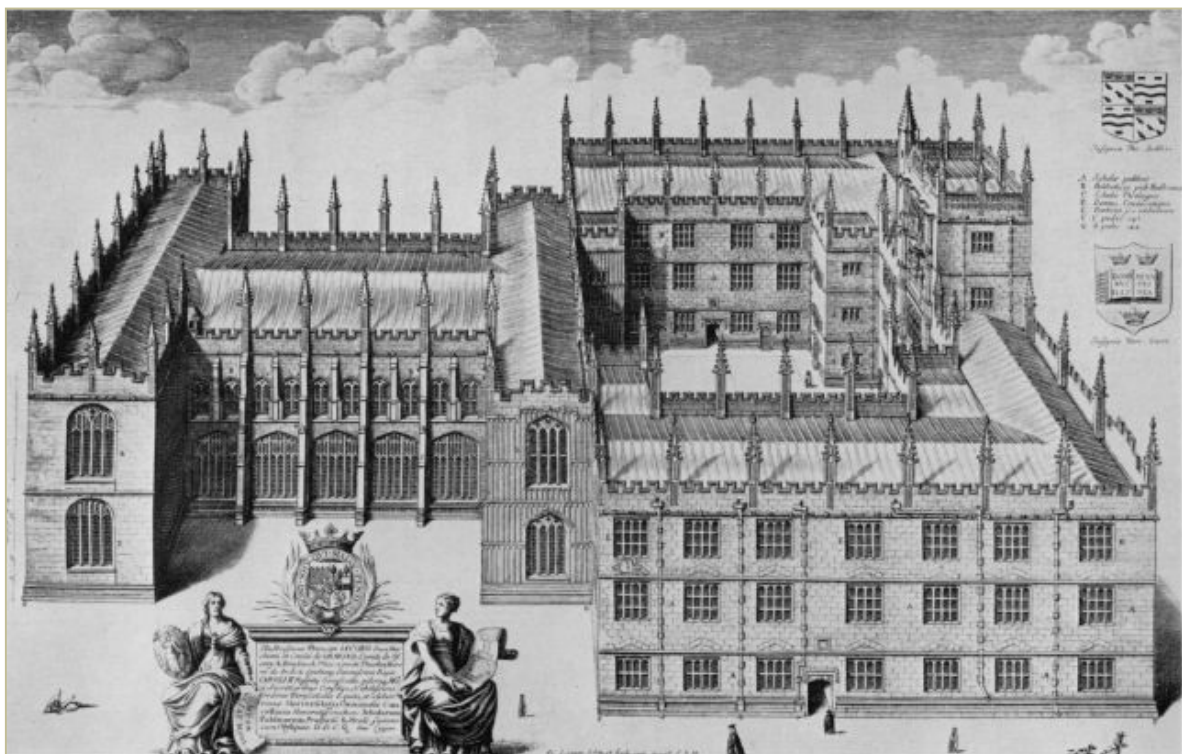


Figure 7. Loggan's engraving of the Old Bodleian Library from the south, from *Oxonia Illustrata* (Oxford, 1675). Note, this engraving removes the building from its urban context, notably the tenements and gardens running up to the southern elevation of the Old Schools Quadrangle

³⁵ Philip, I.G., 'The building of the Schools Quadrangle' in *Oxoniensia* XIII (1948) 39.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 42-43; Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *op. cit.*, 1; Tyack, G., *op. cit.*, 91-94; Cole, C., *op. cit.* (1968) 66, 99. Airs, M., 'Holt, Thomas (1577/8-1624)' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004), available online: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/13614?docPos=1>, accessed 2nd April 2013, gives an overview of Holt's successful career.

Bodley's bequest to construct a second floor above the Schools must have affected the original design for the building. A two-storeyed Schools, as designed in 1612, prior to Bodley's bequest, would have emphasised the upper part of the panelled façade of Arts End, with its magnificent window, which would have risen above the surrounding ranges and formed the visual focus of the building. The addition of a second floor, at a level with the upper part of Arts End, destroyed this emphasis and necessitated the creation of a different architectural focus, which explains the decision to attach the elaborate classical Tower of Five Orders to what is otherwise an essentially Gothic building. The tower was also afforded a storey additional to that found in the original design, heightening its rôle as an architectural focal point.³⁷ The sculptural group on the third floor of the tower was carved in 1620-21, following James I's gift of the Authorized Version of the bible to the University in 1620. The group shows James I flanked by Fame and the kneeling University. It was originally double gilded, but, upon viewing, James I ordered it painted in duller hues.³⁸

The second floor, now the Upper Reading Room, constructed as a library extension with Bodley's bequest, was fitted with a timber ceiling, following the model of that in Duke Humfrey's Library. In 1616-18, a frieze of *uomini famosi*, representing the history of learning, was painted directly onto the stone of the upper portion of the walls by its artist.³⁹ Despite its initial purpose, the second floor was used as the University Galleries, and did not become a reading room until 1907.

When the Old Schools Quadrangle was constructed (**Figure 7**), the tenements of Schools Street and Catte Street



Figure 8. Detail from Logan's map of Oxford (1675) orientated with north at the bottom of the image. The demolished southern gate can be seen just to the southwest of the Old Schools Quadrangle

³⁷ Cole, C., *op. cit.* (1968) 98.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 102.

³⁹ Myres, J.N.L., 'The painted frieze in the Picture Gallery' in *The Bodleian Library Record: Volume III, Number 30* (October, 1950) 82, 88; Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948), 48, dates the frieze to 1619; Tyack, G., *op. cit.*, 93, dates the frieze to 1624 and ascribes it to Thomas Holt, but, as Holt was a carpenter rather than a painter this seems unlikely (though he was likely responsible for the associated ceiling). Equally, Myres and Philip ascribe the frieze to Thomas James, Bodley's first librarian. James did not paint the frieze, but he did choose the figures to be depicted in a composition probably designed by Sir Henry Savile: Roberts, J.R., 'James, Thomas (1572/3–1629)' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004), available online: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/14619>, accessed 4th February 2013.

continued to run right up to its southern elevation, and did so until their demolition in 1733 for the construction of the Radcliffe Camera and Radcliffe Square. In 1618-24 a 20-foot-high gate was constructed on Schools Street, opposite Brasenose (presumably in the position of the gate visible in Agas's 1578 map (**Figure 2**), which marks the southern end of the portion of Schools Street conveyed to the University in 1558), with a connected passage running to the southern entrance of the Old Schools Quadrangle (**Figure 8**), allowing for an appropriately grand entrance bypassing the tenements. This gate was demolished along with the tenements during the 18th-century clearing of Radcliffe Square.⁴⁰

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

After the construction of the Old Schools Quadrangle, it quickly became apparent that the timber work and carpentry was of an insufficient standard. The unseasoned timber used by Holt (common practice at the time) tended to crack its joints when it shrank and the main beams, in many places cut away for mouldings, had insufficient bearing strength. As early as 1625-28, arches were set up in the ground-floor Natural Philosophy School to support the floor of the Anatomy School above (the western portion of the southern range). Clamps, trusses, and arches were used to support the floor of the Music School (then on the first floor) as well as the floors of the Astronomy, Geometry, and Law Schools (eastern range) (floor plans available in **Appendix 5.1**). The southeast corner of the roof of the second floor needed additional work to strengthen it in 1630.⁴¹ The Laudian Code of Statutes, drawn up by 1633, noted that 'it has been since discovered that the whole fabric of the Schools is of a bad material, and there is some danger too of its coming down.'⁴²

Part of Bodley's bequest had been intended to construct a grand entrance staircase at the western end of Duke Humfrey's Library which was at that time still only accessible via its original narrow turret staircase at the western end. This idea was abandoned in 1634 when building work began on a western extension to both the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library. This extension necessitated the demolition of the original turret staircase, the foundations of which are extant beneath the floor of the Convocation House. To replace the lost entrance to Duke Humfrey's Library, doorways were cut through from the two western staircases of the Old Schools Quadrangle into Arts End. These still serve as the main entrances to Duke Humfrey's Library.⁴³ The western extension consisted of the Convocation House and Chancellor's Court, as extensions of the Divinity School, on the ground floor, and Selden End, as an extension of Duke Humfrey's Library, on the first floor. The extension was completed, with Selden End fitted up with shelves and ready for use by 1640.⁴⁴ Selden End followed the scheme of wall shelving with galleries above that had been introduced at Arts End in 1612.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Philip, I.G., 'A Forgotten Gate to the Schools Quadrangle' in *Oxoniensia* XVII-XVIII (1952) 185-87.

⁴¹ Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948) 43.

⁴² *Ibid*; *Laudian Code*, XX. 4. The Laudian Code was published in 1636, but drawn up in 1629-33.

⁴³ Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948) 48.

⁴⁴ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 81.

⁴⁵ *Supra*. n.31.

In 1640, the third floor of the Tower of Five Orders was designated the University Archives. Book presses (three of which are extant and in use) were fitted in the space and Brian Twyne, the first keeper of the archives, moved the University's records from the Congregation House in the University Church of St. Mary to the newly-appointed room.⁴⁶

In 1648, large buttresses (extant) were constructed at the northwest and northeast corners of the Old Schools Quadrangle, presumably based on an erroneous belief that the foundations were at fault, when most of the building's problems actually stemmed from the carpentry.⁴⁷ In 1660, the royal arms on the Tower of Five Orders were repaired by John Jackson, an early indication of the poor wearing properties of the Headington freestone used in its production.⁴⁸

At some point in the 1660s a platform was fitted to the westernmost two bays of the Divinity School, running along the side and end walls.⁴⁹ This may relate to repair work undertaken by Wren in this space in 1668, when he repaired the vault with iron cramps. The problems with the vault were caused by the weight of the book presses above causing stress to both the walls and floor of Duke Humphrey's Library, which was designed to hold the much lighter apparatus of a pre-print 15th-century library, resulting in the floor bowing and putting pressure on the vault of the room below. This would become a major issue by the end of the century.

In 1669 William Byrd, a mason who worked with Wren, constructed the north doorway of the Divinity School in the window of the central bay. This was designed to face onto the main entrance of Wren's newly-constructed Sheldonian Theatre (1664-69) to the north, cementing a relationship between the two buildings in the ceremonial life of the University which continues to this day.⁵⁰ The boundary wall of the Sheldonian, which survives in the form of the so-called "Wren Wall", abuts the northern elevation of the Chancellor's Court/ Selden End.

In 1691, Thomas Barlow, the Bishop of Lincoln and Bodley's Librarian, 1652-60, died and left a large collection of manuscripts to the University. These were received in 1693 and, in the same year, galleries were constructed above the book presses along the walls in Duke Humfrey's Library in order to house them. These new galleries were known as the Lincoln (*Linc.*) and Jurisprudence (*Jur.*) galleries. The manuscripts took some time to sort and were not placed in the new galleries until 1695/6.⁵¹ Two doorways high up in the east wall of Duke Humfrey's Library, now blocked, were probably fitted at this time to allow access to the new galleries.⁵²

The introduction of the *Linc.* and *Jur.* galleries exacerbated existing structural problems which resulted from burdening Duke Humfrey's Library with a weight of material it was not

⁴⁶ Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 12; University Archives website: <http://www.oua.ox.ac.uk/history.html>, accessed 29th January 2013.

⁴⁷ Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948), 44.

⁴⁸ Cole, C., *op. cit.* (1968), 104.

⁴⁹ Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *op. cit.*, 8.

⁵⁰ Cole, C., 'William Byrd, stone cutter and mason' in *Oxoniensia* XIV (1949) 63-74.

⁵¹ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 158; Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1983) 65.

⁵² *Supra.* n.49.

designed to house. The weight of the new galleries added to the pressure on the vault below, which by this point the bowing floor of Duke Humfrey's Library was touching, which in turn pushed the external walls outwards and caused the vault to crack. The vault was cracked along its length and Wren was again called in to repair the problems. The problem affected the southern wall to a greater extent than the northern and in September 1701, Wren reinforced the buttresses along this wall of the Divinity School. This was done by extending them outwards by approximately four feet, with the extensions sunk 16-21 feet below the ground, with ramping arches below, and rising to approximately 20 feet above the ground. This prevented the wall from leaning outwards. In the winter of 1701, the book presses in Duke Humfrey's Library were trussed to the external walls, minimising the pressure they put upon the floor and the vault below. Then in the summer of 1702 the great crack in the vault of the Divinity School was filled with lead, oyster shells, stone, and wooden wedges, and its broken mouldings were repaired with plaster of Paris and stone. Similar work was undertaken in the Proscholium.⁵³

In 1703, Wren also reported that the floors through the Old Schools Quadrangle were cracked and should be completely replaced at a cost of around £3,000. Some minor trussing seems to have been undertaken, but the floors were not fully renewed until the mid-20th century.⁵⁴

The inscription on the Tower of Five Orders was renewed in 1721 and, in the following year, Wilton donated the statue of the Earl of Pembroke displayed in the Old Schools Quadrangle.⁵⁵ The following decades saw a decline in the usage of the library, which in the 1730s rarely saw more than 1 or 2 books registered to users in a day and on many days none were registered.⁵⁶ The library's endowment, secured by Bodley, meant that it could now survive such periods of inactivity, in a way that the original foundation failed to do. In the 1750s two unused windows in Selden End were blocked up and Windsor chairs replaced the benches in Duke Humfrey's Library. In 1757-61, the last chains were removed from the book shelves in the library.⁵⁷ In 1762, Selden End was refloored at a cost of £66.⁵⁸

In 1749, the Arundal Marbles, previously housed in the Picture Gallery on the second floor, were moved to the Moral Philosophy School, and the Picture Gallery was freshly wainscoted.⁵⁹ In 1753, Thomas Roberts created a plaster vault in the second-floor of the Tower of Five Orders (now the Upper Reserve).⁶⁰ In 1758-59 the plaster ceiling in the Convocation House was replaced with the extant fan-vault by the younger John Townesend.

⁵³ Wren's letters to the University regarding this work are reprinted in Walker, J., *Oxoniana, Volume 3* (London, 1809) 16-27.

⁵⁴ Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948) 46.

⁵⁵ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 201.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 294.

⁵⁷ Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1983), 92-93.

⁵⁸ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 260.

⁵⁹ *Supra.* n.57.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*; Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 12.

The nineteenth century and the Bodleian’s expansion into the Old Schools Quadrangle

In 1789, the first of the University’s schools to be occupied by the Bodleian Library, the Anatomy School (the western portion of the southern range of the first floor, also known as the “Auctarium”), was refitted as a library space to hold Greek and Roman manuscripts and 15th-century copies of classics.⁶¹ At some point before 1832, a smaller room, the “Oriental Room” was constructed within this space.⁶² The Anatomy School was the first of a series of such acquisitions by the library; subsequently the old Law School (the western portion of the first floor of the northern range, also known as “Gough’s Room”) was fitted up as an additional space for manuscript storage in 1817 and the western portion of it was partitioned off as the Rawlinson Room at some point between 1809 and 1845.⁶³ In 1821 The Hebrew School (the eastern portion of the first floor of the southern range) and the Greek School (the eastern portion of the first floor of the northern range) were formally assigned to the library, and each school was partitioned into three rooms. In 1828, the Geometry and Medicine Schools (the first floor of the eastern range) were formally assigned to the library.⁶⁴ The library took over the Logic School (now the Bodleian Shop) in 1845. Craster reports that an upper study for the librarian was constructed over the northwest staircase in 1795 and a Curator’s Room above the northeast staircase in 1814, though it is not clear what form these developments took.⁶⁵



Figure 9. J. Whessell’s engraving of the Picture Gallery (Upper Reading Room) in 1829, prior to the replacement of its ceiling. Interestingly, there seems to be a wall case in the left-hand foreground

⁶¹ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 272.

⁶² *The Christian’s Penny Magazine*, Vol. 1 (1832) 66.

⁶³ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 302; Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 18.

⁶⁴ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 310, 319.

⁶⁵ Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 12-13, 18, 120.

In 1813 the ceilings throughout the library were reported to be in a state of disrepair and in need of replacement. No action was taken and in 1825 the ceiling of the Picture Gallery (the second floor, now the Upper Reading Room) was surveyed and condemned as unsound. The ceiling at this point was the original early 17th-century timber ceiling (**Figure 9**), not dissimilar to that extant in Arts End. In 1831, under the direction of Robert Smirke, this ceiling was dismantled and replaced with a plaster alternative. The 17th-century frieze, painted directly onto the upper part of the wall, was cut into in order to key in the plaster that was then used to cover it. At the same time, the original lead roof above was replaced with copper and the original floor was replaced. The second floor of the western end of the northern range was partitioned off at the same time, to serve as an unpacking room for the library. During this period of work, Smirke also restored some of the statuary on the Tower of Five Orders, which, due to the weaknesses of Headington freestone, by this point consisted more of Roman cement repairs than original stonework, with Box ground stone.⁶⁶

In 1834, the first-floor room immediately above the gateway of the tower, which had been the study of the Savilian Professors since the construction of the building, was assigned to the library and fitted out with shelves. In the following year, the stairs were removed from the southeast stair tower (they may also have been removed from the northeast tower at this time). The ground-floor space was converted into an office for the University Schools and the Savilian Professors were given a room on a new mezzanine in the northeast stair tower to replace the loss of their tower room. A first-floor space was converted into a lumber room (with the doorway to the east range being blocked up), which briefly held the University Armoury, and the second-floor space was converted into a Coins and Medals Room.⁶⁷

The first scheme for heating the library had been introduced in 1821 and consisted of two grilles in Duke Humfrey's Library, which seem to have provided little practical benefit. In 1845 pipes were laid for heating the library by steam. These pipes were encased in slate in January 1857 on the advice of James Braidwood, a former building surveyor and Superintendent of the London Fire Engine Establishment (the private company that would later become London Fire Brigade), and George Gilbert Scott. Their advice also resulted in the replacement of the 17th-century doors from the western stair towers to Arts End with fire-proof iron doors.⁶⁸

The third floor of Tower of Five Orders had served as the University Archives since 1640 and in the 1854 the top, fourth floor was also assigned to this use.⁶⁹

By the middle of the 19th century, despite having taken over most of the first floor of the Old Schools Quadrangle, the Bodleian's storage abilities were sorely taxed: its annual acquisitions, fuelled by its status as a Copyright Library, meant that its collections were always growing and would continue do so in perpetuity. In 1853, Bodley's Librarian, Bulkely

⁶⁶ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 294, 323; Cole, C., *op. cit.* (1968) 105; Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 13, 138; Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1950) 88-89; and Clive Rouse, E., 'The repair of the painted frieze in the Picture Gallery' in *Bodleian Library Record: Volume III: Number 32* (August 1951) 201.

⁶⁷ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 329; Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 3, 12-13.

⁶⁸ Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 135.

⁶⁹ *Ibid*, 12.

Bandinel, reported to the Curators that more space was needed. George Gilbert Scott was consulted in 1855 and he estimated that the library would require at least double its existing capacity in the foreseeable future. He noted that eventual expansion into Clarendon Quadrangle would be inevitable. In July 1857, Henry Acland, Librarian of the Radcliffe Library, suggested that, with the construction of the University Museum on Parks Road under way, the Radcliffe Library could transfer its scientific collections there, and itself become a reading room of the Bodleian Library. Benjamin Woodward, principal architect on the University Museum, subsequently designed an arcaded gallery to link the Old Schools Quadrangle with the Radcliffe Library, though this was never constructed. In 1860 Convocation authorised the implementation of Acland's suggestion and the Radcliffe Library, as the Radcliffe Camera, was taken over as a reading room of the Bodleian Library, opening in January 1862, allaying immediate book storage concerns.⁷⁰

The new University Statutes of 1849-50 replaced most oral examinations with written equivalents, whilst the number of undergraduates studying at Oxford doubled between 1820 and 1900; it was the desire of the liberal group within the University that a dedicated building for undergraduate teaching and examination be built to cater for these growing numbers and changing aims. The decision to build new examination schools opened up the possibility of the Bodleian taking over the ground-floor rooms of the Old Schools Quadrangle. Despite the imminent prospect of expansion based on Acland's proposal, a committee of Council and the Bodleian Curators had agreed in 1859 that it would be desirable to bring all of the ground-floor schools of the Old Schools Quadrangle under the Bodleian's control in the near future.

By November 1873, the Angel Hotel site on High Street had been purchased for the construction of the new schools. George Rolleston, Linacre Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, argued in Convocation that the site should be instead used to construct a new library, rather than a centre for undergraduate teaching and examination; however, by February 1875, the Curators of the Bodleian had concluded that, even if it was possible to obtain the High Street site, it would not be advantageous to construct a new library.⁷¹ In June 1876, Thomas Graham Jackson won the competition to construct the new Examination Schools, finally opening up a realistic prospect of the ground-floor schools becoming available for occupation by the Bodleian.

Douglas Galton, an eminent surveyor, advised in 1874 that a narrow fireproof stack building should be constructed across the Old Schools Quadrangle, splitting it into two smaller quadrangles, and that the quadrangle should be refaced. The first suggestion was not acted upon, but the second was deemed a useful idea by the Bodleian Curators. In May 1876, Convocation voted on an unspecified sum for this work, which was begun under Galton.⁷² The majority of the exterior of the Old Schools Quadrangle had been constructed in local rubble faced with Headington freestone. Headington freestone was a poor quality stone, kin to the hard-wearing Headington hardstone that was mediaeval Oxford's staple building

⁷⁰ Macray, W.D., *op. cit.*, 363; Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 103, 120, 123, 136.

⁷¹ Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 131, 133.

⁷² *Ibid*, 135, 140.

material and continued to be used for plinths into the 19th century. The poor wearing quality of Headington freestone was known by mediaeval builders, who ignored it in favour of the hardstone, but by the 17th century the demand for building stone in Oxford was such that it began to be used on a widespread scale by the University, which was not yet aware of its faults.⁷³ The result was that, by the 19th century, the exterior facing of the Old Schools Quadrangle, especially the upper portions, was in a terrible state of repair. The original copings and pinnacles had been constructed in Taynton and this had fared little better, with many of the pinnacles having been lost altogether. The cornices and string courses, constructed originally in Headington hardstone had remained in a good state of preservation.

Galton began his refacing in Taynton stone, which had been used in the 15th-century construction of the Divinity School, as well as on the original interior facing of the ground floor rooms and the corridors and staircases of the Old Schools Quadrangle.⁷⁴ At the end of his first contract, in February 1877, Galton was replaced as architect by Thomas Graham Jackson at the request of the University Chest. Jackson requested to use Clipsham, a stone he was in the midst of introducing to Oxford in his ongoing work on the new Examination Schools, rather than Taynton; however, the Chest refused his request on the grounds of the increased labour costs associated with cutting this harder stone. At the end of Jackson's first contract, in April 1878, Jackson again asked to use Clipsham, noting that some of the high-level Taynton repairs, instituted by Galton less than two years previously, had already decayed to the extent of needing replacing again, and this time the Chest acquiesced. Jackson's work progressed through successive contracts until 1884, at which point it had cost £26,440. Jackson renewed the entire parapets, restoring missing and ruined pinnacles, as well as all the window sills and several mullions. Jackson renewed some strings, labels, and plinths, as well as refacing the entirety of the upper storey. He patched the lower storey and treated it with a preservative solution. Almost the entirety of the Tower of Five Orders was refaced, with a great deal of work being required on the oriel over Catte Street, which was apparently liable to collapse at any point. Its inscriptions were also renewed. The sculptures on the tower had been so heavily repaired with Roman cement over the years (and with Box ground stone by Smirke in 1831) that little of the original material remained, and these were thoroughly restored.⁷⁵

Jackson's necessary alterations resulted in a strange combination of gleaming Clipsham above, Headington freestone below, and a patchwork of the two in between, that was not universally appreciated by his contemporaries. In 1885, Bodley's Librarian, Edward Nicholson, put forward a request to grow ivy and creepers up both the inner and outer walls of the Old Schools Quadrangle, obscuring the stonework, as well as another request to grass over the quadrangle itself. Convocation approved the request for wall plantings, but a popular protest by students preventing this from going ahead.⁷⁶

⁷³ Arkell, W.J., *Oxford Stone* (London, 1949) 24-25.

⁷⁴ *Ibid*, 60.

⁷⁵ Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 140-2.

⁷⁶ *Ibid*, 229-30.

In 1876-77, it was thought that the *Linc.* and *Jur.* galleries in Duke Humfrey's Library were putting undue pressure on the walls and they were permanently removed. Subsequently it was found that the walls had in fact not moved since Wren's repairs in 1701-2. At the same time, due to fears about the floor again putting pressure on the vault below and causing it to crack, Galton fitted a new floor, which was supported by oak beams and raised clear of the Divinity School's vault on an iron frame, fitted to new brick corbels on the walls. It was planned to construct the floor in deal topped with oak, but, as the wood was to be covered with matting, the oak layer was seen as an unnecessary expense and only deal was used. The vault of the Divinity School also received some repairs at its weakest point. Along with these works, the original lead roof in this area was replaced with copper, deemed less of a liability in the case of a fire, and a new traceried window replaced the western window of Selden End.⁷⁷

Following the opening of the new Examination Schools on High Street in 1882, the Bodleian Library quickly took over several of the old schools on the ground floor of the Old Schools Quadrangle (floor plans in **Appendix 5.1.1**). The Schola Metaphysicae (the "Old Writing School" on the ground floor of the northern portion of the eastern range) was annexed in 1883 and converted for library use at a cost of £1,764. The ground floor of the southern range, consisting of the Music School (having moved from the first floor at some point) and the School of Natural Philosophy, were taken over by the library in 1884. The new library spaces were fitted with densely-lined 15-foot-high wooden shelves fitted with ladders and sitting directly on the decayed wooden floors.⁷⁸ In 1887, the last of the Arundel Marbles were removed from the Moral Philosophy School (western portion of the ground floor of the northern range) and this was converted into a map room for the Bodleian. The History School (the "Old School" in the eastern portion of the ground floor of the northern range) was fitted up with iron shelves in 1890 with an intermediate floor at 7 feet.

The early twentieth century: The underground bookstore and the New Bodleian

Despite the acquisition of the Radcliffe Camera and the longed-for annexation of the ground-floor of the Old Schools Quadrangle, constant acquisitions meant that the Bodleian was still struggling to find storage space for its collections. In 1887 the Bodleian Library was able to occupy the basement of the Sheldonian as a stack. This was followed by the basement of the Old Ashmolean in 1895. Two committees were convened on library extension, in 1894 and 1899, and by 1896 Bodley's Librarian, Edward Nicholson, was convinced that an underground bookstore would be the best response to the Bodleian's storage crisis. An underground connection between the Old Bodleian and the Radcliffe Camera had been considered in 1878, but when Thomas Graham Jackson was approached he dismissed it as overly costly. This was still the case by the early 20th century and the University Chest, which was struggling to meet its annual expenditure and by 1894 had reserves of only £12,000, could not meet the estimated costs of c.£10,000 to construct an underground bookstore. In 1901, as something of a compromise, part of the Old Ashmolean basement was fitted up with

⁷⁷ *Ibid*, 136, 138; Macray *op. cit.*, 391.

⁷⁸ Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 227.

compact sliding bookcases. This apparently did little to ease the problem, as in 1902 the Bodleian reported to the Vice-Chancellor that its greatest need was further book storage.⁷⁹

In 1904 the basement beneath the Great Hall of the new Examination Schools on High Street was occupied by the Bodleian and fitted out with compact sliding shelving over the following five years. Plans for an underground bookstore were still ongoing though, as Rutland Saunders (whose deceased partner, Edmund Woodthorpe, had submitted designs for the underground bookstore in the 1890s) was approached in 1906 to provide revised plans. The following year, the Oxford University Endowment Fund was able to offer £12,000 for the construction of the bookstore, and work began in 1909. The new bookstore involved taking up the ground and paving on the northern side of Radcliffe Square and fitting a steel-framed structure beneath. Entrances to the tunnel were fitted at the bases of the western staircases in the Old Bodleian. The subway then connected at its southern end to the Radcliffe Camera, providing the first physical link between the two buildings. The new underground bookstore was designed on two levels, the upper of which was fitted out with sliding shelving, based on W.E. Gladstone's 1888 modification of a design introduced to the British Museum in the previous year. The underground stack did not prove as useful as was initially hoped; when the lower portion was fitted out in 1923 it was provided with a fixed stack, showing a preference for accessibility over storage density.⁸⁰

The Picture Gallery, on the second floor of the Old Schools Quadrangle, had been constructed in 1613-24 with money from Bodley's will specifically designated to provide for additional library space; however, it was not used for its intended purpose until 1907 when the northern range was fitted out as a reading room, including the strengthening, though not replacement, of its decayed floor.⁸¹ An open-desk system was used, with desks arranged down the middle of the room and wall shelves fitted between the windows. This configuration is still in place. Heating was introduced to the second floor at the same time.

By the 1920s it was clear that the underground bookstore had not solved the Bodleian's long-term storage issues and in 1931 it was decided to construct the New Bodleian to the north. This large project would provide a long-term storage solution but would take several years to complete and the Bodleian was already struggling to store its acquisitions. In 1933-34 the Radcliffe Science Library on Parks Road was extended in order to take the majority of the Bodleian's scientific collections, freeing up some space. The New Bodleian Library was constructed in 1936-40 to a design by Giles Gilbert Scott and was connected to the Old Bodleian Library via an underground subway leading to the underground bookstore. This allowed books to be transported from the large stack in the new library to the reading rooms in the old. As part of this work, a lift was fitted in the northwest staircase tower, providing access into the subway. A shaft for the book conveyor was cut through the western portion of the northern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle, running through each floor in the area now occupied by the passenger lift.

⁷⁹ *Ibid*, 136, 233-36.

⁸⁰ *Ibid*, 236, 255, 318.

⁸¹ *Ibid*, 242-43; Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948), 46.

Wren had recommended that the floors in the Old Schools Quadrangle should be replaced in 1703, but, other than in the Picture Gallery in 1831, this was not acted on until 1940 when the joists and floors of the ground-floor schools were found to be rotten. Those on the southern part of the eastern range were replaced in 1940 but war conditions stopped the work from proceeding any further. The floors in the other areas were given steel and concrete replacements shortly after the Second World War.⁸²

In 1941, the Logic School (on the southern portion of the eastern range, now the Bodleian Shop) was stripped of its bookcases, presumably fitted when it was taken over by the Bodleian in 1845, and relined with Jacobean panelling stripped from various parts of the library and repurposed as a meeting room for the Curators. The exterior of the southern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle was partially refaced in 1949 and in 1956 several floors in the building were treated for beetle infestation.

In June 1949, a plasterer conducting routine repairs in the Upper Reading Room found part of the original high-level frieze, which was assumed to have been destroyed during the 1831 replastering and ceiling replacement. The frieze was uncovered and found to be heavily pocked throughout, where it had been cut into to anchor the 1831 layer of plaster, but was otherwise largely intact. It was subsequently restored by E. Clive Rouse and the 1831 plaster cornice moulding, which covered the top portion of the frieze, was also removed (**Figure 10**). It is not clear if the plaster ceiling in the Upper Reserve was also removed at this point, but it seems a likely conclusion. The original lead roof and timber ceiling in this part of the building was of dubious effectiveness and, before the 19th-century reroofing, damp had been a continuous problem on the second floor. This meant that the frieze had been restored in 1714 and 1792, and so when it was again restored in 1950 it was impossible to be sure exactly what details were original and to what extent the colours of the 18th-century restorations differed from the originals.⁸³

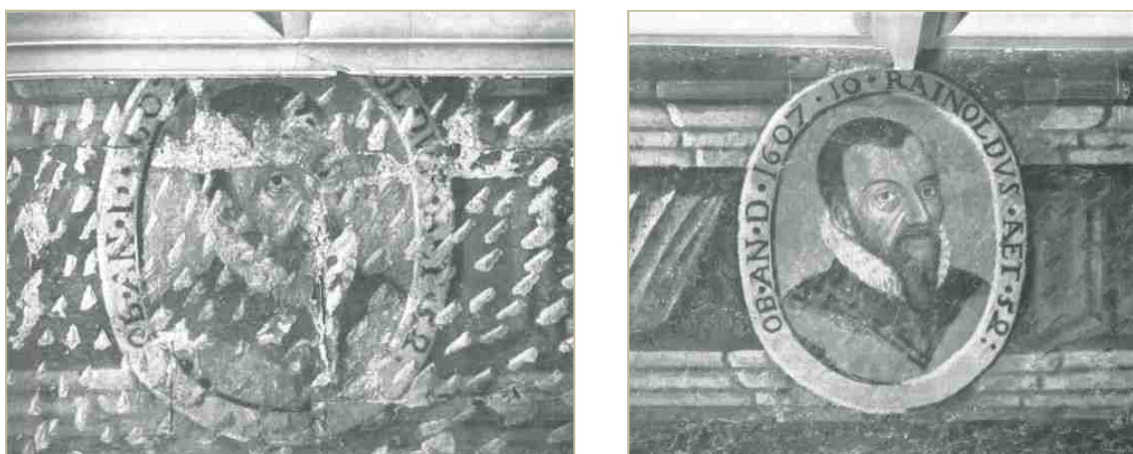


Figure 10. Image of John Rainolds from Upper Reading Room frieze. Left, prior to 1950 restoration. Right, following 1950 restoration by E. Clive Rouse

⁸² Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 340-41; Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948), 44.

⁸³ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1950), 82; Clive Rouse, *op. cit.* (1951) 201.

The 1950s and 60s: The Oxford Historic Buildings Fund

In 1957, the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund was launched. This was designed to provide repair, conservation, and restoration work to buildings in Oxford which, with some exceptions, predated 1800. The fund raised over £1.75 million in its first 13 months and was responsible for significant changes in the physical fabric of the Old Bodleian Library. Between April 1959 and July 1968, the fund spent £236,400 on work at the site. Its work affected two main areas of the building: the interiors of Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End, and Selden End, and the corresponding areas below; and the entirety of the exterior.

The work on Duke Humfrey's Library and the Divinity School took place in 1959-64. A preliminary architect's report in 1958 expressed concerns, much as Wren had 250 years before, regarding the stability of the vault of the Divinity School and the external walls of Duke Humfrey's Library. The architect, Robert Potter, found that the modern heating system had caused the timbers of Galton's 1876-77 floor to shrink, causing the trusses to sag, putting the iron tie rods into contact with the vault below. Oakshott summarises the extent of the work undertaken, and it was substantial:

*'...the whole of Galton's floor, which had failed, should be removed and H-frames (the horizontal supporting the floor, and the verticals built into the walls) be constructed to contain the lateral thrusts from the masonry vaults and secure the external walls from movement. Reinforced concrete stanchions were to be formed within the masonry of the buttresses outside, and connected to concrete encased steel beams supporting a new library floor, in fireproof construction, free of the vaulting. Following the length of the room reinforced concrete wall beams would be chased into the masonry to provide lateral stiffness, and similar reinforced concrete wall beams installed beneath the parapet gutters at roof level to anchor Galton's iron ties.'*⁸⁴

The H-frames were constructed from welded-steel beams encased in concrete tied to bronze cantilever brackets embedded into reinforced concrete stanchions built into the external buttresses. A concrete ring beam was chased into the wall. The arch between Duke Humfrey's Library and Selden End was repaired with a new keystone and a reinforced concrete ring beam above.

In Selden End, inspection of the floor found that many of the timbers had been substantially chased during various periods of heating installation. The responsible heating engineers had fitted brick piers to support the chased timbers, resting them on the fan-vault of the Convocation House below. This fan-

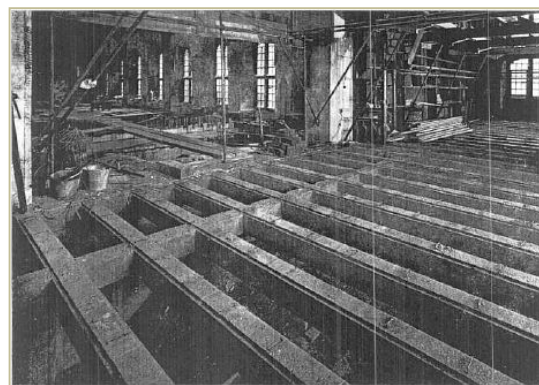


Figure 11. The reinforced concrete floor being fitted above the vaults

⁸⁴ Oakshott, W., *Oxford Stone Restored: the work of the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund, 1957-1974* (Oxford, 1974) 21-23.

vault, constructed by John Townesend in 1758-59, was, unlike the vault in the Divinity School, a decorative feature, barely 4 inches thick and never designed to support any load from above. The architects expressed some surprise that a collapse had not yet occurred and recommended that the floor in this area be replaced with precast concrete, as in Duke Humfrey's Library itself and eventually in Arts End.⁸⁵ The new floor floors throughout were covered with cork and fitted with access panels. A new hot water heating system was also fitted.

The ceiling in Duke Humfrey's Library was cleaned and restored by a team under Eve Baker. Similar work was also undertaken in Arts End and in Selden End, where the timbers were also reinforced and overhauled. The architect's attempted to restore the interior of the library to the state exhibited in a print by Loggan of 1675:

*'[In Selden End] (t)he nineteenth-century flying links with the galleries passing across the windows at the south and north ends were removed, the cornices and upper bookcases restored, and new staircases discreetly fitted in to serve each gallery...The traceries, mullions, and glazing to the south window of Selden End were restored to their original form. The delicate cartouche in the head of the Wren doorway was repaired and repainted with its Greek inscription.'*⁸⁶

The windows in Selden End were also reglazed, incorporating panels of 15th- and 17th-century glass. New electrical and lighting installations were also introduced.

In the Divinity School, the mid-17th-century platform at the western end was taken up, repaired, and replaced on a new concrete subfloor. The lower portion of the original western doorway to the building, carved by Winchcombe, was uncovered during this work. The carvings on the cornice were all replaced.

The exterior of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library (as well as the attached Arts End and Selden End) was cleaned from 1959, primarily with fine mist sprays, though steam and dry sand blasting were also tested. The Headington hardstone on the northern plinth was replaced with Purbeck Burr and the original 15th-century Taynton in most other areas was replaced with Clipsham, to match Jackson's 1877-84 work on the Old Schools Quadrangle. The parapets were taken down and reconstructed, with a concrete beam being fitted below the parapet gutters around the entire building. Two pinnacle bases were recarved, the others having been replaced by Jackson and remaining in a good state of repair. The heading and string courses were replaced and the north window of the Proscholium was reglazed.⁸⁷ The facing of the external buttresses on the southern wall of Duke Humfrey's Library was removed and they were fitted with reinforced concrete cores before being refaced. Wren's 1701 extensions to the buttresses on the southern side were deemed to no longer be necessary and were removed rather than being subject to conservation work, though the subterranean ramping arches were left in place. One must suspect that this was also done in an attempt to

⁸⁵ *Ibid*, 23.

⁸⁶ *Ibid*, 26.

⁸⁷ *Ibid*, 24.

restore the exterior as closely as possible to its state in Loggan's 1675 print (**Figure 7**), though the mullions of the panelling on the southern elevation of Arts End were not reintroduced.⁸⁸

The exterior of the Old Schools Quadrangle, including the eastern elevation of the Proscholium and Arts End, was cleaned and restored from September 1964 to July 1968. The area was cleaned in a similar manner to the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library, with a fine mist spray. On the eastern elevation of the Proscholium/Arts End and on the western stair towers, it was decided, after cleaning, to reface in Clipsham (after Jackson) the central two stages (patched by Jackson in 1877-84) entirely but for the ornamental head over the entrance to the Proscholium. Work was done on the great eastern window of Arts End and decayed stones were replaced at the upper stages including the parapet. The cornice was replaced including several carvings. The western staircases showed some weakness, which the architects blamed on the construction of the second floor, not planned in the original design:

*'...the walls [of the staircases were] strengthened with lateral reinforced concrete beams, linked to reinforced concrete stanchions embedded behind the masonry of the external angles of each staircase.'*⁸⁹

On the northern, southern, and eastern ranges similar cleaning was undertaken and limited repairs were undertaken on the walls facing into the courtyard. A pinnacle was replaced at the southern end of the eastern elevation of the western range. Decorative panels over the south and north doorways were replaced. The southern elevation of the southern range, facing onto Radcliffe Square, received minor repairs to its second floor and full refacing to its first floor, which had only been patched by Jackson. The ground floor and plinth received substantial repairs. Only cleaning and patching was undertaken on the Catte Street elevation. In the interests of economy, the northern elevation of the northern range was not subject to any repair work. The reading room windows were reglazed, incorporating the reuse of some 17th-century roundels.⁹⁰

Work on the interior of the Proscholium was carried out at the same time as the work on the Old Schools Quadrangle, converting it into the library's main entrance. The internal stonework in the Proscholium was cleaned and repaired, and doorways were cut from this space into both the western staircases towers. This meant that the doors to the stairs on the quadrangle could be locked and access to the reading rooms be controlled via a single entry point in the form of the Proscholium. The 19th-century wooden doors to the Proscholium were removed and replaced with a combination of iron gates (matching those on the southern and eastern entrances to the Old Schools Quadrangle) and plate-glass doors. Display and cloakroom fittings were also carried out.⁹¹

⁸⁸ *Ibid*, 25-28; Potter, R., 'The Repair of Oxford's Historic Buildings with Special Reference to the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library' in *Momentum* VI (1971) 27.

⁸⁹ Oakeshott, W., *op. cit.*, 28.

⁹⁰ *Ibid*, 29.

⁹¹ *Ibid*.

The later twentieth century

This period in the Old Bodleian Library's history is characterised by repairs and minor alterations. In 1971-72, following the extensive work of the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund, the University undertook the repaving of the Old Schools Quadrangle. The gravel pavement was replaced with second-hand York stone slabs arranged in a diagonal pattern. Like the work of the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund, this was done in an attempt to recreate the 17th-century scheme as visible in Loggan's 1675 print (**Figure 7**).

In 1975, Windsor street lighting was fitted throughout area and this included the installation of lights on the Catte Street elevations of the Old Bodleian Library, Hertford College, and All Souls College.

Some refitting work was carried out in the southern end of the Proscholium in 1986. In the following year, the great window at Arts End was embellished with four pieces of 17th-century glass from Wytham Abbey. The Catte Street entrance to the Old Schools Quadrangle was fitted with a handrail in 1988. Some of the exterior stonework underwent repair in 1988.

In 1988, listed building consent was granted for the erection of 2 Windsor lanterns, akin to those fitted in Catte Street in 1975, to the southern elevation of the southern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle facing onto Radcliffe Square. The staff canteen and readers' toilets were refurbished in 1990, as was the general bindery. In 1992, a new handrail was fitted to the northern staircase to Duke Humfrey's Library. In the following year, the central heating system was overhauled and new lighting was fitted within the Divinity School. The Proscholium was also rewired and fitted with under-floor heating. This involved lifting the floor of the Proscholium, which was found to have been lifted at some point in the past, as it already had concrete heating ducts running below. This was presumably during the work of the Oxford Historic Building Fund.

In 1993, major maintenance work was required on the exterior gutters and rainwater pipes around the Old Schools Quadrangle. In 1994, the ground-floor exhibition room (previously the Natural Philosophy School) was heavily refurbished. Its historic panelling was removed and refitted in a second floor room at the top of the north-western stair tower. A small plant area was constructed beneath the floor, which precipitated a limited archaeological investigation.⁹²

The late 1990s and the early twenty-first century

The late 1990s saw a flurry of conservation and necessary alteration work, culminating in the closure of Duke Humfrey's Library in 1998-99. In October 1997, the 1877 copper roof of Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End, and Selden End was raised and renewed, though the boarding beneath was left undisturbed. In January 1998, new lighting installations and shop fittings were introduced into the Proscholium. New reserve shelving and a return counter were set up in Duke Humfrey's Library in 1998. Death watch beetles were found in the

⁹² Roberts, M.R., 'Excavations in the Bodleian Library Exhibition Room, Oxford' in *Oxoniensia* LX (1995) 247-56.

timbers of Duke Humfrey's Library in the late 1990s, and in October 1998, this area (including Arts End and Selden End) was closed and an internal scaffold was erected within. The painted ceiling panels were removed before undergoing conservation work and being refitted. The conservation work on the ceiling panels revealed that several panels had been completely replaced with pine in 1870 and perhaps another 28 or 30 with oil on ply in the 1920s. It also revealed that extensive retouching had been conducted to all of the panels under E. Clive Rouse as part of the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund in the 1960s. The removal of the panels for conservation provided access to the roof space which revealed a spare and untouched original ceiling panel, as well as allowing confirmation of the mediaeval pedigree of several of the beams beneath.⁹³

From January 1999, the stained-glass windows in this area were restored, whilst other windows were reglazed. The northern and southern windows of the main range of Duke Humfrey's Library were fitted with a protective film and blinds. All the desks were fitted with modern power and data access and the barriers at Arts End were replaced with an enquiry and control desk. Duke Humfrey's Library reopened in July 1999. The conservation work in this space received a Europe Nostra Award and a RICS Award in 2000.

In 1998, internal works were undertaken at the ground-floor and mezzanine levels of the northwest corner of the Old Schools Quadrangle. In May 1999, glazed lobbies and warm-air curtains were fitted in the Proscholium to the main eastern door and to the north-western door leading to the Sheldonian Quadrangle.

In 2000, a loose-laid floor was fitted in the Upper Reading Room to facilitate the installation of power and data wiring. In October 2001, similar works were undertaken in the Lower Reading Room. In these first-floor works, a suspended ceiling was fitted in the eastern range, in order to conceal power, lighting, and fire alarm wiring.

In 2002, the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund once again funded work on the exterior of the Old Bodleian Library, providing £118,000 for repairs to the stonework of Arts End and Selden End.

In December 2004, the ground-floor staff toilets were refurbished, and this involved the removal of modern partitions and the installation of new services in the northwest corner of the Old Schools Quadrangle.

In January 2006, work was begun on the replacement of the small passenger lift adjacent to the Tower of Five Orders. This was presumably originally fitted in the 1930s, when lifts were fitted to the staircase towers. In 2006-07, the 1831 copper roof over the Upper Reading Room was replaced. This was followed in 2008-09 by the reroofing of the Tower of Five Orders.

In January 2007, the Bullard Room on the Old Schools Quadrangle (previously the Logic School) was converted into a shop. This involved the fitting of counters, rewiring, and asbestos removal. A panelled draft lobby was also installed. The 17th-century panelling (fitted

⁹³ Katkov, M., *Old Bodleian Library – Painted Ceiling: Report on the Conservation, September 1998 - March 1999* (Report; February 2000) 5.

in 1941) was left in place, though it was French polished. In March of the same year, further lighting brackets and lanterns were fitted to the southern elevation of the southern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle, facing onto Radcliffe Square. A porter's lodge was constructed in the passage under the Tower of Five Orders in the summer of that year.

Between 2007-09, 10 of the gargoyles on the small western elevation of the northern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle, facing onto the Sheldonian Quadrangle, were replaced. These were the last of the original grotesques and were found to be in a poor state of repair, and in most cases it was impossible to distinguish what the original subjects may have been. A competition was held allowing local school children to submit designs for the replacement figures, which were then interpreted and carved by professional artists. The replacement carvings all represented literary subjects, but for one of Sir Thomas Bodley and another of Lieutenant-General Pitt-Rivers. The replacement of the grotesques was awarded the Oxford Preservation Trust small projects award in 2010.

In February 2009, the Proscholium was closed for over 6 weeks for extensive works. The 1998 shop fittings were removed. New entry/exit control barriers were installed, with book detectors. The existing glazed entry doors were altered to improve disabled access and new lighting was installed in the space. The internal walls were lime washed and the detailing on the vaulted ceiling was cleaned. In June of that year, listed building consent was granted for fixing an aluminium heraldic device, representing the family of George Mallinckrodt KBE, a major donor to the library, on the grille tympanum of the South Gate to the Old Schools Quadrangle. In the same year, stone pinnacles on the Tower of Five Orders, previously restored by Jackson, were repaired. In 2009, a new benefactors' plaque was also fitted to the southwest staircase. This was fitted opposite the original 1920s plaque (which had been full since 2004), on the half landing between the first and second floors. The new plaque was a copy of the original, though it only had 3 panels instead of 5.

By the early 21st century, the Bodleian Library's perennial problem of storage space once again became an issue: it had become clear that the New Bodleian Library was not equipped to meet modern archive storage facilities and in 2010 its stack was relocated to an off-site storage facility at Swindon. With the New Bodleian Library no longer serving as a stack, the underground link between it, the Old Bodleian Library, and the Radcliffe Camera no longer had to serve its purpose as a means of conveying books to the reading rooms. Equally, the underground bookstore was no longer required as a stack. In response to this, the underground bookstore was converted into a reading room. This was renamed the Gladstone Link, for the famous prime minister's contribution to the design of its original shelving and for its position as a linking subway between the reading rooms of the Old Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera. As this new reading room was accessible from both ends, it necessitated alterations in both buildings. In the Old Bodleian Library, this required the removal of modern partitions and lifts in order to provide reader access to this previously restricted-access space. The 1930s goods lift in the northwest staircase tower, was removed and a modern passenger lift was fitted in the book conveyor shaft (also 1930s), in the area north of this stair tower. This now provides access to all floors but the mezzanine, including the Gladstone Link. A lobby area, with cloakroom facilities was fitted out in the ground floor

of this western area of the northern range. Whilst lift lobbies, separated from the reading room, were fitted out on every floor.

As part of these wider works, in 2010 the paving in the Old Schools Quadrangle was repaired and its level was raised to improve disabled access by eliminating the step up into the doorways accessed from it. The University had been attempting to implement a similar scheme since at least 1997. Temporary wooden ramps had been fitted in 2006, but this was a more sophisticated and aesthetically sympathetic long-term solution to the problem. That being said, some ramps have been retained at doorways not affected by the 2010 works.

In 2011, an oak-veneer draft lobby was fitted to the entrance to the northeast staircase tower, allowing the heavy external door to be left open during the day.

The Old Bodleian Library continues to serve as the core of University of Oxford's world-renowned library service, as well as the monumental core of the city and University.



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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 Old Bodleian Library has been publically recognised by its designation as a Grade I listed building in 1954 (see **Appendix 1**); and it was part of the central focus for 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**):

‘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 Humfrey’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.’⁹⁴

3.1 Significance as part of the City Centre, Broad Street, Cattle Street, Radcliffe Square, the Oxford skyline, and the Central (City and University) Conservation Area

The Old Bodleian’s Tower of Five Orders forms an important constituent element of Oxford’s world-renowned skyline. As with most of the spires and towers of Oxford, the dense construction of the city centre means that it is not visible from most points within the city, but when viewed from the outskirts it forms part of the famed “dreaming spires” configuration. The Tower of Five Orders is not the



Figure 12. The Oxford skyline from Boars Hill, looking northeast. The Tower of Five Orders can be seen to the left of the dome of the Radcliffe Camera. Photograph by Andrew Gray

⁹⁴ **Appendix 2**; Oxford City Council, Central (City and University) Conservation Area Description, available online: <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Direct/24109Central.pdf>, accessed 23rd March 2012.

defining feature in this group, lacking the distinctive impact of the domes of the Radcliffe Camera or Tom Tower or of the spires of All Souls Church or the University Church of St. Mary, but it is nevertheless an important factor.

The configuration of Broad Street East, Catte Street, and Radcliffe Square, tied together by the Bodleian Library and its associated buildings, forms the ceremonial and monumental core of both the city and University of Oxford.

The southern elevation of the Old Schools Quadrangle defines the northern edge of Radcliffe Square. When this elevation was constructed it was obscured by tenements and has only been open and unconcealed since the clearing of Radcliffe Square in the 1730s. This elevation now forms an important part of the Radcliffe Square configuration, one of the most significant architectural groups in the world. The Gothic of the Old Bodleian, the University Church of St. Marys, and All Souls College contrasts starkly with the Baroque of the Radcliffe Camera and this results in an area of uniquely dense architectural achievement: ‘The area by the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian is unique in the world...it is the closeness and compactness, the absence of anything merely a foil that is only true of Oxford.’⁹⁵

The eastern façade of the Old Schools Quadrangle, defined by the great gate and oriels of the Tower of Five Orders, dominates the southern end of Catte Street, its superior height overlooking Hertford College opposite. As one walks down Catte Street from the north, past the Clarendon Building, the angle of the northern and eastern elevations of the Old Schools Quadrangle, with the attached 1648 buttress, is a defining factor in the architectural experience of the space (**Figure 13.1**). It is a unique experience to stand in the Clarendon Quadrangle with the Clarendon Building rising as a triumphal arch to the north, with the curve of the Sheldonian to the west, the Bridge of Sighs flying over New College Lane to the east, and the tall expanse of the northern range of the Old

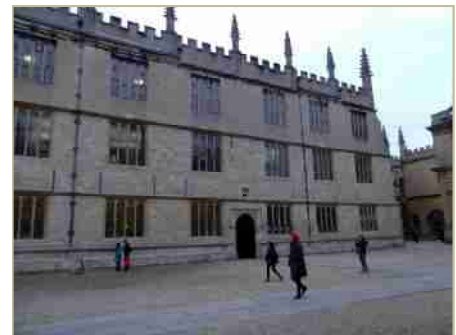


Figure 13. 13.1. Top, the view southwards down Catte Street. 13.2. Middle, the northern elevation of the northern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle. 13.3. Bottom, a glimpse of the Old Bodleian between the Sheldonian Theatre and the Clarendon Building looking southwards

⁹⁵ Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *The Buildings of England: Oxfordshire* (Harmondsworth, 1974) 254.

Schools Quadrangle rising to the south (**Figure 13.2**).

From the eastern end of Broad Street, the Old Bodleian Library is obscured by the later construction between it and the road; the Sheldonian Theatre (1665-69) and the Clarendon Building (1711-13). Along this part of the road, the Old Bodleian Library provides a monumental backdrop for the associated architectural grouping. Between the buildings, occasional glimpses are gained of the seemingly monolithic northern façade of the Old Schools Quadrangle (**Figure 13.3**), and, at the western end, the windows and pinnacles of the northern elevation of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library.

During daytime, the Old Schools Quadrangle is as important as Catte Street in the movement of people through the monumental core of the city. The entrance arches of the Clarendon Building and the Old Schools Quadrangle form an axial vista (see below, **Section 3.2**), creating an uninterrupted view and means of public passage from Broad Street through to Radcliffe Square. The glimpse of the rusticated base of the Radcliffe Camera through this passage tempts the viewer through the space, encouraging them to disdain Catte Street in their southwards journey and to instead remain within the monumental precinct of the Bodleian.

3.2 Significance as a constituent element of the Bodleian complex

The relationship between the Old Bodleian Library and the other buildings of the Bodleian complex is of primary significance. The constituent elements of the Old Bodleian Library are the oldest buildings in the complex and the other buildings (even the Radcliffe Camera, which was built as an independent institution) were all designed with its presence in mind. The buildings of the Bodleian complex are aligned on an axial vista, with the arches of the Old Schools Quadrangle and the Clarendon Building being aligned in such a way as to allow one to look from the Radcliffe Square to the George VI entrance of the New Bodleian Library. The New Bodleian is the newest part of this group and its entrance was clearly designed with this alignment in mind. The Radcliffe Camera, originally constructed as an independent institution, is slightly out of alignment with the rest of the group, and its original entrance from the south would instead have been aligned with the University Church of St. Mary.⁹⁶ The construction of its northern stairs and entrance in 1863, following the loan of the Camera to the Bodleian, can be read partly as an attempt to bring it more into alignment with this group.

As mentioned above, the effect of this grouping is that



Figure 14. The Sheldonian as represented in Loggan's 1675 map of Oxford

⁹⁶ Estates Services, University of Oxford, *Radcliffe Camera: Conservation Plan* (Report, March 2012), available online: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/estatesdirectorat/documents/conservation/Radcliffe_Camera.pdf, accessed 6th February 2013.

one can move from Broad Street and the New Bodleian through to Radcliffe Square and the Radcliffe Camera without leaving the University's monumental core. The significance of the Old Bodleian Library in this way is that it is the central component of the interacting monumental centrepiece of both the city and University (as in monumental function the two are indistinguishable) that is the conjunction of Broad Street East, Catte Street, Radcliffe Square, and their associated buildings.

The relationship between the Divinity School and the Sheldonian Theatre is also of some significance as part of this group. The Sheldonian is consciously aligned with this building rather than with the street to the north. This is highlighted in Loggan's 1675 map (Figure 14), which shows the Sheldonian separately walled off from the street prior to the construction of the Clarendon Building. In this, the eastern boundary wall of the Sheldonian parallels the "Wren Wall" to the west, abutting the western end of the northern elevation of northern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle. This boundary formed a self-contained precinct consisting of just the Divinity School and the Sheldonian Theatre. This ceased to be the case with the construction of the Clarendon Building in the early 18th century, but the relationship between the Divinity School and Sheldonian remains of great significance; their entrances face onto one another (that of the Divinity School having been added in 1669 in coordination with the construction of the Sheldonian) and this facilitates transit between the two ceremonial centres of the University during formal activities.

Whilst there is a physical connection between the Bodleian buildings in the form of the connecting tunnel under Radcliffe Square, the Old Schools Quadrangle, and Broad Street, more significant is the intangible connection that exists across the entirety of the Bodleian complex. It is the idea of the Bodleian which makes all its components so significant, as the Bodleian Library is (and traditionally has been) considered the historic and academic core of Oxford University.

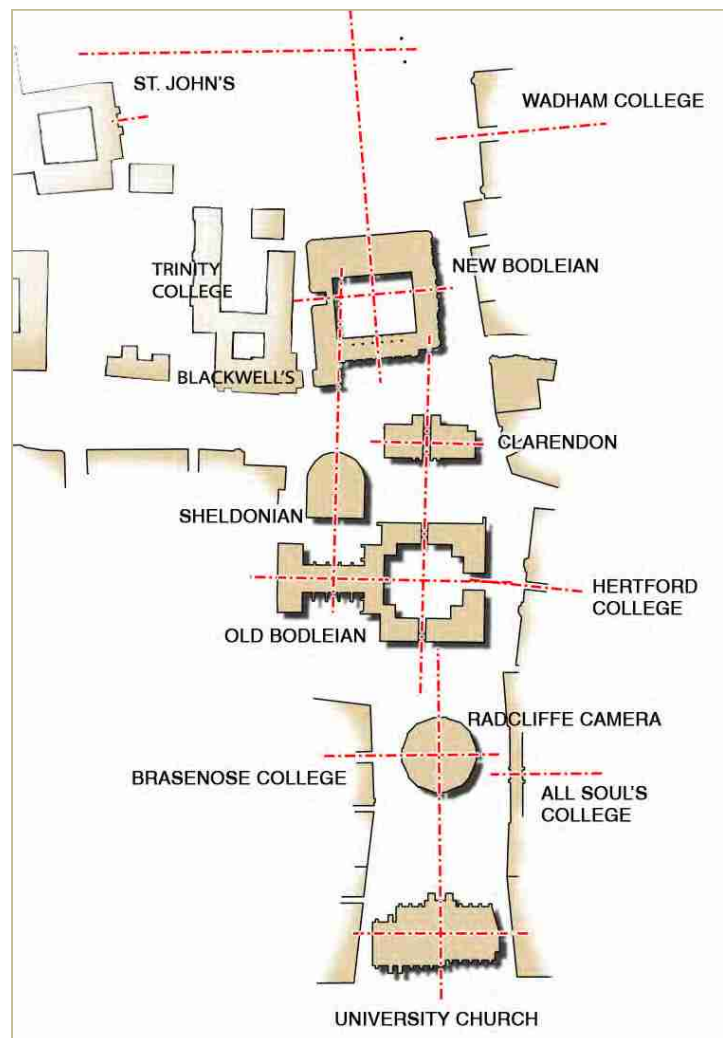


Figure 15. The geometry of the Broad Street East-Catte Street-Radcliffe Square configuration

3.3 Architectural and Aesthetic Significance

3.3.1 Exterior Elevations

3.3.1.1 The Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library



Figure 16. The Sheldonian Quadrangle and the northern elevation of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library (highlighted in red). The western and northern elevations of Arts end are highlighted in blue and the western elevation of the northern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle in yellow

The original construction phases of the Old Bodleian Library form a significant 15th-century gothic building. Only the northern and south elevations are still exposed. The northern is visible from the Sheldonian Quadrangle. Here the dominant features are the perpendicular traceried windows on the ground floor, the central of which is truncated by Byrd's 1669 doorway, and the panelled buttresses drawing the eye to the gothic pinnacles above. On this northern elevation, Selden End and Arts End both feel incongruous where they abut and seem to cut into the façade of the Divinity School (**Figure 16**). At both ends the parapets of the extensions are higher than that of the northern elevation of the original building, creating a strange effect at the angle where both sets of parapets abut the pinnacles. That is because the extensions have straight parapets throughout, which remain at the same height along their lengths, whereas the parapets of the original building correspond to the lowest point of the

original sloping gable parapets of the now demolished northern and southern elevations (**Figure 20**). On both extensions the cornices, parapets, and the string courses, do not match those of the Divinity School, seeming to end abruptly as they hit this elevation. The points at which the extensions extrude from the north elevation of the Divinity School are very close to the edges of the window, making them seem cramped and squeezed in. The result is that façade feels very much what it is, an older building with two distinct, later extensions protruding from it. That being said, it retains extensive aesthetic value. Equally, despite extensive restoration over several periods (notably the original, grey Taynton stone was refaced with the yellower Clipsham in the 1960s), it retains extensive illustrative value as an intact 15th-century monumental educational building that is still in regular use. The original lead roofing in all areas was replaced with copper in the 19th century and this has been recently replaced again with modern copper roofing.

A similar effect is achieved on the southern elevation (**Figure 18**); however, here the angular buttresses (heavily restored in the 1960s, when Wren's extensions were removed) are not relieved by the panelling exhibited on the northern elevation and this elevation, feeling too spartan, suffers in comparison. This difference is actually of some illustrative value, representing the stricken financial position of the University during the construction of this building: the southern elevation is later than the northern, being the work of Thomas Ellyn who was employed in 1429 with strict orders towards economy.



Figure 17. The northern elevation of Duke Humfrey's Library and the Divinity School without highlighting. Note Fisher's 1669 doorway in the central bay



Figure 18. The southern elevation of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library

3.3.1.2 Arts End and the Proscholium

Arts End (including the Proscholium below) was the first extension to the Divinity School. The extension is characterised by the blind panelling which dominates all its elevations. Its primary eastern elevation was modelled on the original façade of the Divinity School/Duke Humfrey's Library, though the original eastern elevation was narrower, following the dimensions of Divinity School/Duke Humfrey's Library, with a sloping parapet, following the roof of Duke Humfrey's Library, and a central pinnacle. Equally it had a protruding porch and an additional configuration of 7 panels over this, leading to the window above (**Figure 20**).⁹⁷ Despite the loss of these details and a significant change in proportions, the general scheme of the original 15th-century façade has been retained, notably the string courses, gothic panelling, and the 7-light perpendicular-traceried window. In the original scheme the string courses matched the corresponding elements on the buttresses, which, despite remaining slightly higher, can still be traced where the western elevation of Arts End hits the northern elevation of the Divinity School; however, the parapet and cornice are higher than the original sloping parapet of Duke Humfrey's Library. The 4 panelled gothic pinnacles along the eastern elevation were built in reference to those on Duke Humfrey's Library, but visually bear more relation to the later examples in the Old Schools Quadrangle, as:

⁹⁷ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), pl.XXVIII.

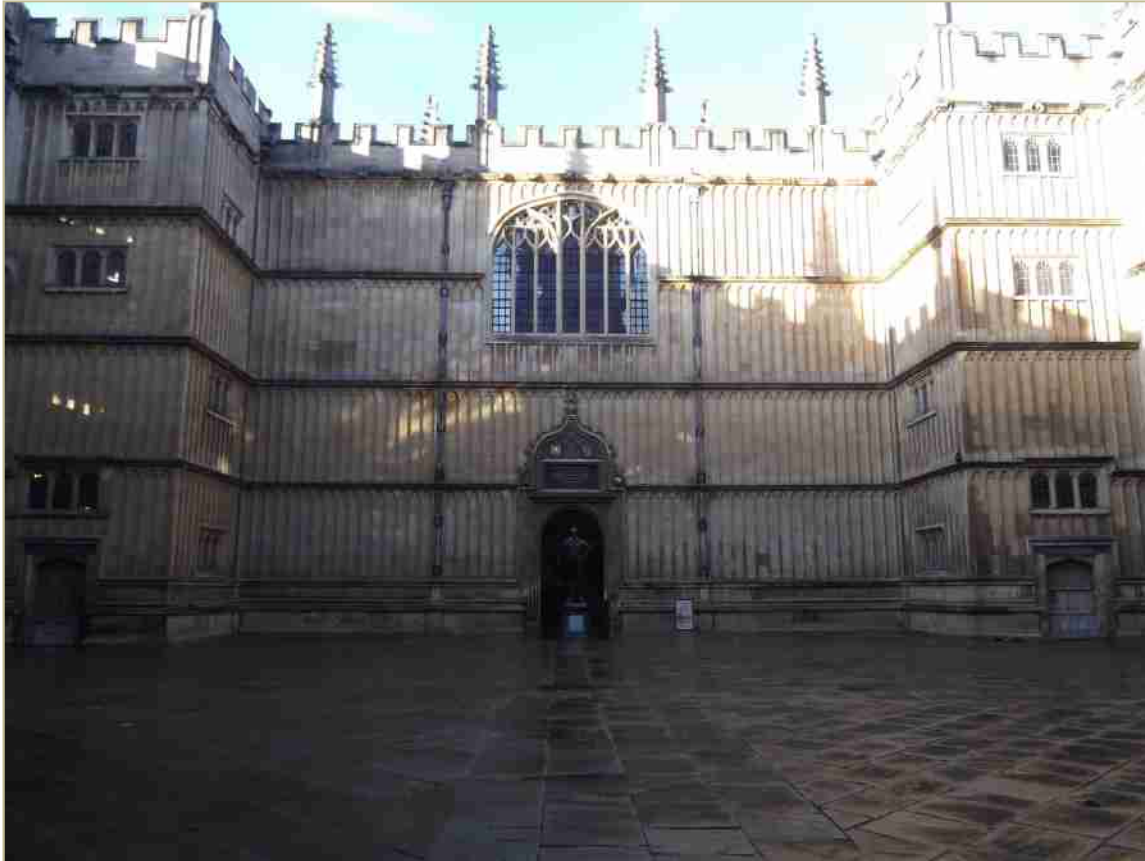


Figure 19. The eastern elevation of Arts End and the western staircase towers of the Old Schools Quadrangle

‘...they are not carried down into buttresses as would have been the case in medieval architecture [and as is the case on the northern elevation of the Divinity School]: an indication that the Gothic style was chosen primarily for its visual and associational effect. The decision was surely Bodley’s own, and his aim was no doubt to emphasize continuity: both between the new Library and the old, and between the Jacobean University and the illustrious University of the Middle Ages. In this respect the new buildings at the Bodleian Library deserve recognition as major examples of the survival – or should it be the revival? – of Gothic architecture in early 17th-century England...’⁹⁸

The western staircase towers of the Old Schools Quadrangle mask the southern and northern ends of this elevation. The panelling of the obscured portions can be traced on the western interior walls within the staircases.

This primary eastern elevation was heavily restored in both the 1880s and the 1960s, and in both cases, amongst heavy refacing, the grotesques and pinnacles were also largely replaced. That being said, Arts End retains extensive illustrative value, as attested by Tyack (above), regarding the attitudes of its 17th-century builders towards the mediaeval building they were adding to: Gothic is used as a curatorial tool to invoke the mediaeval origins of the refounded

⁹⁸ Tyack, G., *op. cit.*, 92-93.

library. Arts End is also of substantial aesthetic value, forming an integral portion of one of the most lauded and successful architectural spaces in the world.

It is probable that the other elevations of Arts End originally had a similar scheme of panelling (the arches of which have been retained beneath the string courses), as can be seen on the southern elevation in Loggan's 1675 engraving, but had been removed by refacing certainly as early as the late 19th century.

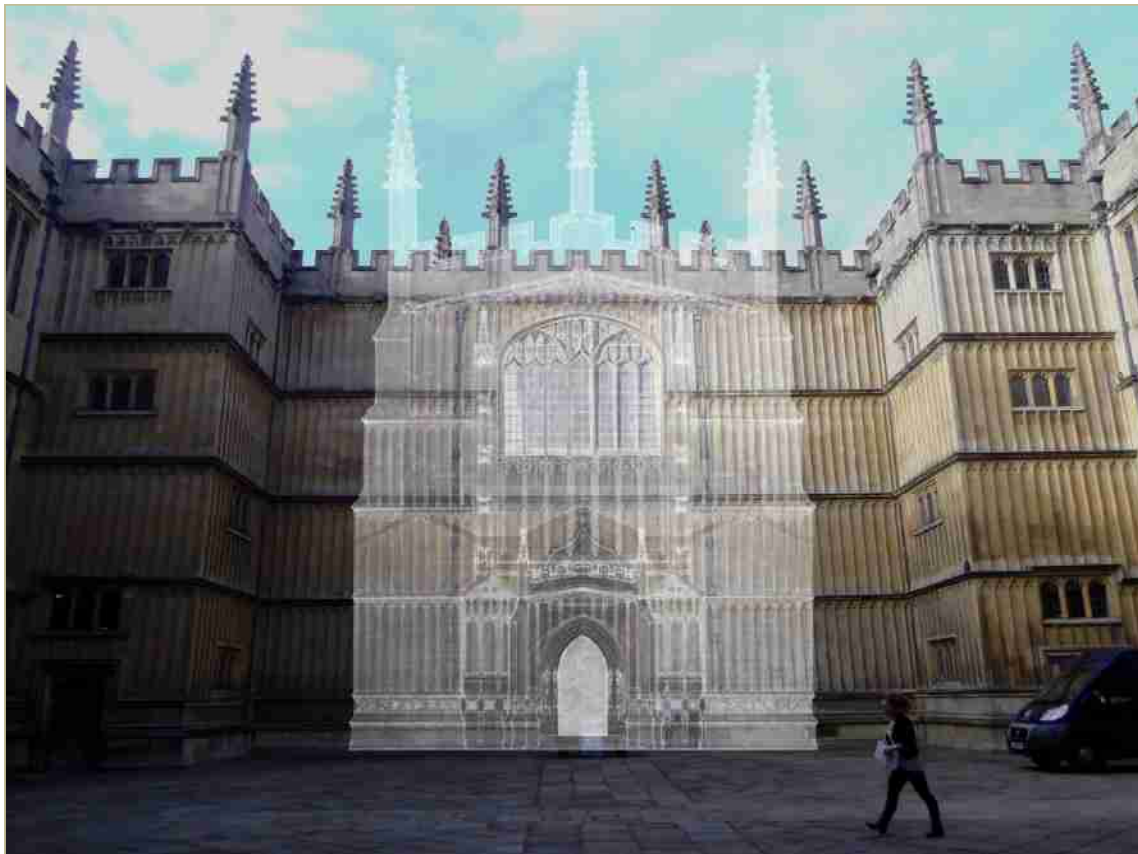


Figure 20. The eastern elevation of Arts End with Robert Potter's 1967 reconstruction of the probable original façade of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library superimposed in white

3.3.1.3 The Old Schools Quadrangle

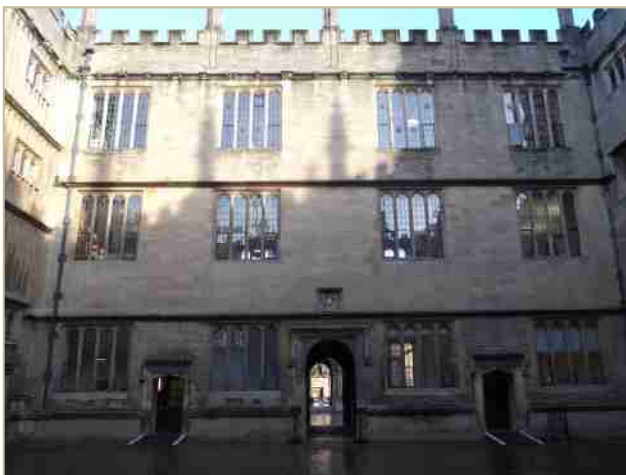
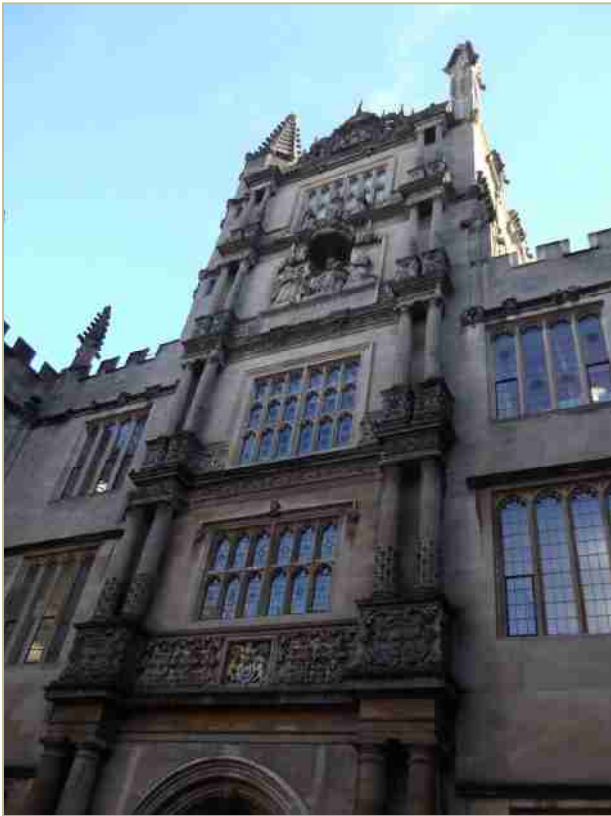


Figure 21. 21.1, top left, the Tower of Five Orders looking north-eastwards. 21.2, top right, the southeast stair tower of the Old Schools Quadrangle looking southwards. 21.3, bottom left, the north range of the Old Schools Quadrangle looking northwards. 21.4, bottom right, the vault of the passage beneath the Tower of Five Orders

'The SCHOOLS QUADRANGLE, considering its date, 1613-24 is a formidable building and without parallel in the secular architecture of those years...The building is to the outside an unrelieved block, very nearly square, three storeys high, with very widely spaced identical straight-headed four-light windows with one transom on the ground floor and two on the first and second floors, all lights being given cusped round arches. The windows are thus Gothic in intention, and Gothic are the carvings on the top frieze, the battlements, and the pinnacles. In the middle, again in the Oxford tradition, stands a tower, two more storeys high. The archway (with the original panelled DOOR), though round, has Perp mouldings. The spandrels are decorated with strapwork and flowers etc. In the middle of the first and second floors is an oriel, but its fenestration differs, the upper one having two transoms. The top of the tower is a pierced Gothic parapet with eight pinnacles. To the N and S the system is identical, only the doorways (with big leaf spandrels) are not in the middle. So the motifs are all those used by colleges at the same moment as well, but the regularity with which Bodley had them employed was new. The QUADRANGLE still has painted over its doors the names of the schools to which they gave access...

'The main archway has a one-bay lierne-vault with big bosses displaying more post-Jacobean leafwork than Jacobean strapwork and a diamonded and studded exit-arch into the quad. One should on arrival turn back at once; for such a frontispiece as this one will never see again. With five tiers it is the biggest in England, and that means anywhere. The parti of these frontispieces is of course Italo-French Renaissance in origin, and from France Lord Somerset had taken it over for Somerset House and then William Cecil for Burghley House, Robert Cecil for Hatfield House – dated 1612 – and so on. Few have more than three tiers – Stonyhurst in the 1590s e.g. has four. Bodley's starts with a plain stage of coupled Tuscan columns. Next slim Roman Doric pairs, with a broad band of mixed strap and foliage motifs also round the pedestals of the columns. In addition the columns have their lower two-fifths decorated. Six-light, transomed window. Top frieze of strapwork. Next stage Ionic columns with decorated plinths; six-light window with two transoms. Next stage Corinthian columns, and between them a big panel showing James I seating in a niche...Composite columns with strapwork plinths and frieze, and another six-light window. The polygonal angle turrets end in crocketed spires, and between them is a big pierced strapwork cresting.

*'That frontispiece is the one piece of display. The passages to N and S are small. They have big-leaf spandrels and tierceron-star vaults. The walls of the E, N, and S sides are treated like the exterior; only in the angles spacious square staircase blocks project, and they have small three-light windows making it clear that here are staircases.'*⁹⁹

The Old Schools Quadrangle consists of 3 ranges arranged around the eastern elevation of Arts End which forms the fourth side of the quadrangle. There are four staircase towers in the corners (though only the western two still hold stairs) and the five-storeyed Tower of Five Orders stands over the great eastern gate. The quadrangle is of substantial aesthetic and illustrative value. As with Arts End, completed shortly before this area, the quadrangle was designed to reference the original building to the west, notably in the inclusion of the

⁹⁹ Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *op. cit.*, 260-61.

panelled pinnacles along its parapets. It is a generally plain and rather dour design, relieved by these occasional gothic detailings and the great frontispiece of the Tower of the Five Orders, which itself combines classical and gothic elements with some success: the chimera only really failing above the parapet level, where the turret and pinnacle provide a rather jarring framing to the central strapwork and columns, described by Tyack as ‘...crude and amateurish in the extreme.’¹⁰⁰

The western stair towers are of some interest. They were constructed as part of the Old Schools Quadrangle but visually they relate to Arts End. They follow the panelling and string courses of Arts End, though the parapets are slightly taller, relating to that of the rest of the Old Schools Quadrangle. The string courses suggest four floors, following the scheme on Arts End, which actually consists of two double-height spaces. Those on the rest of the quadrangle suggest the three floors formed by the ground-floor schools, the Lower Reading Room, and the Upper Reading Room. Where the western stair towers connect with the walls of the Old Schools Quadrangle proper the cornice meets, forming a circuit around the entire quadrangle; however, the string courses do not connect, ending abruptly as they hit the northern and southern ranges, except at the lowest level, where they dog-leg downwards around their lower windows in order to meet up.

As Pevsner suggests (above), the Old Schools Quadrangle is a unique experience of substantial aesthetic value. Constructed over a ten-year period it nevertheless evokes a range of styles and influences, referencing its mediaeval past whilst explicating the aspirations of the 17th-century University. The 1998 porter’s lodge in the eastern passage is aesthetically intrusive but this is also the most surreptitious place in which it could be located.

The paving in Old Schools Quadrangle dates from 1972 (and it was repaved with reclaimed stone, with the areas adjacent to four of the doorways being raised, in 2010) but it follows what is probably the original pattern, being based on Loggan’s 1675 depiction. The pavement retains some illustrative value due to this arrangement. The statue of the Earl of Pembroke, donated in 1723, is separately Grade-II listed and is a popular monument of both aesthetic and historical value (**Appendix 1**).

3.3.1.4 Selden End, the Convocation House, and Chancellor’s Court

Selden End (including the Convocation House and Chancellor’s Court below) was the last of the major Bodleian extensions to be constructed. It follows the model of Arts End, though it lacks the external panelling. It was always intended as a rear extension, the only external entrance being the (admittedly rather grand) door into the Chancellor’s Court, and this perhaps explains the comparative lack of ornamentation on this extension. That being said, it retains the panelled pinnacles that feature on all parts of the building. The windows on the southern, northern, and western elevations are attractive features of great aesthetic significance.

¹⁰⁰ Tyack, G., *op. cit.*, 93.

The northern elevation is abutted by the terminus of Wren’s northern boundary wall of the Sheldonian Theatre. This wall is separately Grade-II listed (**Appendix 1**). It is an attractive feature and, whilst cleaned and repaired recently, was not refaced like the rest of the Sheldonian in the 1960s, making it of particular illustrative value. The western elevation of Selden End is obscured by the library of Exeter College which is only separated from it by a narrow alley. This was rebuilt in 1856-57 by George Gilbert Scott and is also separately Grade-II listed. In this area, Selden End and the southern elevation of the Divinity School make a significant contribution to the pleasant setting of Exeter College’s Fellows’ Garden.



Figure 22.22.1. Top, the “Wren wall” where it abuts Sheldon End, looking south-westwards. 22.2. Bottom left, Selden End and Exeter College Library looking north-northeast. 22.3. Bottom right, looking up at where Selden End abuts the southern elevation of the Divinity School

3.3.2 Interior Spaces

3.3.2.1 Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End, and Selden End

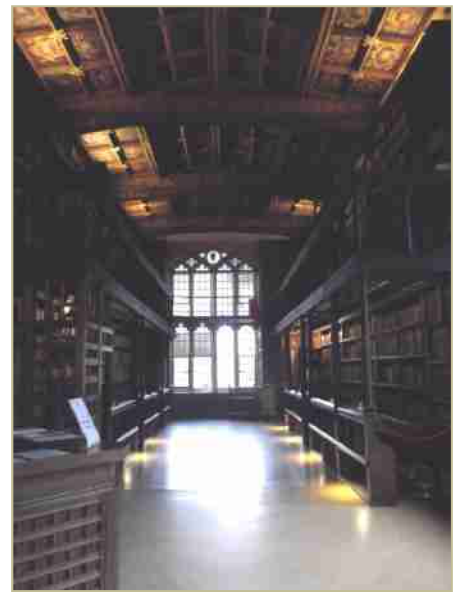
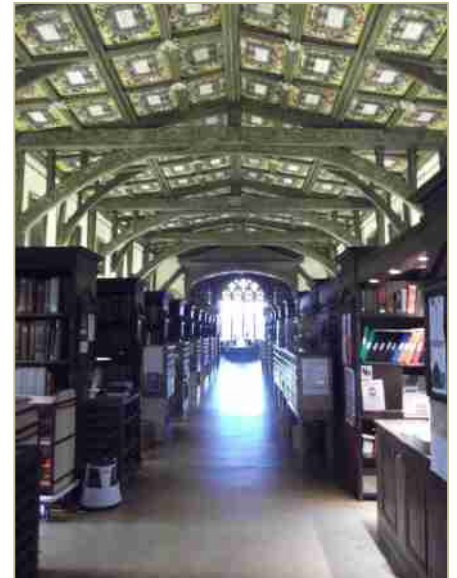


Figure 23. 23.1. Top left, view westwards from Duke Humfrey's Library onto the western window of Selden End. 23.2. Top right, the view westwards down the length of Duke Humfrey's Library. 23.3. Bottom right, a study space between two book presses on the southern side of Duke Humfrey's Library. 23.4. Bottom centre, the view northwards down the length of Selden End. 23.5. Bottom right, the view northwards down the length of Arts End

Duke Humfrey's Library is the oldest library space in the building. It has been heavily altered throughout its existence, most notably: in 1598-1600, when the ceiling and book presses were fitted; in 1610-12, when the eastern wall was removed and Arts End fitted; in 1634-40, when the western wall was removed and Selden End fitted; in 1700-03, when the floor was replaced and the book presses were trussed to the walls; in 1876-77, when the *Linc. and Jur.* galleries (fitted in 1693) were removed, the floor again replaced, and the ceiling repaired; in 1959-64, when the floor was again replaced, this time with reinforced concrete, and a concrete H-frame, stanchions, and ring beam fitted; and in 1999, when the ceiling was again repaired and repainted. The floors have been replaced several times and this was not always at the same level: Craster describes how in the mid-19th-century there was a step down between Duke Humfrey's Library and Arts End, the floor of which was presumably then level with its entrances from the stair towers, which now have to be stepped down to.¹⁰¹

Part of the appeal of this space is the sense of timeless antiquity which it conveys, which is perhaps ironic considering how greatly it has been altered throughout its existence. The work of the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund was so comprehensive that an unkind assessment might be that this is now a 1960s room with historic facing and fittings; however, many significant historical, and in some cases even original, features do remain, for instance elements of the original ceiling timbers in Duke Humfrey's Library are extant and of those that are not original the vast majority date from Thomas Bodley's day.¹⁰² The original 17th-century ceilings are retained in Arts End and Selden End. Most of the internal stonework is 15th century, even if in some parts this now only covers later concrete work. Bodley's 17th-century book presses are still in place and behind these, preserved in the stone, are "silhouettes" of the original 15th-century lecterns; both these features are of substantial illustrative value. The simple, basilical plan of the original Duke Humfrey's Library can still be traced and the conjunction of the 15th-century Duke Humfrey's Library with the 17th-century Arts End and Selden End extensions is of high evidential value to the study of the development of early-modern English libraries. The use in Arts End of full-height wall-presses topped with galleries is the first-known use of this continental innovation in England, something that would become standard practice in 18th-century libraries. The design of Duke Humfrey's Library above the Divinity School is an imitation rather than an innovation in the history of the library, closely mirroring that of Fromond's Chantry at Winchester College, planned shortly before in 1422.¹⁰³

Perhaps more importantly than anything else, the aesthetic value of this configuration is immense. Beyond the modern concrete-and-linoleum floor and the security desk, Duke Humfrey's Library, with its extensions, is one of the most attractive reading rooms in the world. Its character is unique and the result of centuries of adaptation and accumulated history.

¹⁰¹ Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 7.

¹⁰² Katkov, M., *op. cit.*, 15.

¹⁰³ Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), 167.

3.3.2.2 The Divinity School

The Divinity School is the oldest portion of the complex, its construction having begun before the library above was conceived. The aesthetic and illustrative value of the space is overwhelming, with William Orchard's vaulted ceiling being of worldwide renown:

*'The vault of the Divinity School is one of the tours de force of late medieval architecture in Europe. The decision to build a library over the School meant that the vault had to be of a lower pitch than had originally been intended in the 1420s. But what it loses in height it gains in decorative richness. By the second half of the 15th century, vaulting in England had reached a degree of inventiveness and virtuosity unmatched outside central Europe, and by the 1480s English taste favoured prodigal display, as it had in the era of early 14th-century Decorated Gothic. Technically the Divinity School vault is a flattish stone ceiling resting on transverse arches supported from the outside by buttresses. Fan-like clusters of stone ribs sprout from pendants which hang from the transverse arches like stalactites, creating an effect of extraordinary delicacy and complexity, rich in the taut linear patterning which is so typical of late Gothic. In a return to the elaborate detailing eschewed in 1440, the pendants are carved with figures of saints in niches, and, to add even more complexity, shorter liernes link the main ribs to form lozenge-shaped patterns on the ceiling, with carved bosses at the intersections. Among the carved initials are the letters WO, possibly referring to the master mason William Orchard...It seems likely therefore that Orchard was the designer of the vault, and also perhaps of the distinctive roof-line of the two-storeyed building, the tall crocketed pinnacles acting as counterweights to the outward thrust of the wooden roof of Duke Humfrey's Library.'*¹⁰⁴

As with Duke Humfrey's Library, this space has been heavily restored during its long existence, but the original scheme is very evident and much of the original material is still extant. The platform at the western end dates to the 1660s as does the northern doorway, and these are amongst the many layers of history that contribute to the unique character of the space. John Betjeman described the experience of encountering the vault as causing '...the same gasp of wonder as comes on first entering King's College Chapel, Cambridge. Such delicate masonry, so much branching vaulting, flowing with bosses and dangling into pendants, the columns rising up the walls with such multiplex precision!'¹⁰⁵

The Divinity School is space of the highest architectural significance.

¹⁰⁴ Tyack, G., *op. cit.*, 66-67.

¹⁰⁵ Betjeman, J., *op. cit.*, 138.

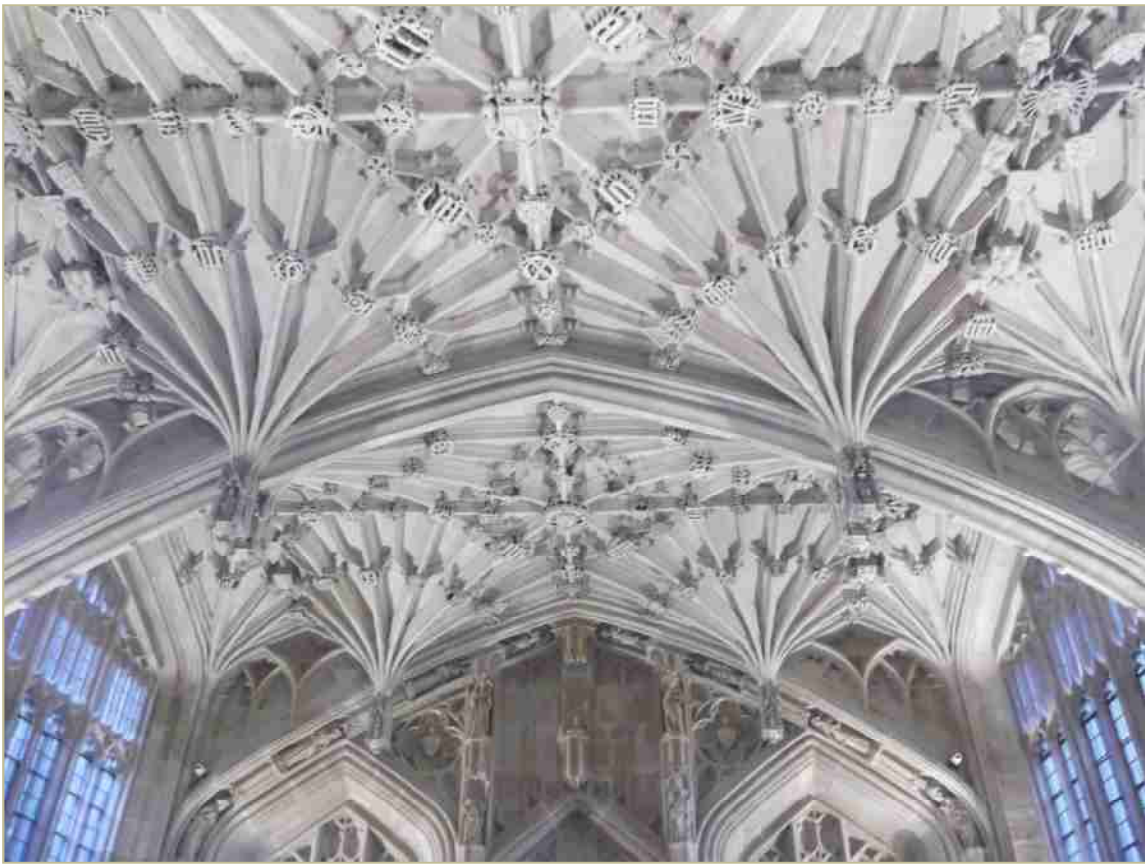


Figure 24. 24.1. Top, the vault of the Divinity School looking eastwards. 24.2. Bottom left, the view eastwards along the Divinity School from the platform at the western end. 24.3. Bottom right, the northern windows and the 1669 door, looking north-eastwards

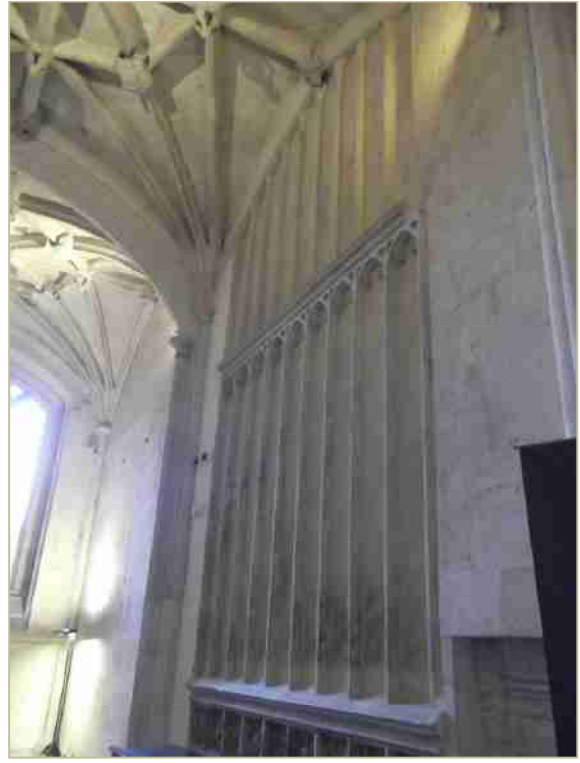
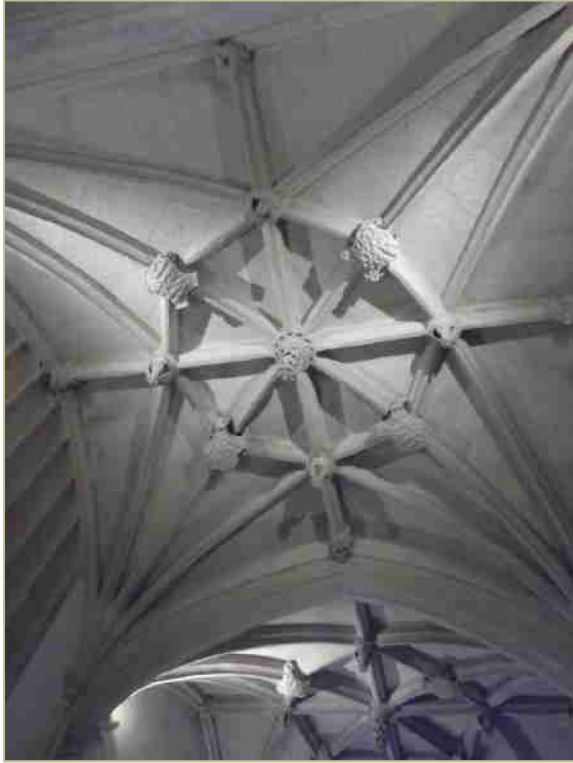


Figure 25. 25.1. Top left, the lierne vault of the Proscholium. 25.2. Top right, perpendicular panelling in the western wall of the Proscholium. 25.3. Bottom left, the doorway into the Divinity School from the Proscholium. 25.4. Bottom right, the view northwards along the Proscholium

3.3.2.3 The Proscholium

The Proscholium relates to the 1608-13 Arts End extension and is of high aesthetic and historic significance. As its name suggests, it forms an antechamber to the Divinity School to the west. The space is entered through the ogee-arched doorway from the Old Schools Quadrangle to the east. Since its construction it has served as the main entrance to the Divinity School and since 1964-68, when doorways to the stair towers were cut into its south-eastern and north-eastern ends, it has served as the main entrance into the entire Old Bodleian Library. The staircase entrances at either end do make more sense of the space, which was previously a narrow corridor running north-south but primarily used for east-west movement, leaving its ends redundant (though there was always an entrance onto the Sheldonian Quadrangle from the northern end). The elaborate doorway into the Divinity School is perpendicular in style. Four-light perpendicular-traceried windows on the northern and southern walls light the length of the space.

The heavily-bossed five-bay lierne vault is the most significant aesthetic feature of the Proscholium. Unlike the 18th-century vaults of the Convocation House and Chancellor's Court to the west, this vault is integral to the space. This 17th-century example is far simpler than the vault of the Divinity School: the Proscholium as a narthex to the nave of the Divinity School being intended to whet the appetite in anticipation for entrance into the primary space.

The original perpendicular panelling of the eastern elevation of the Divinity School, copied on the external façade of the Proscholium, is preserved in the western interior wall of the Proscholium. The floor dates from 1992 and the ramp, lectern, hot air curtains, and the security desks at either end are all modern additions.

3.3.2.4 The Convocation House and Chancellor's Court

The Convocation House and Chancellor's Court are a related group of rooms, formed in the space beneath Selden End and constructed as part of this extension in 1634-40. The areas relate to the Divinity School and have a hierarchical arrangement, with the Convocation House accessed from the Divinity School and the Chancellor's Court in turn accessed from the Convocation House. There is also a direct doorway from the Chancellor's Court to the Sheldonian Quadrangle. Whilst of less aesthetic and illustrative value than the Divinity School itself, both spaces are of substantial significance. Both ground-floor areas within this extension were constructed with plaster ceilings but had stone fan-vaults fitted by the younger John Townesend in 1758-59 in clear reference to the vault in the Divinity School. Unlike the lierne vault in the Divinity School, which is integral to the structure, these fan-vaults were not designed to be load bearing and are only decorative. They are simpler and certainly less delicate than the lierne vault in the Divinity School and do feel imposed upon the spaces, rather than a natural culmination of the structure.

One does feel that one is entering a more-modern space as one steps from the mediaeval grandeur of the Divinity School into the Convocation House. The joinery in the Convocation House is of high aesthetic significance, being the most noticeable feature following the vault and the windows. It consists of tiered seating and panelling to picture-rail height. There is an

elaborate doorcase around the northern doorway to the Chancellor's Court and a raised throne and baldachin for the Chancellor at the southern end. Pevsner suggests on stylistic grounds the joinery is probably slightly later than the construction, dating from the second half of the 17th century.¹⁰⁶ The open paved area in the centre of the space is punctuated by a heating grille, which traces roughly two-thirds of a rectangle and presumably dates originally from 1845.

The Chancellor's Court reads as a continuation of the Convocation House, with a similar vault, panelling, and paving. Notable is the pedimented stone doorcase leading to the Convocation House. The doorway to the Sheldonian Quadrangle may date to 1670, perhaps being contemporary within the joinery rather than the construction of the extension.¹⁰⁷

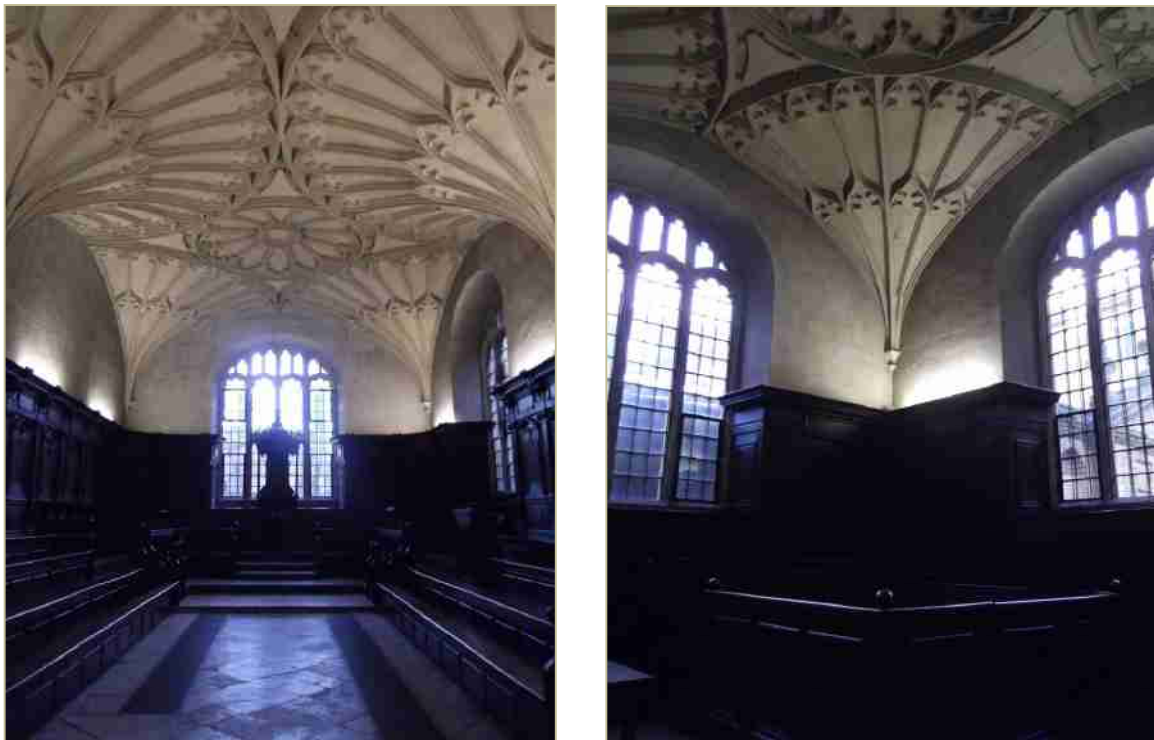


Figure 26. 26.1. Left, the view southwards down the Convocation House. 26.2. Right, the view north-westwards down the Chancellor's Court

¹⁰⁶ Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *op. cit.*, 259.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

3.3.2.5 The Upper Reading Room and Upper Reserve

The Upper Reading room was constructed as the top portion of the Old Schools Quadrangle. It was originally intended to function as a library space but was used for two centuries as the University galleries, acting as the first public art gallery in England. It is of high illustrative and aesthetic value, notably its frieze, which was plastered over in 1831, uncovered in 1949, and restored in 1950. This frieze was designed by Henry Savile and its subjects picked by Thomas James, representing an early-17th-century Protestant view of the history of scholarship to that point. The floors and ceiling are modern and of no particular merit. There was panelling around the windows fitted in the 1750s (**Figure 9**) but this has long since been lost. **Figure 9** suggests that the panelling was similar to that extant in the Lower Reading Room, though the individual recessed panels were larger. The windows are of aesthetic value, especially those in the Upper Reserve, and they contain painted coats of arms.¹⁰⁸ The furniture in the space is modern and matches the configuration first set up in 1907.

Unlike the Lower Reading Room, which was designed as several distinct schools each separately accessible from the stair towers, the Upper Reading Room, including the Upper Reserve, has always formed a continuous space (though since 1831, the western portion of the northern range has been partitioned off). The Upper Reserve has always formed part of this configuration, which is best illustrated by the fact that the turret staircase of the tower on the second floor opens out onto the northern portion of the eastern range, whereas on the first floor, where the Lower Reserve was originally a separate study for the Savilian Professors and was not acquired by the Bodleian until 1834, the turret staircase opens into the Lower Reserve itself. This makes the Lower Reserve directly accessible from the gatehouse of the Old Schools Quadrangle without having to pass through what were originally the first-floor schools (see floor plans in **Appendix 5**).

Two of the original painted ceiling panels in the Upper Reading Room were still preserved in the southern portion of the eastern range in 1939, when pictures of them were published by RCHME.¹⁰⁹ The painted, panelled ceiling in the Upper Reading Room may have original elements, matching that visible in the southern portion of the eastern range in **Figure 9** and similar to that extant in Arts End. It was covered by Thomas Roberts' plaster ceiling in 1753, which has since been removed.¹¹⁰ It seems likely that it was restored during the restoration of the frieze in 1951.

¹⁰⁸ These are listed in: Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *op. cit.*, 2-5.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, 4, pl.57. What are presumably recovered original ceiling panels are displayed above some of the wall-cases.

¹¹⁰ Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1983), 92. There was also (as late as 1939) a plaster vault in the Lower Reserve but it is not clear whether the two are related. Philip describes how the plastering of the Upper Reserve was carried out as part of wider renovations in the second floor, including wainscoting, in the 1750s.

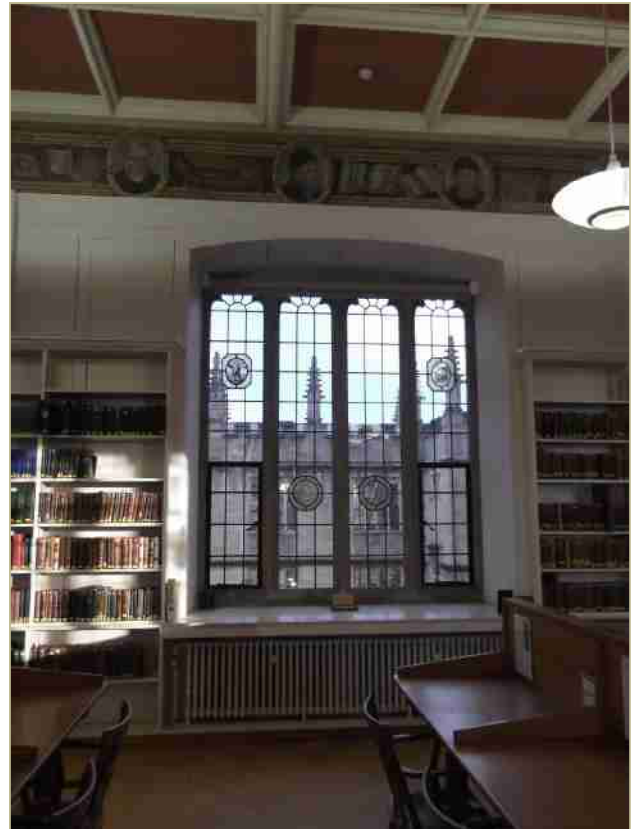


Figure 27. 27.1. Top left, the view down the southern range of the Upper Reading Room looking eastwards. 27.2. Top right, looking northwards onto the Old Schools Quadrangle from the southern range of the Upper Reading room. 27.3. Bottom, the ceiling in the Upper Reserve looking northwards

3.3.2.6 The Lower Reading Room and Lower Reserve

Unlike the Upper Reading Room, the Lower Reading Room was originally constructed as a series of self-contained schools, each accessible from the Old Schools Quadrangle via one of the four staircase towers, and the Savilian study (later the Mason Room, now the Lower Reserve), itself separately accessible from the quadrangle via its turret staircase. The entire first floor, including the Lower Reserve, now forms a contiguous series which essentially operates as a single functional space, as with the Upper Reading Room above. The only exception is the western portion of the northern range, which has been partitioned off and serves as a lift shaft, lift lobby, and photocopying room. The stairs were removed from the eastern stair towers in 1835 and the Lower Reserve was assigned to the library at the same time, forming the current configuration of a linear progression of spaces accessible only from the north- and south-western ends.¹¹¹

The Lower Reading Room retains some elements of historic character, notably the windows, but mostly consists of modern features: the flooring, suspended ceiling, and furnishings are all modern. In the eastern range, the ceiling follows the original scheme, with five bays separated by beams on the portion on each side of the tower. The original wooden beams were supported by corbels and brackets with elaborate spandrels.¹¹² These were certainly in place as late as 1939 but their replacement with the current beams (steel encased in concrete) is presumably related to when the floors of both reading rooms were replaced with reinforced concrete shortly after the War. In most areas the modern beams are obscured by the 2001 suspended ceiling. Some of the original schools spaces, which are traceable in the modern floor plan, were subdivided in the middle of the 20th century (for instance the northern portion of the eastern range was subdivided into three rooms by 1939).¹¹³ These later subdivisions have since been removed. The wall shelving on the first floor is much less dense than it was in the first half of the 20th century, but thankfully the shelves are no longer required to hold up the floor above.

The doorways into the Lower Reserve are presumably original, with the doors being removed at some point after it was obtained by the Bodleian. These portals bear comparison with the wide arches giving access to the Upper Reserve from the Upper Reading Room, emphasising its original relationship with the surrounding spaces. There is an exposed simple ashlar groin vault of some aesthetic value. This was previously covered by a plaster vault of uncertain date (extant in 1939) which has since been removed.¹¹⁴

¹¹¹ The turret staircase, leading to the Lower Reserve, is still functional, but this is not accessible to readers.

¹¹² Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948), pl.V. The Upper Reading Room also once had such brackets and spandrels, judging from historical depictions. These may have been removed in 1831 or later.

¹¹³ Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *op. cit.*, 4.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid*, 2.

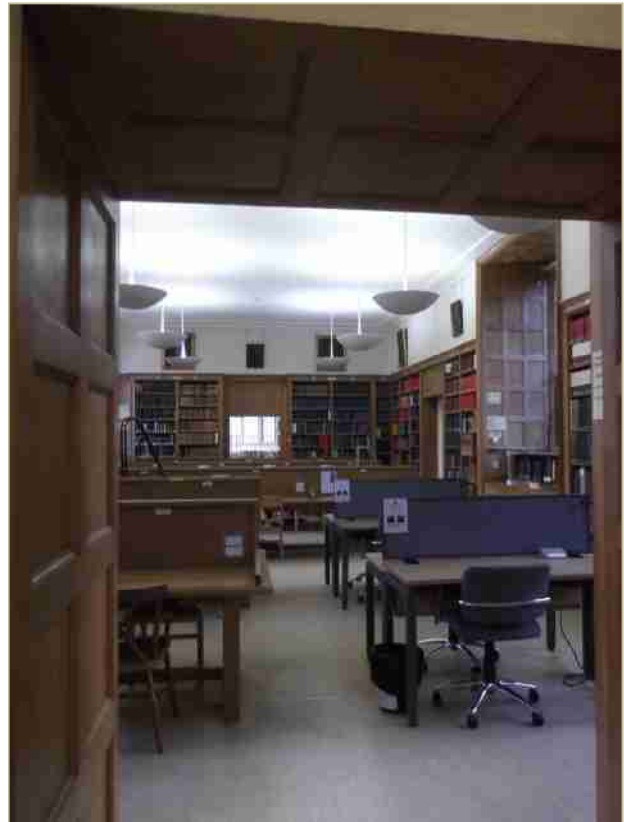


Figure 28. 28.1. Top left, the western end of the northern range of the first floor, looking north-westwards. 28.2. Top right, looking eastwards along the northern range of the first floor. 28.3. Bottom left, looking south-eastwards from the northern portion of the eastern range of the Lower Reading Room onto the doorway into the Lower Reserve. 28.4. Bottom right, the groin vault in the Lower Reserve

3.3.2.7 The ground-floor schools



Figure 29. 29.1. Left, the Bodleian Shop, the old Logic School, looking westwards towards its entrance from the southeast stair tower of the Old Schools Quadrangle. Note the 17th-century panelling fitted in 1841, and, on the left, the modern cupboards to match. 29.2. Right, the modern lift lobby in the western portion of the old Moral Philosophy School

The original University schools on the ground floor of the Old Schools Quadrangle have been heavily subdivided since their acquisition by the Bodleian in the 19th century, especially those in the northern range. Their original functions as teaching and examination spaces required large open spaces, which meant that their layouts changed very little until their functions changed when they were acquired by the Bodleian. The significances of the interior areas of the old schools differ and in some areas very little historic material is extant. For instance, the western portion of the northern range, the former Moral Philosophy School, has been subject to heavy modern subdivision and now serves as a cloakroom/lift lobby, a lift, a corridor, and male, female, and unisex disabled lavatories (**Figure 29.2**). There are modern metal windows fitted within the historic mullions on their outward faces. The windows facing onto the Old Schools Quadrangle retain the character of their leaded lights. It also holds an intermediate floor, which reduces the ceiling height of the lift lobby/cloak room. It is hard to imagine that this space once held the Arundel Marbles or served as the library's map room. Equally, the old History School, on the eastern side of the northern range, fitted up with iron shelving in 1890, has since been converted into a tea room for readers.

The Metaphysics School, the northern portion of the eastern range, was converted for library use in 1883. Its shelving has since been removed and the old school now serves as a contractors' entrance and offices.

On the southern range, the Natural Philosophy School and the Music School were fitted up with 15-foot-high shelving when they were acquired by the Bodleian in 1884. This has since been removed and the Natural Philosophy School now serves as an Exhibition room and the Music School has been subdivided, serving as seminar spaces. They retain little of their historic fabric.

The Bullard Room, fitted as a shop in 2007, is of substantial aesthetic value. This space, on the southern side of the eastern range, was originally the Logic School. Its Jacobean panelling, stripped from other areas of the library, was fitted in 1941, replacing bookcases which had been there since 1845. Some of the modern fittings have been designed to match this scheme. The reuse of historic material from elsewhere gives the room's fittings a misleading sense of unaltered antiquity, which is nevertheless suitable to their setting. Aesthetically the result is highly successful.

3.3.2.8 The tower rooms

The two rooms that form the third and fourth floors of the Tower of Five Orders are occupied by the Oxford University Archives.

The third-floor room has been occupied by the archives since 1640. This is a simple space with modern cork flooring and characterised by its wooden panelling, which is presumably original, and the book presses that line its walls. Three of these date from 1640. The aesthetic value of the space is substantial. It also possesses a great deal of historical value, having served the same purpose for the better part of four centuries and remaining largely unchanged in this time. It remains in regular use and is a favourite location for film crews.

The fourth-floor room is the main office for the university archives and has been occupied by them since 1854. It has been suggested that prior to this the Savilian Professor of Astronomy used this space as an observatory. The space is dominated by modern wall presses and has an attractive plaster ceiling with an elaborate cornice and medallion. This presumably relates to the 19th-century occupation of the space and has been renewed in recent years. The original window settings have been recently repointed and there is gothic panelling in the arch of the western window only.

The tower rooms are connected by the original narrow, spiral, turret staircase which reaches from the entrance corridor on the Old Schools Quadrangle, through the Lower Reserve and Upper Reserve, through the tower rooms and onto the tower roof. This turret also provides access to the roof of the Old Schools Quadrangle. This turret staircase has the feel of a back-of-house space and has suffered from modern surface-mounted cables and trunking.

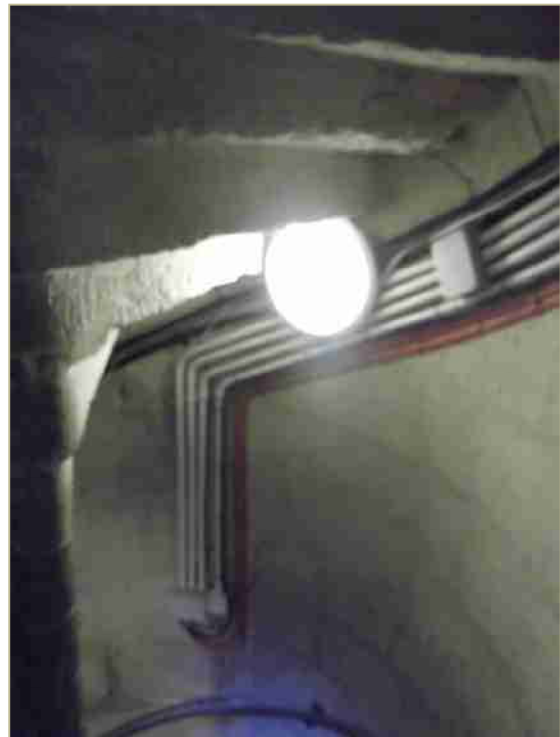


Figure 30. 30.1. Top left, the third-floor tower room. The WP press towards the centre of the image dates from 1640. 30.2. Top right, the panelling of the western window setting in the fourth-floor tower room and the plaster cornice and dentils above. 30.3. Bottom left, the third-floor tower room looking north-eastwards. 30.4. Bottom right, looking down the turret staircase from the Lower Reserve

3.3.2.9 The stair towers



Figure 31. 31.1. Top left, the 2011 internal lobby to the ground floor of the northeast stair tower. 31.2. Top right, the staircase in the north-western stair tower looking north-eastwards. 31.3. Bottom, the obscured panelling of Arts End preserved in the western wall of the north-western stair tower

Only the western stair towers retain their original function. The stairs in these are not original and probably date from at least 1634, when the doorways were cut into Arts End and the stairs may have needed to be reconfigured. Stylistically the balusters would suggest a date in the 1660s. When the original floors were removed from the Lower Reading Room in the 1940s a section of the wall-plate of the original landing was uncovered and this showed that

the extant stairs are on a different alignment to the originals.¹¹⁵ The surfaces have certainly been replaced several times since the construction of the staircases. Other than the 17th-century Arts End doorways, new doorways were also cut into the western stair towers on the ground-floor level into the Proscholium in 1964-68. The stair towers remain attractive spaces which retain much of their historical character, with their joinery remaining significant if not original. The gothic panelling of the obscured part of the façade of Arts End can be seen on the western walls of the towers, providing a sense of the growth and evolution of the complex. On the south-western staircase the 1920s benefactors' plaque is accompanied by a 2009 addition opposite. The 2009 plaque matches the original in style and both fit the space well.

The eastern stair towers have not held staircases since 1835. The staircases removed at this point were likely original, as they would not have required adjusting as the western staircases had in 1634. That being said, if the standard of the carpentry on them was as poor as for the rest of the original phase of the Old Schools Quadrangle, they will have required substantial repair and alteration throughout their existence. The original stairs in the western towers only reached to the first floor, with the second floor spaces holding, as now, rooms accessed directly from the gallery (Upper Reading Room). Floors were fitted in the towers and the rooms now serve as offices accessed from the reading rooms, with the ground-floor spaces serving as entrance lobbies to the old schools. The historic panelling in the room on the second-floor of the southeast stair tower is Jacobean and was relocated from the Exhibition Room on the ground

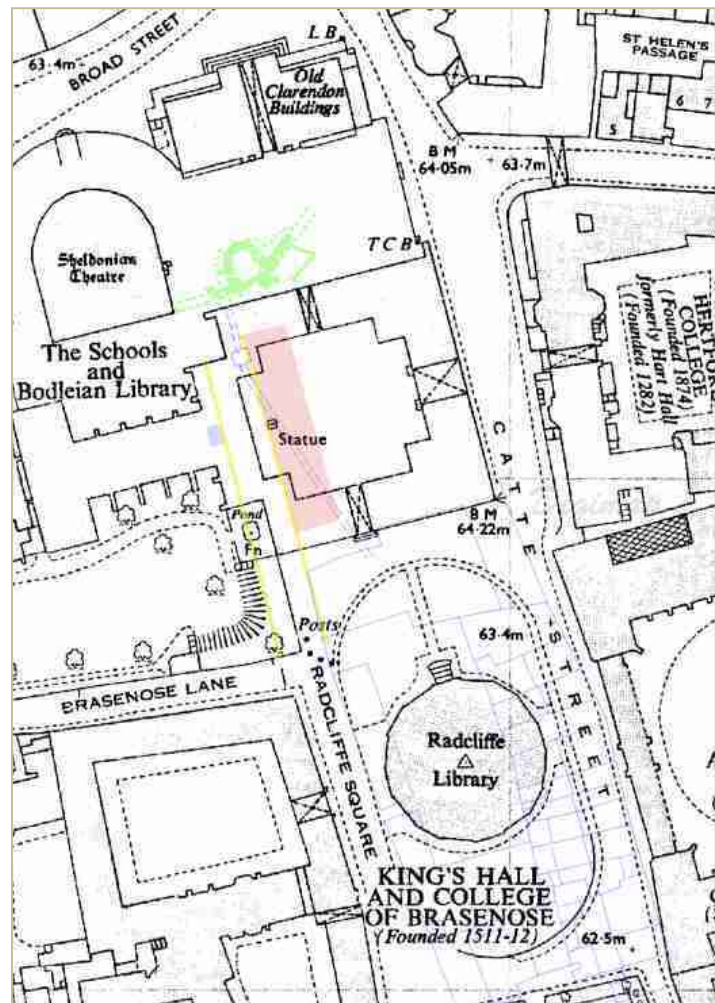


Figure 32. A composite plan showing the approximate location of some of the potential archaeological features in the vicinity of the Old Bodleian Library. The city wall bastion is highlighted in green. The probable location of the Oseney Schools is highlighted in red. The porch of the Divinity School is highlighted in light blue. The Bodleian subway is highlighted in dark blue. The approximate line of Schools Street is outlined in yellow. Some of the 18th-century Radcliffe Square plots are highlighted in purple

¹¹⁵ Philip, I.G., *op. cit.* (1948), 48.

floor (previously the School of Natural Philosophy) in 1992.

3.4 Archaeological Significance

Oxford has a long and rich history of human occupation and the Old Bodleian Library is situated within Oxford City Council's Archaeology Area. The site of the heritage asset was situated in the north of the centre of the Saxon and mediaeval city, seeing substantial settlement in both those periods. The northern stretch of the Saxon and mediaeval city walls (and associated ditch, infilled in the 17th century) ran immediately to the north of the Divinity School, with a wall bastion and well being situated just north of the site of the Old Schools Quadrangle (immediately to the north of the western portion of the northern range. Other bastions were located to the west, within the grounds of Exeter College and the Old Ashmolean Museum). It is also possible that the western stretch of the Saxon city wall might have also run southwards through the site of the Proscholium and the western side of the Old Schools Quadrangle. In 1557, the Public Schools replaced the Oseney Schools, which themselves had in 1440 replaced an earlier set of tenements used as schools, on the site of the Old Schools Quadrangle.¹¹⁶ These were then demolished in order to construct the current building and elements of all of these may be preserved beneath the site.

Catte Street has Saxon origins and early street surfaces were uncovered there by excavations in 1978 and 1980. Building foundations and a pebbled road surface of an uncertain date, situated between the entrance to the Old Schools Quadrangle and Hertford College, were recorded in 1892. The defunct Exeter Lane ran along the northern edge of the Divinity School and through the site of the Old Schools Quadrangle; remains of its surface may have been found in 1892. Equally, the Proscholium is situated on the site of the western edge of the mediaeval Schools Street, which ran north from High Street to Exeter Lane, the width of which would have stretched eastwards into the site of the Old Schools Quadrangle.¹¹⁷ Several tenements along Schools Street and Catte Street were also demolished during the construction of the Old Schools Quadrangle, with evidence for 13th-15th century occupation being found in 1994 during excavation beneath the Exhibition Room (the old Natural Philosophy School).¹¹⁸ Pottery ranging from the Saxon period to the construction of the quadrangle in the early 17th century was also found in this area in 1941. Evidence of a 13th-14th-century floor was found beneath the Divinity School in 2007.¹¹⁹ Elements of the 15th-century porch to the Divinity School, demolished during the construction of the Proscholium, and of the 15th-century stair turret to the Duke Humfrey's Library, demolished for during the construction of Selden End, are preserved beneath the current building. The Divinity School, Arts End, and Selden End may overlay parts of the 13th-14th-century University Hall, which was located on the site of Exeter College's gardens.

¹¹⁶ Hassall, T.G., *op. cit.*, 300-304; Roberts, M.R., *et al.*, 'Excavations in the Bodleian Library Exhibition Room, Oxford' in *Oxoniensia* LX (1995) 247.

¹¹⁷ Munby, J., *op. cit.*, 246-8.

¹¹⁸ Roberts, M.R., *et al.*, *op. cit.*, 249-52, 255-56.

¹¹⁹ John Moore Heritage Services, *Archaeological Recording within the Divinity School, Oxford: Project 1825* (Report, 2007).

The construction of the underground bookstore under Radcliffe Square in 1909-12 and of the Bodleian subway across the western half of the Old Schools Quadrangle in 1938 will have destroyed some material of archaeological value; however, considering the long and well-documented history of occupation on and around the site it is probable that there is significant archaeological material with potential evidential value beneath the Old Bodleian Library site.

3.5 Historical and Cultural Significance

The Bodleian Library is and historically has been considered the historic and academic core of Oxford University and as such is highly significant. It is housed in some of Oxford's most recognisable historic buildings which help to illustrate the University and library's growth and importance within the historic city. Even in the past when a change of site has been considered, notably in the 1870s, it has always ultimately been decided that it should be imperative that the central Bodleian complex was not abandoned or subject to substantial alteration as its associations with the library were so strong.

As mentioned above (**Section 3.1**), the library is a focus for tourism within the city, either to visit the shop, the Divinity School and its world-renowned vaulted ceiling, or just to revel in the architectural experience of the Old Schools Quadrangle. The Old Bodleian Library is an iconic building, linked closely to the popular image of Oxford University. A simplified form of Bereblock's 1566 engraving of the Divinity School appears on all staff and students' identification cards, which are colloquially referred to as "Bod." cards. The Old Bodleian Library is central to the ceremonial life of the University, with the Divinity School having a pivotal rôle in University ritual. Both the interior and exterior are popular locations for filming and have appeared in various major television and feature films.

The Bodleian has important functions for University students and visiting scholars alike; it has developed from a small set up at the very earliest years of the University to an institution that houses over 11 million books and caters for 7,500 users each week, a far cry from the situation of 1 or 2 users a day in the 1730s. The library has an international reputation and houses many rare and important documents, such as a Gutenberg Bible, four copies of the Magna Carta, and original art work by Tolkien for *The Hobbit*.¹²⁰

Sir Thomas Bodley has an important association with the Schools Quadrangle as he partly funded its construction and it now houses his library. The building was historically used by the University, as can still be seen by the names denoting the different schools above the doors, and therefore this building more than many others in the Bodleian complex has a stronger association with the University.¹²¹

The Old Bodleian Library is also associated with several other historical figures of note. Stuart monarchs had a great affinity for the city and James I, who visited the library in 1621,

¹²⁰ The *Red Book of Hergest*, held by the Bodleian on behalf of Jesus College, formed the inspiration for Tolkien's own *Red Book of Westmarch*.

¹²¹ Purcell Miller Tritton LLP, *Bodleian Underground Bookstore: Heritage Impact Assessment* (Report; April, 2010) 21.

is depicted on the Tower of Five Orders.¹²² Charles II held national parliaments in the Convocation House twice, in 1665 and 1681.¹²³ Equally, the Plantagenet Humphrey of Gloucester, a figure perhaps best renowned for his depictions in Shakespeare's *Henry VI, Part 1* and *Henry VI, Part 2*, is tied closely to the library that bears his name. Perhaps most significantly, for over five centuries, countless academics of world renown have either worked in the library or utilised its collections at some point.

The historical value of the building is so rich, that it seems almost an aside to note that the Upper Reading Room, when serving as a picture gallery in the 17th-19th centuries, formed the first public art gallery in Britain.¹²⁴

3.6 Significance as a functioning library

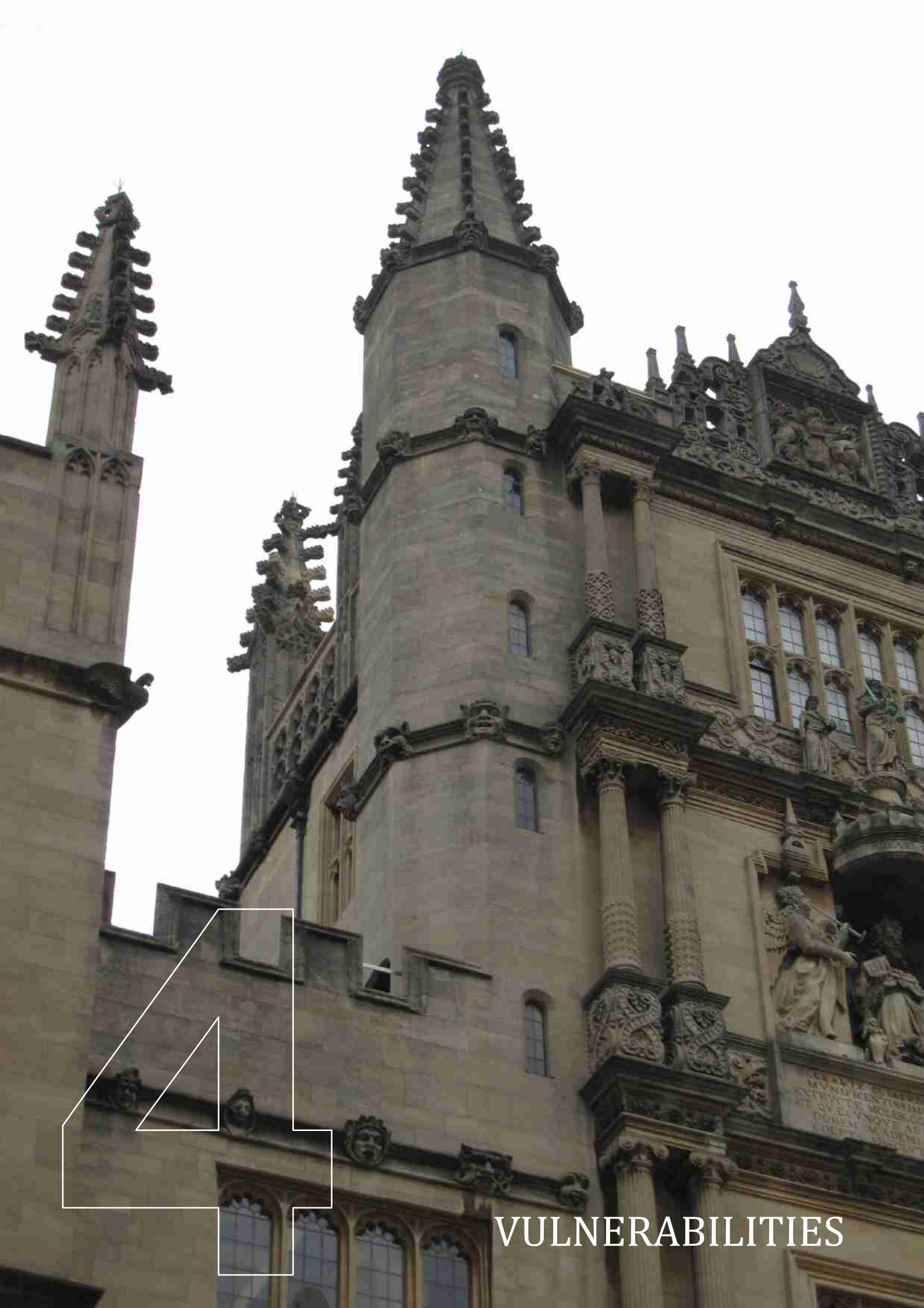
The Old Bodleian Library continues to function as the primary library of the University of Oxford and as the core building of the University-wide Bodleian Libraries group. Its reputation is global and it is widely regarded as one of the finest libraries in the world. It is one of five copyright libraries in the country and its collections are of international importance, attracting scholars from across the globe. Its reading rooms are highly popular working spaces for researchers and students, very much fulfilling users' expectations of an historic Oxford library.

Discounting a break in the second half of the 16th century, the building has functioned as a library associated to Oxford University for over 500 years. The retention of this function is central to its historical and continued significance.

¹²² Cole, C., *op. cit.* (1968), 102.

¹²³ His father, Charles I, had also retreated to Oxford during his disputes with Parliament, holding his royalist Oxford Parliament in Christ Church Hall during the First English Civil War.

¹²⁴ Tyack, G., *op. cit.*, 93.



VULNERABILITIES

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4 VULNERABILITIES

The ability of the Old Bodleian Library to fulfil its current function

Much of the Old Bodleian Library continues to fulfil its original function as a library attached to the University of Oxford. Some areas with different original functions, the Divinity School and the first- and ground-floor schools, were brought under library usage in successive stages prior to the 20th century, though of these only the first-floor schools now function specifically as reading rooms. The Upper Reading Room was utilised as a public art gallery in the 18th and 19th centuries, but was originally designed to function as a library space and finally did so in the early 20th century. The tower rooms remain the preserve of the Oxford University Archives but otherwise the entire complex functions as a library with associated administrative and tourist hospitality spaces. The function of the building as a library associated with the University of Oxford is central to its character and is important to its ongoing maintenance and conservation. The heritage asset has retained its significant character because the building has remained in use and has 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 usage does not threaten the significant features and the heritage asset's Grade-I listing ensures that any future alterations operate within the constraints of an accepted understanding of the building's significance as a heritage asset. Whilst some limited change into the future may be inevitable in order to maintain the active use of the heritage asset, the unique character of the building should be respected in any future plans.

4.1 Accessibility

The ability of the Old Bodleian Library to be accessed and enjoyed by anyone who has a legitimate right to use the building is central to its significance. The significance of the building is lessened if any person who wishes to legitimately use and enjoy the building is hampered in doing so by inadequate access provision. The accessibility of the Old Bodleian Library is hampered by the original design of all the major elements of building, which range in date from the 15th to the 17th century.

Adjustments have been made in the building's recent history but accessibility remains a concern. Access to the former schools on the ground floor has been improved by the raising of the paving of the Old Schools Quadrangle around the doorways to the Proscholium, the shop, the Exhibition Room, and the delivery bay to the northwest stair tower (e.g. **Figure 33**). This means that level and ramped access is available to the ground-floor public areas, including the Divinity School (via the Proscholium). There are no lavatories available to visitors, but male, female, and unisex disabled lavatories are available on the ground floor for the use of staff and readers.

There is a lift in the northern range of the Old Schools Quadrangle. This is accessed from the Proscholium where there is no level access, requiring the traversing of four steps, or from a side door from the Old Schools Quadrangle. The lift services the northern sides of the Lower

Reading Room and the Upper Reading Room. There are another four stairs from the lift to Duke Humfrey's Library. There are level changes within the reading rooms, meaning that the southern ranges are inaccessible from the north, where the lift is located, for those who cannot manage stairs. Members of staff are available and make an effort to aid readers as necessary, being able to move material to more accessible reading rooms if required.¹²⁵

It is positive that the main entrance is accessible but from here there is no level access to any of the reading rooms. This is unfortunate, as ideally all users should be able to enter the building through the same point and move freely around the building without disadvantage. It seems unlikely that reasonable adjustment could be made to the building to provide fully-level internal access without adversely affecting the historical fabric of the heritage asset.



Figure 33. The main entrance to the Proscholium from the Old Schools Quadrangle

4.2 Maintenance

4.2.1 Exterior Elevations and Setting

The exterior elevations of the Old Bodleian Library are of exceptional significance. The exterior of every portion of the building is of both historical and aesthetic value. Each element of the building contributes substantially to the surrounding area, described as ‘a group of the highest importance’ in several list descriptions, as well being significant in their own right.¹²⁶ The exterior has been heavily refaced and restored on several occasions. The pinnacles, gargoyles, and grotesques all date to the 2000s, 1960s or 1880s. The original Taynton stone of the Divinity School and Headington freestone of the Old Schools Quadrangle has been replaced entirely with Clipsham stone, favoured by Jackson and followed by the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund. There are some clear differences where areas have been refaced or patched at different times, for instance on the inner walls of the Old Schools Quadrangle the second floor, subject to complete refacing, presents a monolithic appearance compared to the first floor which shows heavy patching. This is actually because

¹²⁵ Bodleian Library website, access information: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/using-this-library/disability/access/details>, accessed 25th February 2013.

¹²⁶ List description, **Appendix 1**.

the more-exposed second floor has been more subject to weathering and so was completely refaced under Jackson, whereas the less-exposed first floor only required patching. Almost all the pinnacles were replaced by Jackson and the rest were renewed by the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund.

Whilst there is very little extant original material on the exterior, the original scheme can largely be traced and the building retains its architectural impact. The exterior has retained its significant character due to timely repair and heavy refacing; however, it remains open to weathering and erosion, potential vandalism, and pollution; damage which could detract from the significance of the heritage asset. Further cleaning, repair, and eventually refacing will be required in the future in order to conserve the significant character of the heritage asset.

The roofs on all areas are copper and have been replaced in the last decade. These works replaced 19th-century copper roofs, which themselves had replaced the original lead roofs.

The landscape setting of the building has changed substantially since the construction of the Old Schools Quadrangle in the first half of the 17th century. Changes have been almost entirely positive though, with the construction of the Sheldonian in the 1660s, the Clarendon Building in the 1710s, and the Radcliffe Camera in the 1730s-1740s creating an architectural group of international significance. The construction of Hertford College to the east in the 19th century and the New Bodleian Library to the north in the 20th century has only added to the appeal of this group. The 2010-15 work on the New Bodleian Library will further integrate the eastern end of Broad Street into the Bodleian complex, enhancing the significance of this already unique setting.

4.2.2 Interior Spaces

As with the exterior, the interior spaces of the building date from several different periods and have been heavily altered and restored throughout their existence. The structural problems which plagued the most significant internal spaces, Duke Humphrey's Library and the Divinity School, throughout their histories have largely been resolved through heavy-handed intervention in the 1960s. The ceilings in these areas are of particular note. Most areas have modern flooring, which is primarily down to the poor quality of the original joinery. Historic features are extant in most spaces, for instance the 17th-century frieze in the Upper Reading Room or the probably 17th-century staircases in the western stair towers. In all cases the windows retain their historic stone mullions (many of which were restored in the 1880s and the 1960s) and in many cases historic glass of various ages.

The heritage asset's status as a working library is central to its significance and maintaining this usage will inevitably have some impact on the interior spaces, as it has throughout the Bodleian's history. As usage patterns and technological requirements change some alteration can be expected, for instance, when new flooring was fitted to the reading rooms in 2000-01 in order to incorporate data and power provision.

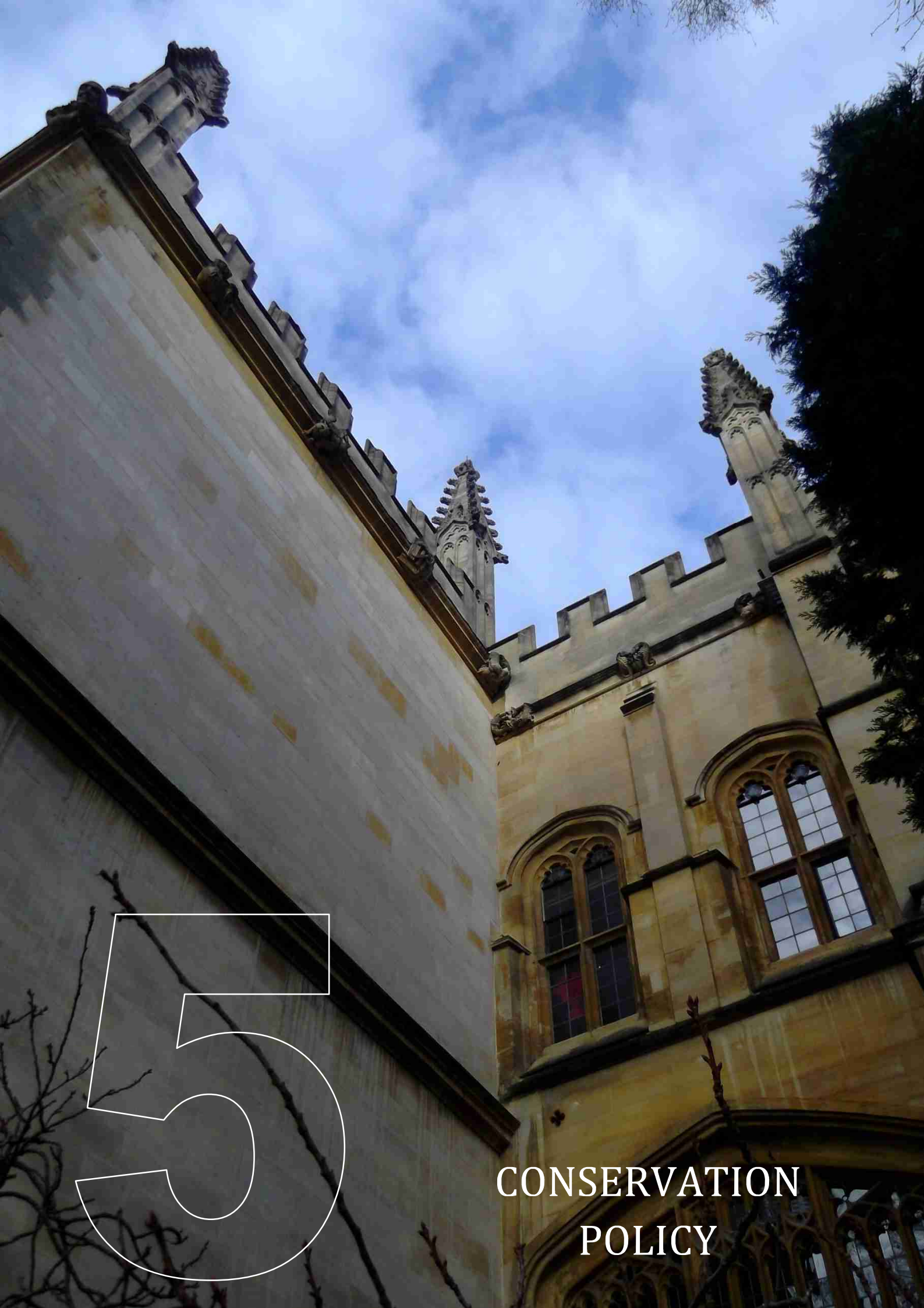
The interior spaces of the building, notably the Divinity School and Duke Humphrey's Library, are of comparable significance with the exterior. Their maintenance and conservation are

vital to the significance of the heritage asset. As the interior features are in regular use and for the most part experience greater human interaction than the external structure of the building, they are vulnerable to vandalism, accidents, and general wear and tear. Some of these issues should be mitigated assuming adequate security and maintenance regimes are in place, but ultimately these significant elements will have limited lifespans. These lives can be lengthened as much as possible through regular, adequate monitoring and maintenance.

As a Grade-I-listed building any alteration, or repairs made with non-original materials, will require listed building consent.

4.3 The operational needs of the building

As highlighted above, central to the Old Bodleian Library's significance is its status as a first-class library of international renown. This has always put pressure on space within the building. The introduction of an off-site storage facility means that space for acquisitions will not be a problem that affects the central Bodleian site in the foreseeable future, but space for readers will always be an issue. As available space is colonised this puts pressures on the fabric of the building. Equally, as part of its rôle as a world-leading library, the Bodleian holds vulnerable manuscripts and incunabula which have specific environmental and conservation needs. Ensuring that the environmental conditions in the Old Bodleian Library can be maintained to required standards (which themselves can be dynamic as our state of knowledge regarding conservation changes) will inevitably have implications for the fabric of the heritage asset.



5

CONSERVATION
POLICY

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5 CONSERVATION POLICY

Having established the significance of the Old Bodleian Library as a heritage asset, and having identified ways in which the significance of the Old Bodleian Library 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 to be an active tool for the regular maintenance and long-term management of the Old Bodleian Library. It needs to be reviewed regularly, and revised as appropriate to take into account additional knowledge and changing priorities.

5.1 **The Old Bodleian Library's continued use as a working library affiliated to the University of Oxford is central to its continued significance. Permit, in line with NPPF paragraphs 131, 132, 133, and 134, alterations intended to facilitate its continued use in this way**

The continued use of the Old Bodleian Library as a library affiliated to the University of Oxford is vital to its continued significance. Parts of the complex were designed with this function in mind whilst others have been acquired by the Bodleian in an evolutionary process which progressed from the 17th to the 19th century. Throughout the history of the complex the buildings have been altered and extended to better fulfil this function in line with the requirements and capabilities of the time. Limited alterations will inevitably be required in the future to allow it to retain this usage and significance in line with modern usage 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 Old Bodleian Library'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 Old Bodleian Library 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 is adequate**

Ensuring that the heritage asset can be enjoyed as widely as possible will have a major positive impact on its significance. As noted in **Section 4.1**, access to the building is hampered by the original designs of the various stages of the building. Notably, the decision to extend upon the original building at various stages has resulted in changing floor levels throughout. Improvements have been made to access in recent years, notably the raising of the Old Schools Quadrangles around some of the public entrances and the fitting of a

passenger lift in the old Moral Philosophy School. The layout and the significance of the site means that it is unlikely that full accessibility could be achieved through reasonable adjustments; however, access will remain a major concern in any future plans developed for the site and a vigorous effort should be made to improve access to the site in any future plans, with the University seeking to exceed its statutory obligations and always viewing this as part of an ongoing process.

5.2 Note that Old Bodleian Library is a Grade-I-listed building and ensure that appropriate consents are obtained for works to the interior and exterior of the building

In order to ensure the heritage asset's significance, alterations may be required in the future, and due to the listed status of the building, even minor routine repairs 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 building 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 part of the building in order to ensure that the significance of the building 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 alteration or redevelopment must respect the character of Radcliffe Square, Catte Street, Broad Street, the Sheldonian and Clarendon quadrangles, and the surrounding area. Notably it must respect the Old Bodleian's position as the centre of a globally-significant architectural group, which includes Brasenose College, Exeter College, the Radcliffe Camera, the University Church of St. Mary, All Souls College, Hertford College, the Old Indian Institute, the Clarendon Building, the New Bodleian Library, and the Sheldonian Theatre. Its status as part of the Bodleian complex is also of utmost significance

The Old Bodleian Library's position amongst the listed buildings of Radcliffe Square, Catte Street, and Broad Street is central to its significance as a primary component of the monumental core of the City and University. All buildings within this area are of high significance, though the Old Bodleian Library has a special status as the oldest non-collegiate portion, to which the other elements are aligned, and as the central feature that links Broad Street, Catte Street, and Radcliffe Square into an effective interconnecting configuration. Any

plans for alterations should take into account the relationship between the listed buildings in this internationally-significant group.

The “Wren Wall” to the west and the Catte Street wall of the Clarendon Quadrangle to the east both abut the Bodleian Library and are separately listed (**Appendix 1**). The K6 telephone booth next to the Old Bodleian Library on Catte Street is also separately listed (**Appendix 1**). Any planned work should also respect the significance of these adjacent structures.

5.6 Conservation of specific factors contributing to overall significance

The Old Bodleian Library possesses various internal and external features of some significance (**Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3**). An effort should be made to identify and conserve original and historic 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 lifespan and some degree of change must be permitted to keep the building, safe, usable, and generally fit for function. Some materials will have a very long life expectancy if given routine maintenance; others are impermanent and may need periodic replacement. Within a framework of understanding and valuing what is present in the building a degree of ongoing change is inevitable.

5.6.1 Any alterations to be made to the external elevations, including the Tower of Five Orders, and the roofs will respect their significance and the contribution they make to their setting

The external elevations of the Old Bodleian Library are of international significance. These include the Divinity School and its extensions and the outward elevations (facing onto the Sheldonian Quadrangle, the Clarendon Quadrangle, Catte Street, Radcliffe Square, and Exeter College gardens) and the inward elevations of the Old Schools Quadrangle. The Tower of Five Orders and the pinnacles of the other elements are important to the much-vaunted “dreaming spires” skyline. The various elements of the Old Bodleian Library are of paramount significance to their setting; however, its elevations are also of aesthetic significance in and of themselves, divorced from their setting. Patching and heavy refacing have affected the aesthetic experience, it being hard to imagine that the building was once grey, the yellow tones of Clipsham having become so closely-tied to the character of the building and the city, yet these changes do not detract from the heritage asset and it retains its visual impact. The roofs are modern and follow a 19th-century model but suit the building well.

The Old Schools Quadrangle is a space of high significance which is defined by the surrounding elevations and its paving. The statue of the Earl of Pembroke in this area is of some significance and is separately listed (**Appendix 1**).

Any alterations that are planned that may affect the external fabric of the building and its setting should only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for their characters in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.2 Any alterations to be made to the interior of Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End, and Selden End will respect the significance of both the individual elements and the space as a whole

The contiguous sequence of Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End, and Selden End is one of the most significant internal spaces in the building. Its unique character is achieved through a combination of its architecture and the incorporated furniture, including Bodley's book presses. The original furnishings of Duke Humfrey's Library was sold during the second half of the 16th century, though their shape and layout can be traced from marks preserved on the walls behind Bodley's presses, but the majority of the furniture throughout these spaces dates from the 17th century and is of high significance in itself. The ceiling is of high significance, mostly dating from Bodley's day, though elements of the original 15th-century ceiling may be extant. The spaces have been greatly altered throughout their histories, most notably the floor which has been completely replaced on several occasions.

Any alterations that are planned within these significant spaces, whether to the architectural and fitted elements or to the arrangement of the furniture within the spaces, will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the characters of the spaces in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.3 Any alterations to be made to the interior of the Divinity School will respect the significance of both the individual elements and the space as whole

The Divinity School is one of the most significant internal spaces in the building. It is most notable for its 15th-century vault, which is perhaps the single most significant architectural element of the complex as a whole, but later alterations are also of some importance, such as the 1669 northern doorway.

Any alterations that are planned within this significant space will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the character of the space in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.4 Any alterations to be made to the interior of the Proscholium will respect the significance of both the individual elements and the space as whole

The Proscholium is a significant internal space providing an antechamber to the Divinity School and now forming the main entrance to the entire complex. Its ashlar construction is of aesthetic significance, as is its lierne-vault ceiling, referencing the more-complex lierne-vault of the Divinity School. Its furnishings are modern and of no significance.

Any alterations that are planned within this significant space will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the character of the space in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.5 Any alterations to be made to the interiors of the Convocation House and Chancellor's Court will respect the significance of both individual elements and the spaces as a whole

The Convocation House and Chancellor's Court form a group beneath Selden End. Their attractive vaults (18th-century additions) reference the vaults in the adjacent Divinity School, which provides the main means of access into these areas (there is also an external door from the Chancellor's Court to the Sheldonian Quadrangle). The joinery is central to the character of both areas and is of high significance.

Any alterations that are planned within these significant spaces will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the character of the space in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.6 Any alterations to be made to the interior of the Upper Reading Room and Upper Reserve will respect the significance of both the individual elements the spaces as a whole

The Upper Reading Room is a significant internal space. Most notable about this space is the 17th-century frieze and its windows. The ceilings and floors are modern, as is the furniture, the layout of which dates from 1907. The ceiling in the Upper Reserve is also of some significance.

Any alterations that are planned within these significant spaces will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the character of the space in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.7 Any alterations to be made to the interior of the Lower Reading Room and the Lower Reserve will respect the significance of both the individual elements and the spaces as a whole

The Lower Reading Room is formed from a series of interconnected schools. Few original features are extant but the windows are of some significance. The ceilings, floors, and furniture are modern. The Lower Reserve was originally a separate room, utilised by the Savilian Professors, and has an attractive groin-vaulted ceiling, having lost its 18th-century plaster vault.

Any alterations that are planned within these significant spaces will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the character of the space in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.8 Any alterations to be made to the interiors of the ground-floor schools will respect the significance of both the individual elements the spaces as a whole

The six schools on the ground floor of the Old Schools Quadrangle have in all but one case (the former School of Natural Philosophy, now the Exhibition Room) been subdivided. Few original features are extant in any of these spaces, though significant elements do exist, e.g. the Bodleian Shop (previously the Bullard Room and Logic School) is fitted with Jacobean

panelling stripped from throughout the rest of the building in 1841. In most cases the windows, with their stone mullions, are of an attractive character, as are the entrance portals; however, for the most part the former schools now read merely as modern rooms within an historic setting. That being said, significant material is no doubt preserved behind modern fittings and certainly beneath the floors (as excavation beneath the Exhibition Room showed in 1995).

Any alterations that are planned within these significant spaces will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the character of the space in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.9 Any alterations within the third- and fourth-floor tower rooms will respect the significance of both the individual elements and the spaces as a whole

The tower rooms are attractive spaces of high significance, especially the third-floor room which contains 17th-century panelling and book presses. The fourth-floor room contains an attractive plaster ceiling and original window settings.

Any alterations that are planned within these significant spaces will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the character of the space in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.6.10 Any alterations within the corner stair towers will respect the significance of both the individual elements and the spaces as a whole

The western stair towers continue to fulfil their original function and retain staircases which probably date to the 17th century. They are of high significance. The eastern stair towers have been subdivided since 1835 and no longer hold stairs. They do retain significant material in their masonry and windows. The panelling in the second-floor room of the southeast stair tower is of some significance, having been relocated from the previous School of Natural Philosophy on the ground floor.

Any alterations that are planned within these significant spaces will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for the character of the space in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7 In conformity with NPPF paragraph 110, efforts should be made to ensure that the Old Bodleian Library'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.'

5.8 A disaster recovery plan will be prepared for the building and will be regularly reviewed to keep it up to date

This is a unique building containing collections of particular value and academic significance. It is imperative for the safety of the building and its collections that a clear and up-to-date disaster recovery plan exists.

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

It is highly probable that there is significant archaeological material beneath the Old Bodleian Library (see **Section 3.4**). Should any excavation work be carried out in this area, 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 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 maintaining 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 building

All buildings need to be maintained routinely if they are to stay in 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 The Conservation Plan will be circulated to all senior staff who work in the Old Bodleian Library and to all other members of the University who have responsibility for the building

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

5.10.3 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 building.

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-yearly intervals

Policy changes, building alterations, 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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- Historical plans, documents, photographs, and correspondence courtesy of Estates Services, Oxford University Archives, and the Bodleian Library's Special Collections.
- Listed building description courtesy of English Heritage (see **Section 6.6**).

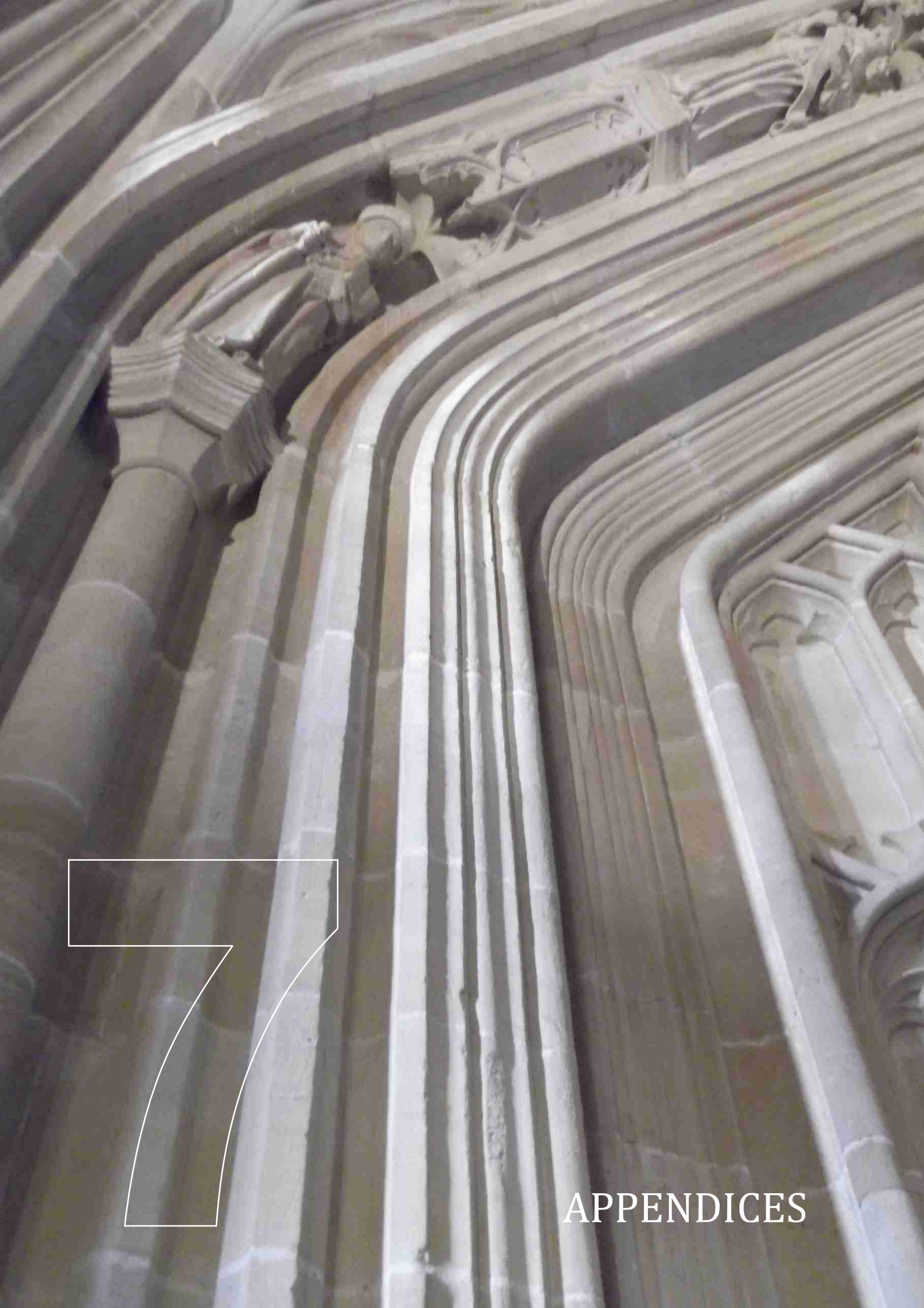
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6.7 Image Credits

- Cover and chapter covers: photographs by author for Estates Services.
- Figure 1: Adapted from Google Maps (see **Section 6.6**).
- Figure 2: Detail from Agas's 1578 map of Oxford.
- Figure 3: From Wilkinson Eyre Architects, *New Bodleian Library: Design and Access Statement* (Report for the University of Oxford; March, 2010).
- Figure 4: Bereblock's 1566 engraving of the Divinity School.
- Figure 5: Robert Potter's reconstruction from Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), Fig. 4.
- Figure 6: From Myres, J.N.L., *op. cit.* (1967), pl. XXXVIII.b.
- Figure 7: From Loggan's 1675 *Oxonia Illustrata* (Oxford, 1675).
- Figure 8: Detail of Loggan's 1675 map of Oxford.
- Figure 9: Whessell's 1829 engraving of Picture Gallery.
- Figure 10: From Clive Rouse, E., *op. cit.*, pl.2.
- Figure 11: From Potter, R., *op. cit.*, Fig.7.
- Figure 12: From Wikipedia Commons, by Andrew Gray:
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/82/Oxford_from_Boars_Hill.jpg,
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- Figure 13: By author for Estates Services.
- Figure 14: Detail of Loggan's 1675 map of Oxford.
- Figure 15: From Wilkinson Eyre Architects, *New Bodleian Library: Design and Access Statement* (Report for the University of Oxford; March, 2010).
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- Figures 33-35: By author for Estates Services.
- Appendix 7.5.1: From Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 4, 10, and 14.
- Appendix 7.5.2: Estates Services plans.



7

APPENDICES

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Appendix 1 Listed Building Descriptions

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: BODLEIAN LIBRARY AND SCHOOLS QUADRANGLE INCLUDING THE DIVINITY SCHOOL AND THE CONVOCATION HOUSE

List Entry Number: 1047185

Location

BODLEIAN LIBRARY AND SCHOOLS QUADRANGLE INCLUDING THE DIVINITY SCHOOL AND THE CONVOCATION HOUSE, RADCLIFFE SQUARE

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: 245750

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

RADCLIFFE SQUARE

1.

1485

The Schools

Bodleian Library

and Schools Quadrangle

including the Divinity

School and Convocation

House

SP 5106 SE 9/147 12.1.54.

I GV

2.

RCHM 1. (1) Divinity School built 1424-1490. The master-masons were Richard Winchcombe in 1429 and Thomas Elkyn in 1439. The fan-vaulting was constructed in 1480-3, William Orchard being the master-mason, William Byrd was paid for the insertion of the North doorway in 1669. The upper storey was added by 1489 as Duke Humphrey's Library; It was restored and altered 1598-1602. The whole building was partially restored, again using Headington stone, in 1660 and also repaired in 1701-2. (For the sculptures of the vault, see Arch. Jnl LXXX (1914), 227.

(2) The Schools Quadrangle. The West range, built 1610-12, contains the Arts End of the library on the upper storey and the Proscholium on the ground

floor. The other three ranges were built 1613-24, John Akroyd and John and Michael Bently, being master-masons. Built originally in Headington freestone. Extensive restorations made in 1878-85 in Clipsham stone to the upper storey, pinnacles and the whole tower of the Five Orders. Further refacing of the interior, of the quadrangle on the South made in 1949.

(3) The West cross-wing was built 1634-6 and its West window rebuilt in 1877. The upper storey forms the Selden End of the library and the lower storey contains the Convocation House and the Chancellor's Court.

All the buildings in Radcliffe Square form a group of the highest importance being the centre of the University of Oxford.

Listing NGR: SP5154506409

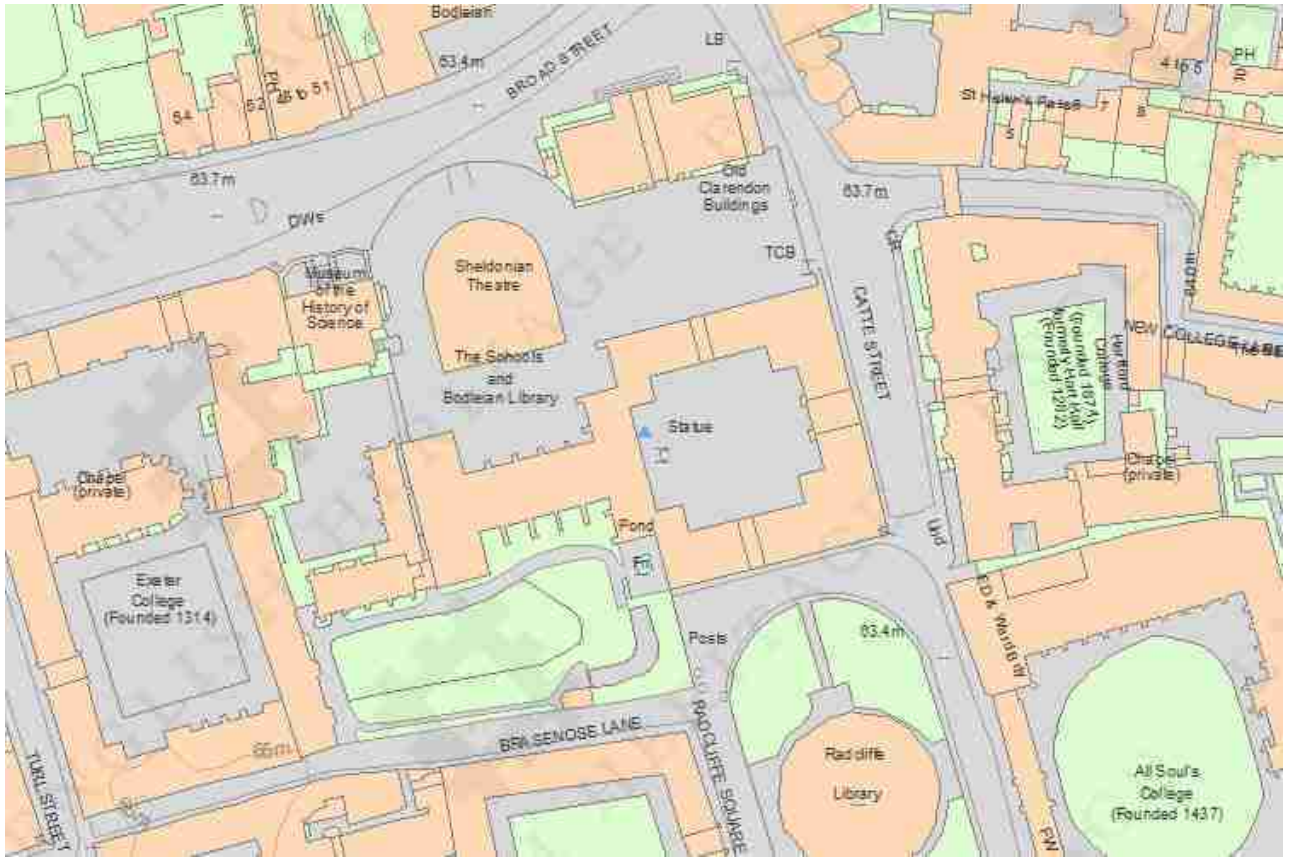
Selected Sources

1. **Article Reference** - *Date:* 1914 - *Journal Title:* Journal of the Society of Antiquaries of London - *Volume:* 80 - *Page References:* 227
-

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51550 06415

The below map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - [1047185.pdf](#)



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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: STATUE OF THE EARL OF PEMBROKE IN THE BODLEIAN COURTYARD

List Entry Number: 1047149

Location

STATUE OF THE EARL OF PEMBROKE IN THE BODLEIAN COURTYARD,
RADCLIFFE SQUARE

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: 245753

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

RADCLIFFE SQUARE

1.

1485

The Schools

Statue of the Earl of

Pembroke in the

Bodleian courtyard

SP 5106 SE 9/810

II GV

2.

Date of erection 1723. Bronze standing figure after Rubens, on a marble pedestal with an inscription. The statue is probably C17.

All the buildings in Radcliffe Square form a group of the highest importance being the centre of the University of Oxford.

Listing NGR: SP5155406411

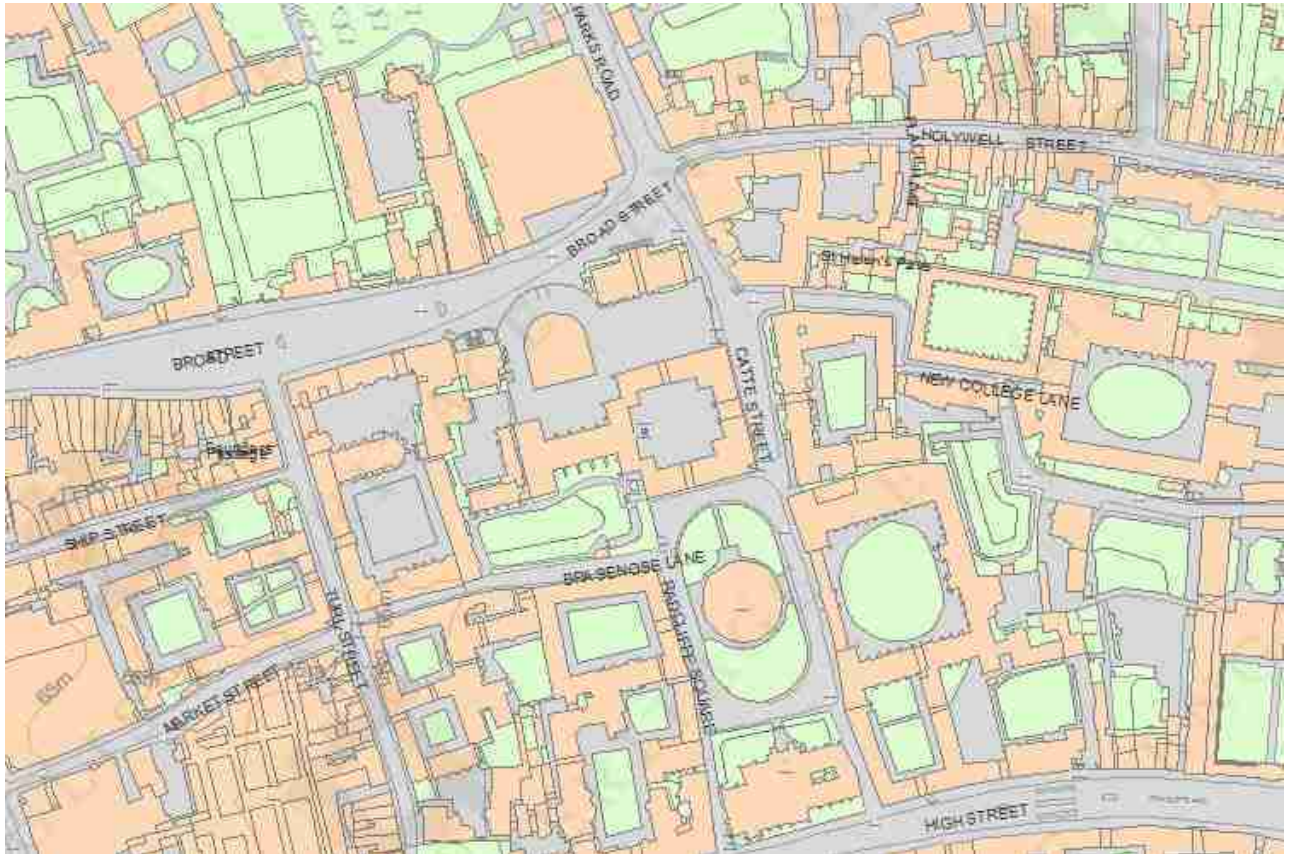
Selected Sources

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

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51554 06411

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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 THE OLD BODLEIAN AND EXETER COLLEGE

List Entry Number: 1348696

Location

WALL BETWEEN THE OLD BODLEIAN AND EXETER COLLEGE, RADCLIFFE SQUARE

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: 245751

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

RADCLIFFE SQUARE

1.

1485

The Schools

Wall between the

Old Bodleian and

Exeter College

SP 5106 SW 8/808

SP 5106 SE 9/808

II GV

2.

Cl8. Ashlar, with niches, vases and a pediment.

All the buildings in Radcliffe Square form a group of the highest importance being the centre of the University of Oxford.

Listing NGR: SP5150306421

Selected Sources

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

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51502 06421

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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 SCREEN BETWEEN THE CLARENDON BUILDING AND THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY FRONTING CATTE STREET

List Entry Number: 1047148

Location

THE SCREEN BETWEEN THE CLARENDON BUILDING AND THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY FRONTING CATTE STREET, RADCLIFFE SQUARE

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: 245752

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

RADCLIFFE SQUARE

1.

1485

The Schools

The Screen between
the Clarendon

Building and the

Bodleian Library

fronting Catte Street

SP 5106 SE 9/809

I GV

2.

Early C18. 6 ashlar piers with cornices. Dwarf wall between with wrought-iron screen and wrought-iron gates with overthrow.

All the buildings in Radcliffe Square form a group of the highest importance being the centre of the University of Oxford.

Listing NGR: SP5157906458

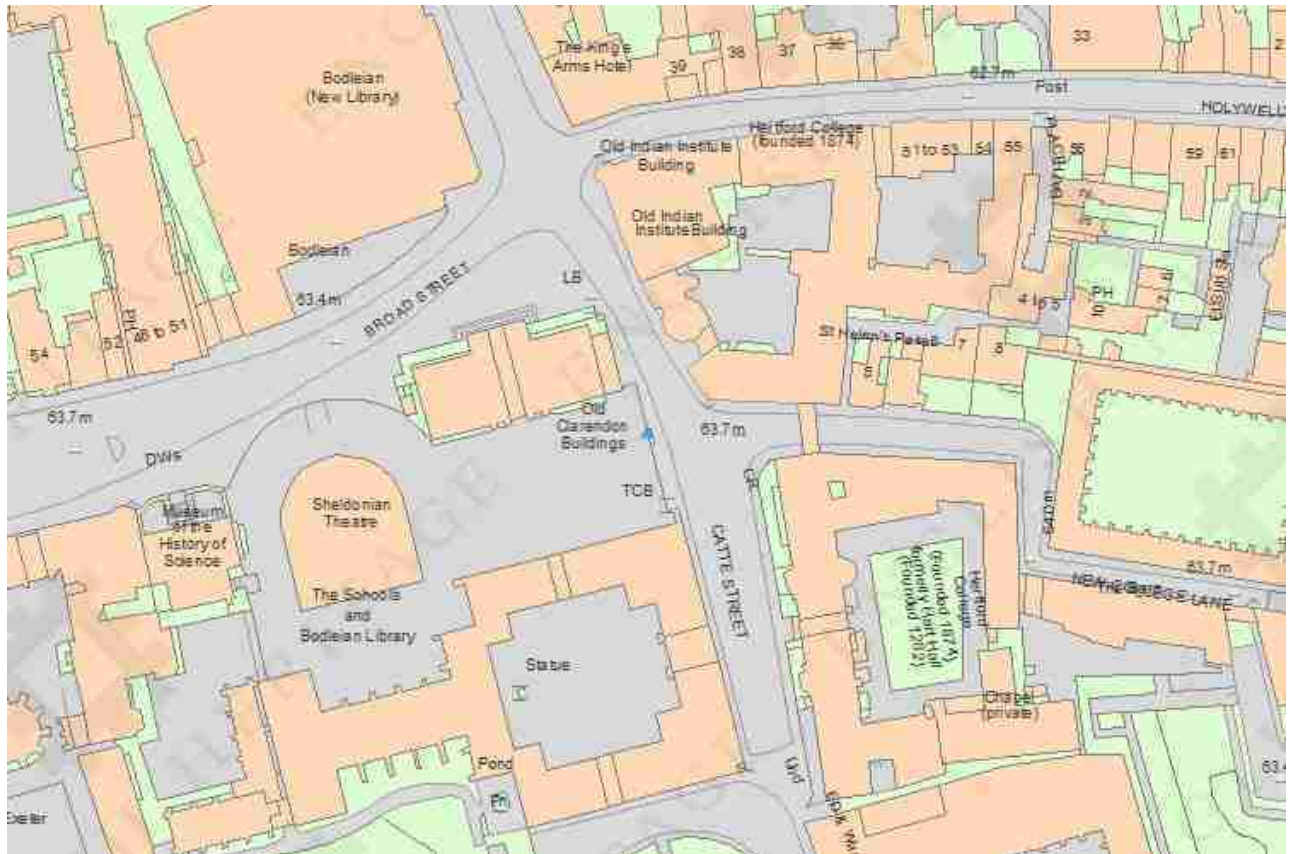
Selected Sources

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

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51578 06461

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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: K6 TELEPHONE KIOSK ADJACENT TO BODLEIAN LIBRARY

List Entry Number: 1047082

Location

K6 TELEPHONE KIOSK ADJACENT TO BODLEIAN LIBRARY, CATTE 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: 20-Aug-1987

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: 245981

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

CATTE STREET

1.

5353

9/900

K6 Telephone Kiosk adjacent
to Bodleian Library

II GV

2.

Telephone kiosk. Type K6. Designed 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Made by various contractors. Cast iron. Square kiosk with domed roof. Unperforated crowns to top panels and margin glazing to windows and door.

Listing NGR: SP5158206447

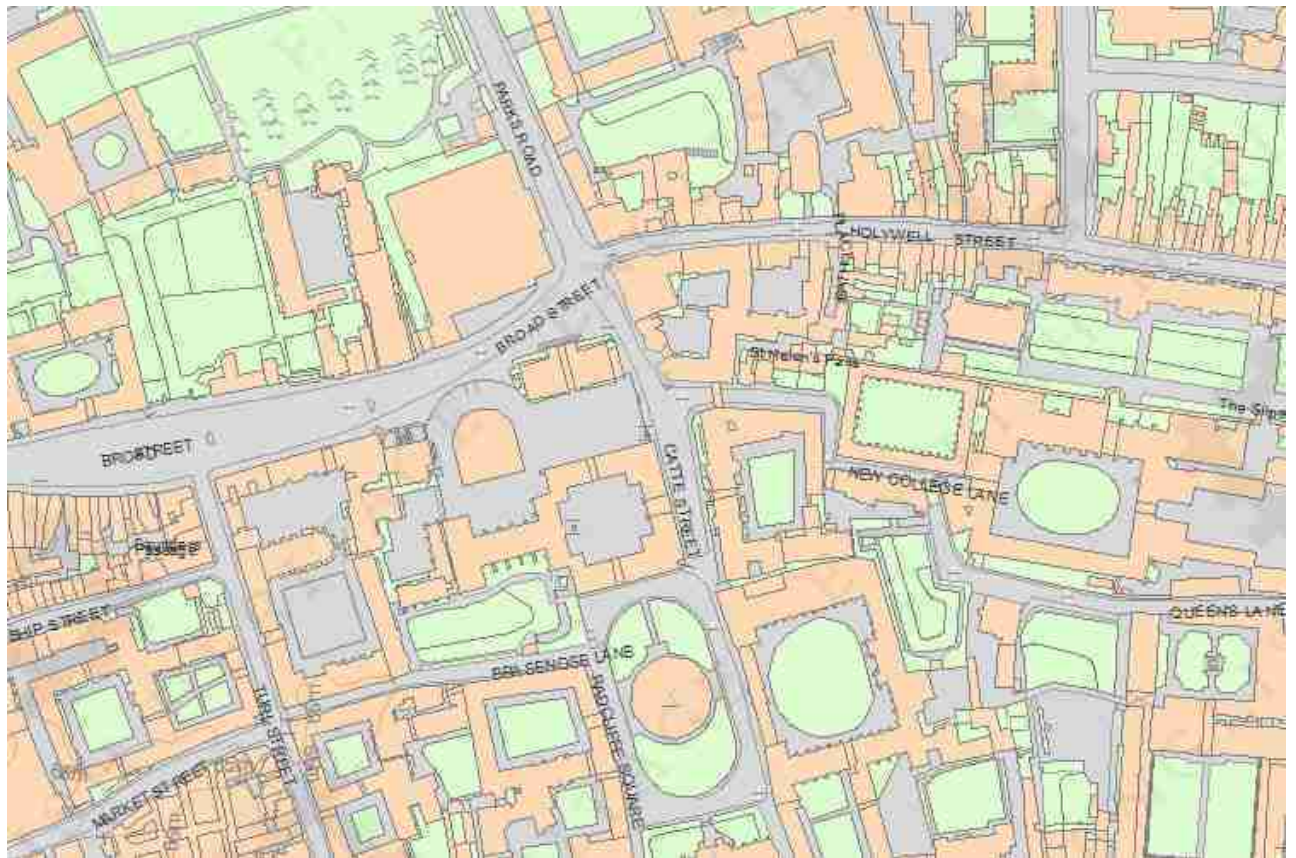
Selected Sources

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

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51582 06447

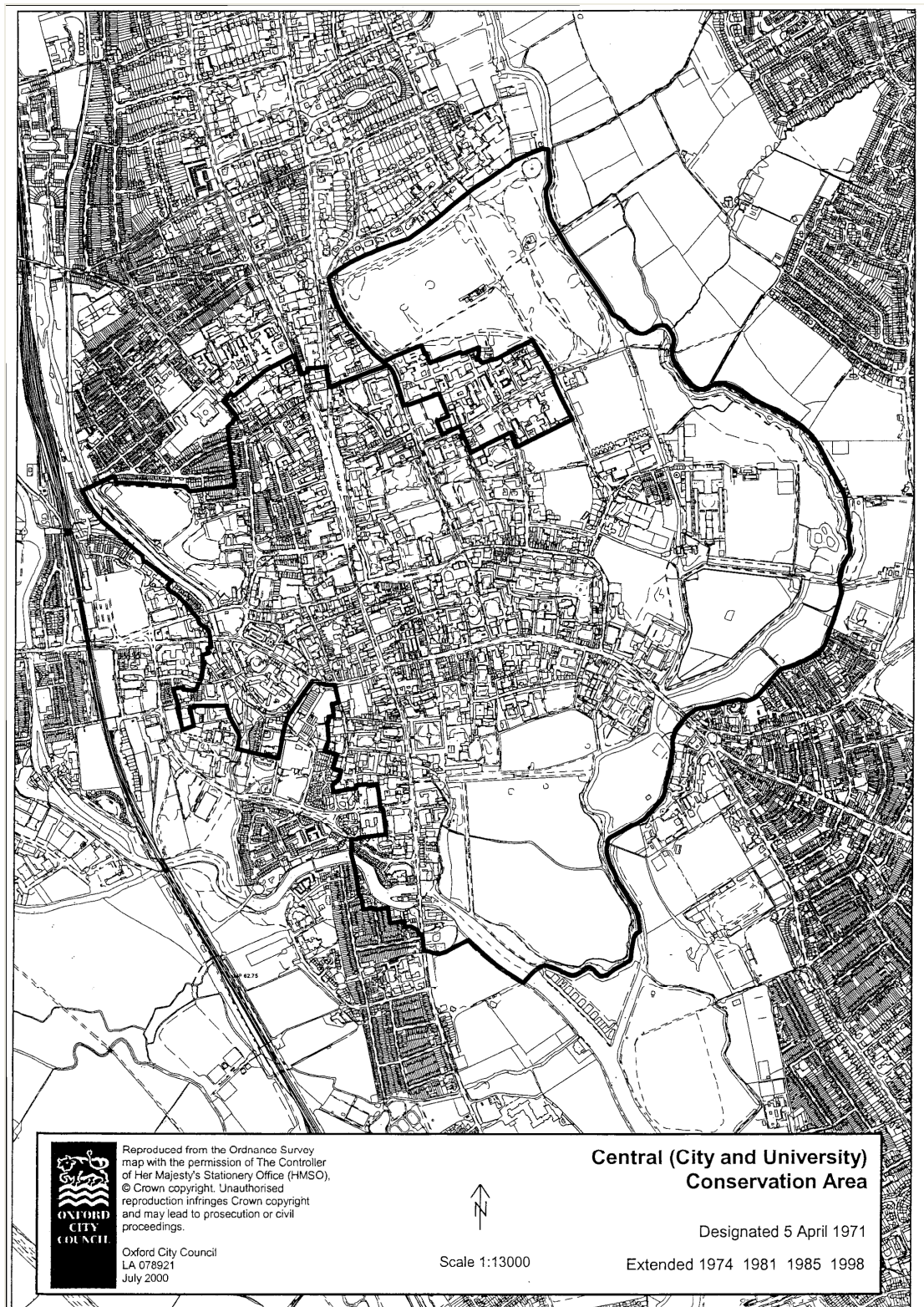
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Appendix 2 Conservation Area Description



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 Humfrey'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.

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Appendix 3 Chronology of the Old Bodleian Library

Date	Event	Reference
1367	The original Cobham Library in the Congregation House of St. Mary's is begun	Macray (1890) 4
1409	The Cobham Library is furnished and fully established	Macray (1890) 4
1423	Contributions are invited for the construction of the Divinity School	Myres (1967) 151, n.4
1426	The University begins to erect the Divinity School	Macray (1890) 6
1427	The site of the Divinity School is formally conveyed to the University by Balliol College	Balliol College Archives, ref. A.7.17
1439	The University complains to the master mason, Richard Winchcombe, about delays in the construction. His successor, Thomas Elkyn, is urged in the same year to simplify the work and eliminate all 'supervacuous curiosity.'	Myres (1967) 152
1439-1446	Humphrey, the Duke of Gloucester, gave several gifts of money for the completion of the Divinity School and about 600 manuscripts, which were deposited in the overflowing Cobham Library	Macray (1890) 6
July 1444	The University writes to Humphrey explaining that they intend to erect a building more suitable to house his donated manuscripts and offering him the title (and responsibilities) of founder	Macray (1890) 7
1453	Two experienced masons, including Robert Jannyns, are called in to decide the height of the buildings	Myres (1967) 153
1464-65	A thatched roof, presumably temporary, is constructed over Duke Humfrey's Library whilst work proceeds	Myres (1967) 154
1466	Furnishings for Duke Humfrey's Library and the Divinity School are being considered by this point	Myres (1967) 154
1473	The lead roof of Duke Humfrey's Library is presumably in place by this point, as it is repaired. The windows are either glazed or shuttered at this time	Myres (1967) 154
1480-83	It is decided that the Divinity School proper should be vaulted and the vault is completed by 1483. A vault had been planned from the beginning but was abandoned due to the costs. A donation of 1,000 marks from Bishop Thomas Kempe in 1479 made it possible to revert to this original plan and the vault was designed by William Orchard	RCHM Oxford (1939) 1, Myres (1967) 154, Tyack (1998) 66
1487	Thomas Kempe donates several books for the library	Macray (1890)

		12
1488	Duke Humfrey's Library is opened to readers	Myres (1967) 152
1490	The Divinity School is declared finished	RCHM Oxford (1939) 1
1550	The Commissioners tasked with the reformation of the University visit the library and destroy all the illuminated manuscripts	Macray (1890) 13
Jan. 1555/56	The library shelves, no longer holding any manuscripts, are sold	Macray (1890) 13
1558	The north portion of Schools Street (the part now occupied by the Old Schools Quadrangle) is ceded to the University by the City of Oxford	Turner and Hawkins (1880) 270
1560	Thomas Bodley enters Magdalen as an undergraduate	Macray (1890) 14
1564	Bodley enters Merton as a Fellow	Macray (1890) 14
Feb. 1597/98	Bodley writes to the Vice-Chancellor offering to return Duke Humfrey's Library to its former state	Macray (1890) 15
1598-1600	Duke Humfrey's Library is fitted out, including the replacement of rotten timbers and the fitting of a new ceiling	Macray (1890) 16
1602	Duke Humfrey's Library now contains 2,000 volumes and is opened on 8 th November	Macray (1890) 29
1605	The Chancellor, Thomas Sackville, donates a bust of Bodley	Macray (1890) 31
1608	Drawings are produced for an extension to the Divinity School	
1609	Bodley secures the library's endowment with the purchase of property in Maidenhead and London	Macray (1890) 37
1610	Part of the site of the Proscholium is conveyed by Exeter College	
July 1610	The first stone is laid for the Proscholium and Arts End	Macray (1890) 37
Dec. 1610	The Stationers' Company agrees to provide the Bodleian one copy of every book their members publish, this agreement former the precursor to the Copyright Acts	Macray (1890) 40
1611	A bell (by William Yare and donated by Bodley) is hung in Duke Humfrey's Library in order to announce its closure at the end of the day. This is later	Macray (1890)

	lost and not found until 1866	42, RCHM (1939) 10
1612	The Proscholium and Arts End are completed	Macray (1890) 37
Jan. 1613	Bodley dies	
1613-24	The east, west and north ranges of Old Schools Quadrangle are constructed. These are for the most designed part to house the University Schools, though the second floor is constructed to house books for the library and is funded by a bequest from Bodley's will; however, this is used as the University Galleries and does not take on the duties of a reading room until 1907. The chief mason, John Akroyd, dies in 1613, and is replaced by his partner, John Bentley, who dies in 1615. Bentley's younger brother, Michael Bentley, takes over, but he dies in 1618, and is replaced as superintendent by the carpenter, Thomas Holt. The main fabric of the ground and first floors is in place by 1615 and of the second floor by 1618, but work continued for several years afterwards	RCHM Oxford (1939) 1, Tyack (1998) 91-94, Philip (1948) 41, Cole (1968) 96, 99
1618-24	It is decided to build a gate and passage from Schools Street, by Brasenose, to provide a grander approach to the southern entrance to the Old Schools Quadrangle, avoiding the tenements of Schools Street. The details for this are decided by 1623 and then 20-foot high gateway was completed before April 1624. It may have been destroyed during the construction of Radcliffe Square	Philip (1952) 185-86
1616-18	The painted frieze of <i>uomini famosi</i> in the picture gallery (second floor) is completed by Thomas James. This was rediscovered in 1949 and restored by E. Clive Rouse in the 1960s. [Philip (1983) 234 says this is by Thomas James in 1619. Tyack (1998) says it is by Thomas Holt in 1624, but Holt was a carpenter, so James is preferred. Myres dates the work to 1618 based on dates on the frieze itself]	Tyack (1998) 93, Philip (1948) 48, Myres (1950) 82,88
1620-21	The sculptural group is carved on the third floor of the Tower of Five Orders by John Clark. It is originally double-gilted but its subject, James I, orders it painted in duller hues	Cole (1968) 102
1622	A new gate is fitted to the library entrance	Macray (1890) 63
1625-28	The poor quality of the timber work is already apparent. Arches are set up in the Philosophy School to support the floor of the Anatomy School. Clamps and trusses, as well as arches, are used to support the floor of the first-floor Music School. Similar arches are fitted to support the floors of the Astronomy, Geometry, and Law Schools	Philip (1948) 43
1629-33	The Laudian Code of Statutes is drawn up. This notes that 'it has since been discovered that the whole fabric of the Schools is of bad material and there is some danger too of it coming down.'	Philip (1948) 44
1630	The Vice-Chancellor contacts the Stationers' Company to reprimand their negligence in providing books as per their agreement	Macray (1890)

		40
1630	Further work in undertaken to strengthen the roof of the southeast corner of the 2 nd floor	Philip (1948) 43
May 1634	Work begins on the Convocation House and Selden End	Macray (1890) 81
1634	The decision to build an additional staircase to Duke Humfrey's Library as part of Selden End is abandoned. The original turret staircase at the western end is demolished and only now are entrance cut into Arts End from the Old Schools Quadrangle staircases	Philip (1948) 48
1636	The bust of Charles I in Duke Humfrey's Library is donated	
1637	Bodley's agreement with the Stationers' Company is ratified in government by the Star Chamber	Macray (1890) 40
1640	The Convocation House is completed and Selden End fitted up with shelves and ready for use	
1640	The third floor of the Tower of Five Orders is designated as the University Archives	Craster (1952) 12
1648	A buttress is constructed at the northwest corner of the Old Schools Quadrangle, presumably because the foundations were thought to be at fault, though most of the building's problems really stemmed from the poor quality of the carpentry	Philip (1948) 44
1660	The royal arms on the Tower of Five Orders, constructed in Headington freestone, are repaired by John Jackson	Cole (1968) 104
1660-70	Platforms are fitted in the western bays of the Divinity School	RCHM (1939) 8
1665	The Convocation House serves as the national Parliament for the first time	
1668	Wren conducts repairs to the vault of the Divinity School, fitting iron cramps	
1669	The north doorway of the Divinity School leading to the Sheldonian Quadrangle is added by William Byrd	RCHM (1939) 1, Cole (1949) 67
1681	The Convocation House again serves as the national Parliament	
1691-96	The Bishop of Lincoln dies in 1691 and donates a large collection of manuscripts which are received in 1693. They are sorted at length and in 1695/6 stored in the <i>Linc.</i> Gallery (constructed by 1693; the <i>Jur.</i> Gallery (opposite) is constructed at the same time) in Duke Humfrey's Library.	Macray (1890) 158, Philip (1983) 65
1700-03	The added weight of the <i>Linc.</i> and <i>Jur.</i> Galleries pulls the external walls of Duke Humfrey's Library inwards and puts pressure on the vault of the Divinity School below, causing it to crack. Wren extends the buttresses to the south wall of Duke Humfrey's Library (these extensions have since been removed) and trusses the bookpresses to the wall with iron cramps. The cracks in the vault of the Divinity School are filled	Macray (1890) 168-69, Walker (1809) 16-27

1703	Wren reports that the floors of the ground-floor schools are cracked and should be replaced, though this was not done until the mid-20 th century	Philip (1948) 46
1709	The first copyright act is passed	Macray (1890) 178
1714	The frieze in the Picture Gallery, discoloured by damp from the unsound roof, is repainted	Myres (1950) 88
1721	The inscription on the Tower of Five Orders is renewed	Macray (1890) 201
1722	The statue of the Earl of Pembroke, displayed in the Old Schools Quadrangle, is donated by Wilton	
1730-40	It rare for more than 1 or 2 books to registered to a reader in a day, and on several concurrent days no books are registered	Macray (1890) 294
1749	The Picture Gallery is freshly wainscoted and the Arundel Marbles are moved to the Moral Philosophy School	Philip (1983) 92-93
1753	Oxford plasterer Thomas Roberts creates the stucco ceiling in the second floor of the Tower of Five Orders	Philip (1983) 92-93, Craster (1952) 12
1757-61	The last chains are removed from the books in Duke Humfrey's Library	Philip (1983) 92-93
1758-59	The fan-vault in the Convocation House is constructed by Townesend, replacing the original plaster ceiling	
1750s	Two unused windows in Selden end are blocked up. The oak benches in Duke Humfrey's Library are replaced with Windsor chairs (this may have happened as late as 1766)	Philip (1983) 92-93
1762	Selden End is refloored at the cost of £66	Macray (1890) 260
1789	The Anatomy School is refitted as a library space	Macray (1890) 272
1792	A further restoration of the frieze in the Picture Gallery is undertaken	Myres (1950) 89
1795	A room is constructed at the second-floor level above the northwest stair tower to service as a study for the librarian	Craster (1952) 13
1797	William Fletcher donates several pieces of stained glass which make up the east window of Duke Humfrey's Library	Macray (1890) 38

1809-45	At some point the western portion of the old Law School (western portion of 1 st floor of northern range) is partitioned off as the Rawlinson Room	Craster (1952) 18
1813	The original ceilings throughout the Old Schools Quadrangle are reported to be in a state of disrepairs and in need of complete replacement	Macray (1890) 294
1814	The space on the second floor above the north-eastern stair tower is converted into the Curator's Room	Craster (1952) 12
1817	The old Law School is fitted up as an additional space for manuscripts	Macray (1890) 302
1821	The Hebrew (eastern portion of the first floor of the southern range) and Greek (eastern portion of the first floor of the northern range) Schools are formally assigned to the library. Each school is partitioned into three rooms	Macray (1890) 310
1821	The first scheme for heating the library is enacted, heating only Duke Humfrey's Library from two ineffectual grilles	Macray (1890) 310
1825	The original roof in the Picture Gallery is surveyed and condemned as unsound	Myres (1950) 89
1828	The Geometry and Medicine Schools are formally assigned to the library	Macray (1890) 319
1831	The original ceiling of the Picture Gallery (Upper Reading Room), similar to the in Duke Humfrey's Library, condemned in 1813 and 1825, is replaced with a plaster alternative. This covers the original frieze in the area. A new floor is fitted at the same time. The lead roof over the Picture Gallery is replaced with copper. The west end of the north wing was partitioned off as an unpacking room for the library, with wall cases blocking the windows. These works are supervised by Smirke, who at the same time restored some of the statuary on the Tower of Five Orders (by this point, much patched with Roman cement) with Box ground stone	Macray (1890) 323, Cole (1968) 105, Macray (1890) 323, Craster (1952) 13, 138
1834	The room immediately above the gateway of the tower (previously the Savile Study) is assigned to the library and fitted with shelves	Macray (1890) 329
1835	Stairs removed from SE corner tower and it is converted into a Clerk of the schools office below and a library for the Savilian Professors (expelled from the room above the gateway the year before) in a newly-constructed mezzanine above. A lumber room, which for a short time held the University Armoury, is constructed at the first-floor level. The space above at the second-floor level is converted into a Coin Room	Craster (1952) 3, 12
1835	The northeast stair may have been blocked at the first-floor level at this time	Craster (1952) 13
1845	Pipes are laid for the heating of the library by steam	Macray (1890)

		311, Craster (1952) 134
1845	The first-floor door from the SE stair turret to the Douce Room (southern portion of first floor of east range) is blocked up by this point	Craster (1952) 17
1845	The Logic School is taken over by the library	Craster (1952) 120
1853	Bulkeley Bandinel, Bodley's Librarian, tells the Curators that more room is required	Craster (1952) 120
1854	The fourth floor of the Tower of Five Orders is assigned to the University Archives	Craster (1952) 12
1855	Following Bandinel's report of 1853, George Gilbert Scott is approached and he estimates that the library will need access to approximately twice its current total space in the foreseeable future. He notes that expansion into the Clarendon Quadrangle will be an inevitability	Macray (1890) 363, Craster (1952) 120
1855-57	Following reports from Mr. Braidwood, Superintendent of the London Fire Brigade, and George Gilbert Scott, the steam heating pipes are encased in slate (January 1857) for the purposes of fire safety and two fire-proof iron doors are inserted at the entrances to Duke Humfrey's Library, removing the old doors dating from Bodley's day	Craster (1952) 135
1857	Benjamin Woodward designs a gallery linking the Old Bodleian and the Radcliffe Camera	Craster (1952) 136
1859	A committee of Council and the Bodleian Curators agree that it would be desirable for all of the ground-floor schools to be taken over by the Bodleian	Craster (1952) 103
1860	Convocation authorises the implementation of a resolution of 1857 to integrate the Radcliffe Library (Camera) as a reading room of the Bodleian Library, briefly allaying immediate book storage concerns	Craster (1952) 123
1865	The old Law School (western portion of first-floor of northern range) is assigned to the library	Craster (1952) 18
1866	The original bell, donated by Bodley in 1611, is found and refitted in Duke Humfrey's Library	Macray (1890) 42
Nov. 1873	Rolleston argues in Convocation that the High Street site, recently purchased for the construction of the new Examination Schools, should instead be used to house a new library	Craster (1952) 131
1874	Galton advises building a fireproof building across the Old Schools Quadrangle. He also advises that the quadrangle should be refaced. The Curators demur on his first suggestion but take up the second	Craster (1952) 135
Feb. 1875	The Curators of the Bodleian decide that it would not be advantageous to	Craster

	move the library from its present site	(1952) 133
May 1876	Convocation votes on an unspecified sum for the refacing of the Old Schools Quadrangle, with work beginning under Galton	Craster (1952) 140
June 1876	Jackson's plans for the Examination Schools are passed by Convocation, opening up the possibility of the ground-floor schools becoming available for the library	
1876-77	The <i>Linc.</i> and <i>Jur.</i> Galleries are permanently removed from Duke Humfrey's Library. Under Alfred Waterhouse, a new floor (deal covered with matting rather than oak) is fitted, raised on an iron framework above the vault below, and the roof timber repaired. The lead roof is replaced with copper. The vault of the Divinity School is repaired at its weakest point	Macray (1890) 391, Craster (1952) 136, 138
Feb. 1877	T.G. Jackson takes over from Galton on the refacing of the Schools Quadrangle. He requests to use Clipsham rather than the Taynton employed by Galton, but the Chest refuses this request on the grounds of the added cost	Craster (1952) 140
April 1878	Jackson's request to use Clipsham for the refacing of the quadrangle is accepted at the start of his second contract	Craster (1952) 141
1878	The western window of Selden End is fitted with tracery	
1878	The Curators of the Bodleian report to Council that they wish the Bodleian to be connected to the Radcliffe Camera underground	Craster (1952) 136
1881	T.G. Jackson reports that an underground connection would be a 'very costly contrivance.'	Craster (1952) 136
1883	The Schola Metaphysicae (Old Writing School) on the ground floor was annexed by the Bodleian and converted for library use at a cost of £1,764	Craster (1952) 227
1884	The Music Schola and the Schola Naturalis Philosophiae were taken over by the library and each partially shelved	Craster (1952) 227
1884	The inscription of the Tower of Five Orders is renewed and all the statuary repaired as part of Jackson's repairs	Macray (1890) 201
1884	Jackson's refacing of the Old Schools Quadrangle is completed at a total cost of £26,440	Craster (1952) 142
1885	The Curators of the Bodleian consult C.J. Phipps regarding fire-proofing the library, but his proposals are not actioned	Craster (1952) 229
1885	Nicholson's (Bodley's Librarian, 1882-1912) plans for planting creepers in the Old Schools Quadrangle and for grassing over the quadrangle itself receive initial consent from Convocation but never go ahead	Craster (1952) 229-30
1887	The last of the Arundel Marbles are removed from the Moral Philosophy School and this is converted into a map room for the Bodleian	
1887	The Bodleian occupies the Sheldonian basement as a stack space	Craster (1952)

		232
1888	W.E. Gladstone visits the Bodleian and sketches an idea for sliding bookshelves, an improved design based on those introduced into the British Museum the previous year	Craster (1952) 255
1890	The History School (Old School) was fitted up with iron shelves, with an intermediate floor at 7 feet, at a cost of £2,000	
1894	A committee convenes to discuss library extension	Craster (1952) 233
1895	The Bodleian occupies the Old Ashmolean basement as a stack space	Craster (1952) 232
1896	Despite initial plans to expand into the Clarendon Quadrangle, Nicholson decides that an underground bookstore would be the appropriate response to the Bodleian's lack of space	Craster (1952) 233
1899	Another committee convenes to discuss library extension	Craster (1952) 233
1901	It is decided to fit up the smaller of two rooms in the Old Ashmolean basement with sliding bookcases, as the University Chest could not meet the demands of an underground bookstore	Craster (1952) 236
1902	The Bodleian reports to the Vice-Chancellor that its greatest need is space for more book storage	Craster (1952) 236
1904-09	The Bodleian takes over the basement beneath the Great Hall of the Examination Schools and spends the following 5 years fitting sliding bookcases in the space	Craster (1952) 236
1906	Rutland Saunders is approached to provide revised plans for an underground bookstore, the original plans having been provided by his deceased partner Edmund Woodthorpe	Craster (1952) 236
1907	The Oxford University Endowment Fund offers £12,000 for the construction of an underground bookstore	Craster (1952) 236
1907	£600 is spent on a fire alarm, but this subsequently breaks and is not replaced	Craster (1952) 229
1907	The northern portion of the Picture Gallery (second floor) is fitted up as a reading room, including the strengthening (though not replacement) of the floor	Craster (1952) 242-43, Philip (1948) 46
1907	Heating is introduced to the second floor for the first time at the cost of £925	Craster (1952) 242
1909-12	The underground bookstore is constructed underneath Radcliffe Square, connecting to the Old Bodleian and the Radcliffe Camera at either end	Craster (1952) 237
1923	The lower portion of the underground bookstore is fitted out with fixed stack	Craster

		(1952) 318
1931	It is decided to construct the New Bodleian to the north	Craster (1952) 324
1933-34	The Radcliffe Science Library is extended in order to provide some overflow space for the Bodleian whilst the New Bodleian project proceeded	Craster (1952) 326
1940	The joists and floors of the ground-floor schools were found to be rotten. Those in the eastern range south of the tower were replaced with steel girders and concrete before the War brought a stop to the work. The rest were replaced after the War	Craster (1952) 340-41
1941	The Schola Logicae is stripped of its bookcases and lined with Jacobean panelling stripped from various parts of the library and put into use as a Curator's meeting room	Craster (1952) 340-41
1946	New steel and concrete floors are fitted in the southern range	Philip (1948) 44
1949	The exterior of the south range of the Old Schools Quadrangle is refaced	
June 1949- 1950	A plasterer conducting routine repairs uncovers part of the frieze in Upper Reading Room. It is subsequently fully uncovered and restored by E. Clive Rouse. The plaster cornice moulding, which covered the top part of the frieze, is completely removed	Myres (1950) 82, Clive Rouse (1951) 201
1956	Several floors are treated for beetle infestation	
1957	The Oxford Historic Buildings Fund is launched	Potter (1971) 23
1959-64	Robert Potter of the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund advises that the floor of Duke Humfrey's Library should be reinforced with an H-frame and concrete stanchions in the buttresses. These are fitted and a new floor of precast concrete beams is constructed in Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End, and Selden End. Wren's southern buttress extensions are also removed. Selden End is restored based on a 1675 drawing by Loggan. The ceiling of Duke Humfrey's Library is cleaned and repaired by Eve Baker. The Proscholium is converted into a main entrance with new furnishings and a new door cut into existing staircases. The Divinity School is fitted with a reinforced concrete floor. The exteriors of the Divinity School, Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End (excluding the eastern elevation) and Selden End are cleaned	Oakesho tt (1975) 21-28
1964-68	The Oxford Historic Buildings Fund moves onto the Old Schools Quadrangle, which is cleaned with water jets and refaced with Clipsham stone in various places	Oakesho tt (1975) 28-29
1972	Listed building consent is granted for repaving the Old Schools Quadrangle in second-hand York stone of uniform width but vary length	72/2614 14/L_H
1975	Listed building consent is granted for Windsor street lighting throughout Oxford city centre, including those along the Catte Street elevations of the Old Bodleian, Hertford, and All Souls	75/0087 1/LH_H

1986	The south Proscholium is refitted	
1987	The window of Arts End is embellished with 4 17 th -century pieces of glass from Wytham Abbey	
1988	Listed building consent is granted for fitting a handrail to the Catte Street entrance	88/0112 3/L
1988	Substantial repairs are undertaken on the exterior stonework	
1989	Listed building consent is granted for fitting 2 Windsor lanterns on the Radcliffe Square elevation of the Old Schools Quadrangle	89/0004 4/L
1990	The staff canteen and readers' toilets are refurbished	
1990	The general bindery is redesigned and refurbished	
1992	A new handrail is fitted to the North Staircase of Duke Humfrey's Library	
1993	New lighting is fitted in the Divinity School	
1993	The central heating system is overhauled	
1993	General rewiring and installation of under-floor heating in Proscholium	
1993	Renewal of smoke-detection system in Duke Humfrey's Library	
1993	Major maintenance work in the exterior gutters and rainwater pipes affecting the Upper Reading Room	
1994	In 1993 listed building consent is granted for refurbishing the ground-floor Exhibition Room (the previous Schola Naturalis Philosophiae), removing its historic panelling, and resetting this in a second floor room. The work occurs in January 1994	93/0092 9/L
Oct. 1997	Listed building consent is granted for the raising and renewal of the 1877 copper roof over Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End, and Selden End, leaving the boarding underneath undisturbed. The work proceeds in October	97/0041 0/L
Jan. 1998	In 1997, listed building consent is granted for replacing the fitting in the Proscholium with new light and shop fittings. The work is undertaken in January 1998	97/0149 9/L
Feb. 1998	In 1997, listed building consent is granted for the erection of a porter's lodge in the Great Gate. The work begins in February 1998	97/0167 8/L
Feb. 1998	In 1997, listed building consent is granted for the installation of new reserve shelving and a return counter in Duke Humfrey's Library. The work proceeds in February 1998	97/0168 0/L
June 1998	The paving outside the door to the Chancellor's Court in the Sheldonian Quadrangle and outside the 5 doors in the Old Schools Quadrangle is raised to improve disabled access	
Oct. 1998- July 1999	An internal scaffolding is erected in Duke Humfrey's Library where the painted ceiling panels are removed, conserved, and refitted. The stained glass windows are restored, other windows are reglazed and fitted with blinds and film (January 1999). The 17 th -century frieze is restored. The barriers at Arts End are replaced with a new enquiry and control desk. All desks are fitted with power and data access	, 97/0175 3/L, 97/0150 1/L
1998	In 1997, listed building consent is granted for laying new lighting with the Chancellor's Court and Convocation House. The work proceeds in 1998	97/0152/ L
1998	In 1997, listed building consent is granted for internal works in the northwest corner of the quadrangle at ground-floor and mezzanine levels to improve staff and reader facilities. The work proceeds in 1998	97/0175 4/L
May 1999	Addition of glazed lobbies and warm-air curtains to the main east door and the door at the NW corner of the Proscholium	
2000	Retrospective listed building consent is granted in 2000 for the addition of a	00/0113

	loose-laid floor in the Upper Reading Room to house power and data wiring.	3/L
October 2001	A suspended ceiling is fitted in the northern and southern rooms of eastern range of the Lower Reading Room, concealing rewiring of power, lighting, and fire alarm points. The entrances to the Lower Reading Room are altered, with the insertion of a loose-laid floor over the existing and the adaption of stairs and floor surrounds in order to house data and power wiring	01/0063 2/L, 01/0060 01/L
2002	In January £118,000 is received from the Oxford Historic Buildings Fund for the repairs to the stonework at Arts End and Seldon End, with the work undertaken in the same year	
December 2004	The ground-floor staff toilets are refurbished, involving the removal of modern partitions and the installation of new services in the northwest corner of the Old Schools Quadrangle	04/0118 1/LBC
Jan. 2006	Work begins on replacing the small passenger lift adjacent to the Tower of Five Orders	
January 2007	The Bullard Room is converted into a shop	06/0230 9/LBC
March 2007	Lighting brackets and lanterns are erected on the southern façade of the Old Bodleian Library	07/0014 8/LBC
2007-09	Ten of the gargoyles on the north-western elevation of the Old Schools Quadrangle are replaced based on designs submitted in competition by local school children	07/0014 8/LBC
February 2009	The Proscholium is refurbished over 6 weeks, involving the installation of entry/exit control barriers, book detectors, and alterations to existing glazed entry doors	08/0118 1/LBC
June 2009	Listed building consent is granted for fixing an aluminium heraldic device of George Mallinckrodt on the grille tympanum of the South Gate	09/0058 6/LBC
2009	Listed building consent is granted for the installation of a new benefactors plaque on the southwest stair	09/0236 8/LBC
2010	The paving in the Old Schools Quadrangle repaired and its level was raised to improve disabled access. Temporary wooden disabled access ramps had been in place since March 2006 and these could now be removed	10/0110 8/FUL
2010	Internal alterations are made to the Old Bodleian including the removal of modern partitions and lifts in order to facilitate the conversion of the underground bookstore into the Gladstone Link	10/0110 9/LBC
2011	Listed building consent is granted for the installation of an oak-veneer draught lobby screen in the ground-floor entrance to the north-east stair tower	11/0137 9/LBC

Appendix 4 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 Old Bodleian Library; these may be original features or new additions that nevertheless contribute positively to the character of the building. As this is a Grade I listed building 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 Old Bodleian Library, Building # 131		
SIGNIFICANT FEATURE	✓	Further Information
General:		
External elevations, including decorative elements, and roof		p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
Statuary and carving throughout		p.43-61, 86-88
Windows throughout		p.43-71, 79-80, 86-88
Internal stonework, including vaults and decorative elements		p.56-71, 79-80, 86-88
Decorative plasterwork		p.63-68, 79-80, 86-88
Joinery throughout including ceilings, furniture, historic bookcases, galleries, and desks		p.56-71, 79-80, 86-88
Staircases		p.70-71, 79-80, 88
Painted friezes, ceiling panels, and other elements		p.56-71, 79-80, 86-88
Specific Features:		
External Elevations		
-Headington Hardstone (in some areas now Purbeck Burr) plinth		p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Windows, settings, and tracery throughout, including perpendicular-traceried windows on the Divinity School and on Arts End and Selden End		p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-All external stonework		p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Pinnacles throughout, including those on the Tower of Five Orders		p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Parapets throughout		p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85

-Gargoyles and grotesques throughout	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Cornices and string courses throughout	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Buttresses on the northern and southern elevations of the Divinity School	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Northern doorway to Divinity School	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Shields and crests throughout, e.g. above northern door to Divinity School	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Vaulted entrance passages	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Metal grilles in entrance passages	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Panelling throughout, notably on pinnacles, on northern buttresses of the Divinity School, and on Arts End	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Door settings throughout including those to the entrance passages and the carved door setting to southern elevation of Selden End	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Roofs throughout	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Carved elements and statuary throughout	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-The frontispiece to the Tower of Five Orders including bases, columns and capitals, statuary group, baldachin, carved lettering, and strap work	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-The oriel over Catte Street on the Tower of Five Orders	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
-Turret pinnacle to Tower of Five Orders	p.43-56, 78-79, 84-85
Duke Humfrey's Library, Arts End, and Selden End	
-Windows throughout, notably the eastern window of Arts End and the western window of Selden End	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
-Ceilings throughout, notably painted panels and painted tie beams and brackets	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
-Corbels throughout, notably lower carved corbels in Duke Humfrey's Library	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
-Galleries in book presses in Arts End and Selden End	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
-Book presses in Duke Humfrey's Library	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
-Stonework throughout	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
-Desks and seats	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
-Arch to Arts End and arch and pediment to Selden End	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
-Busts in archway between Arts End and Duke Humfrey's Library	p.56-58, 79-80, 86
The Divinity School	
-Stonework throughout including all carved elements	p.58-61, 79-80, 86
-Brackets and statuary throughout	p.58-61, 79-80, 86
-Lierne-vault, including bosses and hanging statuary	p.58-61, 79-80, 86

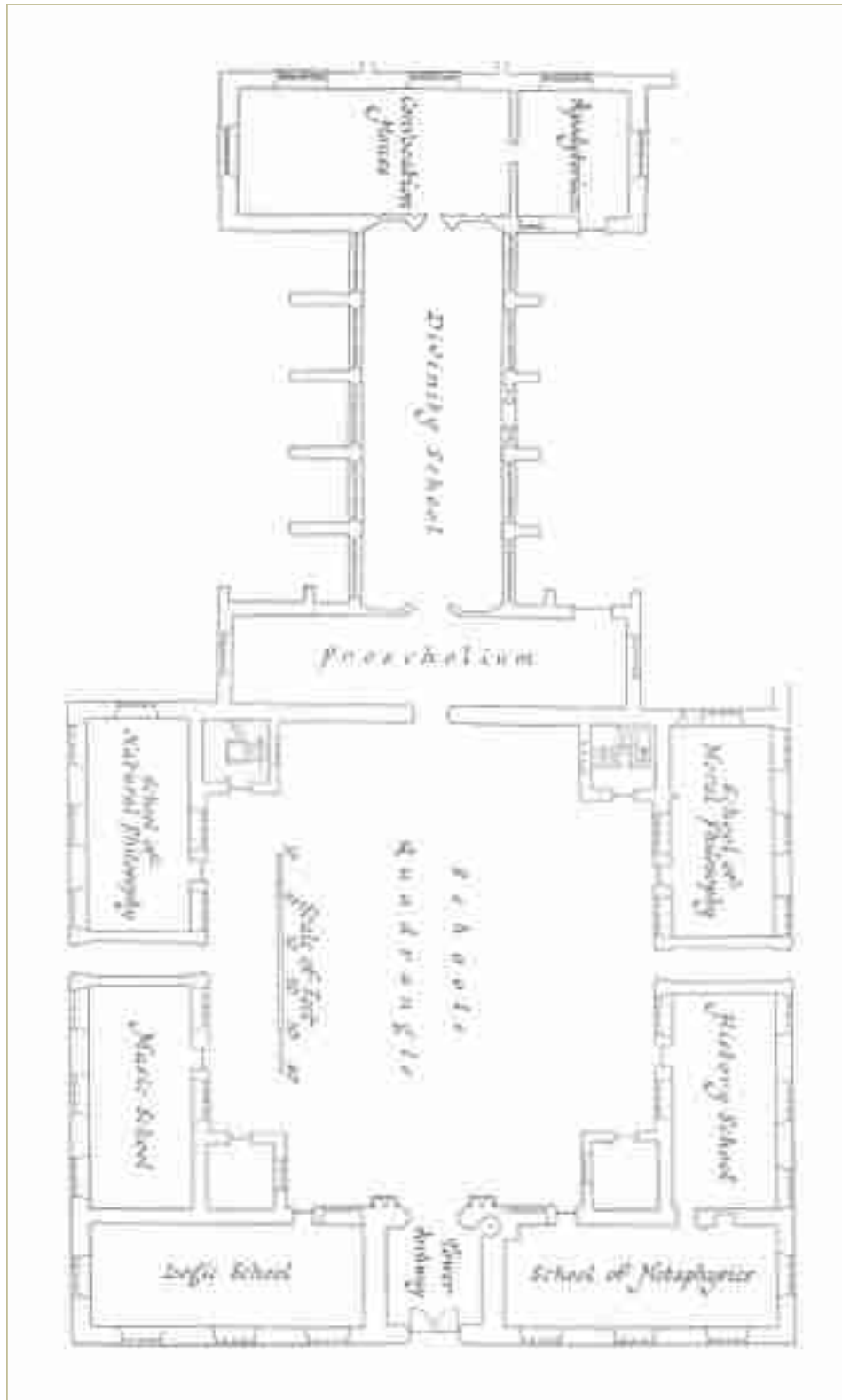
-Arches and spandrels	p.58-61, 79-80, 86
-Windows and settings throughout	p.58-61, 79-80, 86
-Arches and perpendicular panelling at eastern and western ends	p.58-61, 79-80, 86
-Carved doorways throughout, including 1669 northern doorways	p.58-61, 79-80, 86
-Paving slabs	p.58-61, 79-80, 86
-Raised platform at western end	p.58-61, 79-80, 86
The Proscholium	
-Stonework throughout	p.61, 79-80, 86
-Perpendicular panelling on western wall	p.61, 79-80, 86
-Lierne-vault ceiling with bosses and associated columns	p.61, 79-80, 86
-Carved doorcase to Divinity School	p.61, 79-80, 86
-Stone paving	p.61, 79-80, 86
-Northern doorway with panelling to Sheldonian Quadrangle	p.61, 79-80, 86
-Ogee-arched and panelled passage to Old Schools Quadrangle	p.61, 79-80, 86
The Convocation House and Chancellor's Court	
-Joinery throughout, including tiered seating, panelling, chancellor's throne and baldachin, and the doorcase from the Convocation House to the Chancellor's Court	p.61-63, 79-80, 87
-Stone paving in both spaces	p.61-63, 79-80, 87
-Vaulted ceiling and corbels in both spaces	p.61-63, 79-80, 87
-Bracketed and pedimented stone doorcase from Chancellor's Court to Convocation House	p.61-63, 79-80, 87
-Windows throughout	p.61-63, 79-80, 87
The Upper Reading Room and Upper Reserve	
-Windows and settings throughout	p.63-65, 79-80, 87
-Painted frieze throughout	p.63-65, 79-80, 87
-Painted ceiling panels in Upper Reserve	p.63-65, 79-80, 87
-Archways to Upper Reserve	p.63-65, 79-80, 87
-Entrance to turret staircase	p.63-65, 79-80, 87
-Entrances to eastern stair towers	p.63-65, 79-80, 87
The Lower Reading Room and Lower Reserve	
-Windows and settings throughout	p.65-67, 79-80, 87
-Groin-vaulted ceiling in Lower Reserve	p.65-67, 79-80, 87
-Carved arches to Lower Reserve	p.65-67, 79-80, 87
-Entrance to turret staircase	p.65-67, 79-80, 87
-Entrances to eastern stair towers	p.65-67, 79-80, 87
The ground-floor schools	
-Entrances from Old Schools Quadrangle	p.67-68, 79-80, 87

throughout		
-Windows and settings throughout		p.67-68, 79-80, 87
-Jacobean panelling in the Bodleian Shop		p.67-68, 79-80, 87
The Tower Rooms		
-Windows and settings throughout		p.68-70, 79-80, 88
-Entrances from turret stair		p.68-70, 79-80, 88
-Panelling in third-floor room		p.68-70, 79-80, 88
-Book-presses in third-floor room		p.68-70, 79-80, 88
-Plaster ceiling in fourth-floor room		p.68-70, 79-80, 88
The Stair Towers		
-Stonework throughout		p.70-71, 79-80, 88
-Windows and settings throughout		p.70-71, 79-80, 88
-Entrances from Old Schools Quadrangles and to reading rooms		p.70-71, 79-80, 88
-Staircases in western towers		p.70-71, 79-80, 88
-Panelling of Arts End in western walls of western towers		p.70-71, 79-80, 88

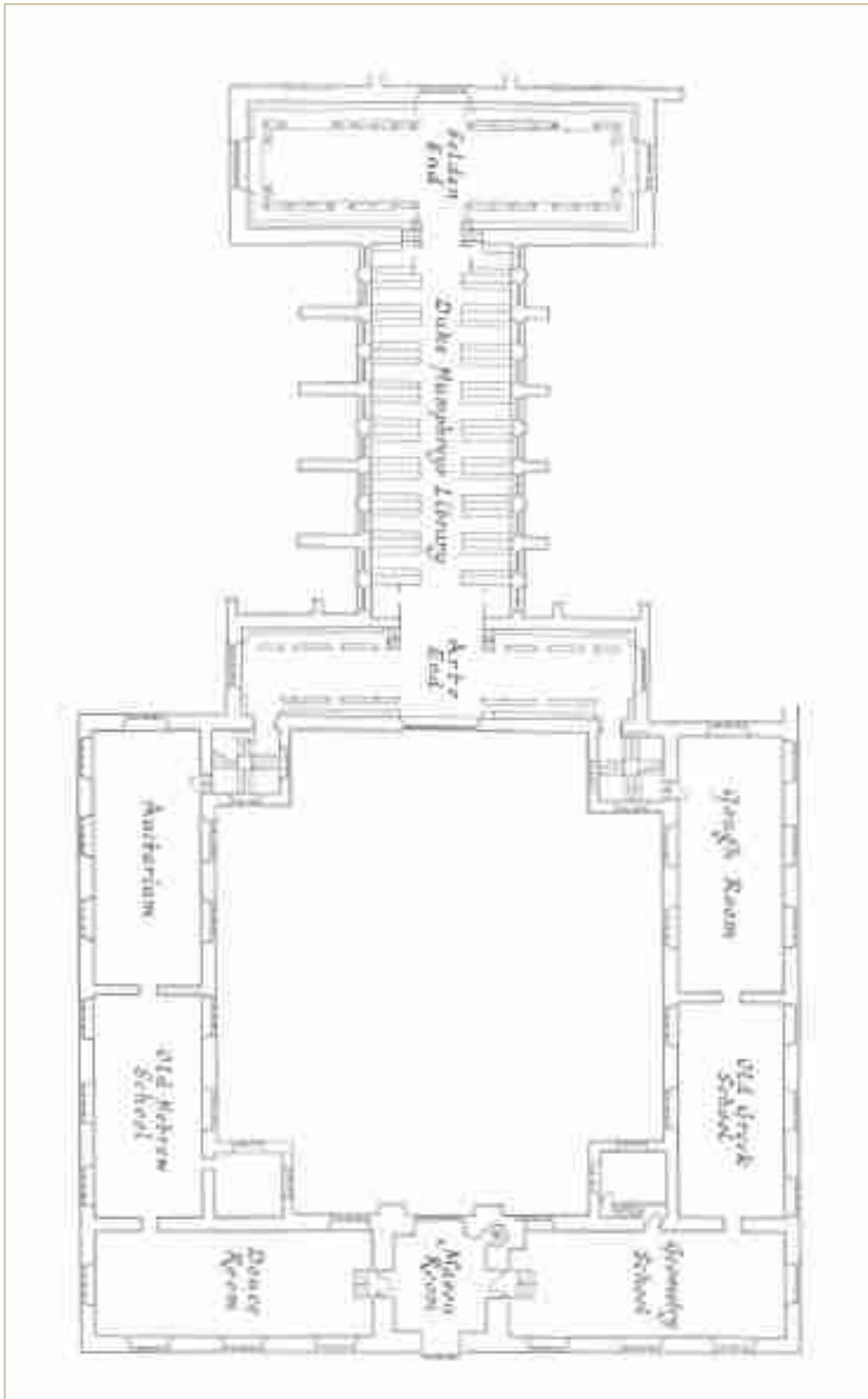
Appendix 5 Floor Plans

7.5.1 Floor plans c.1845

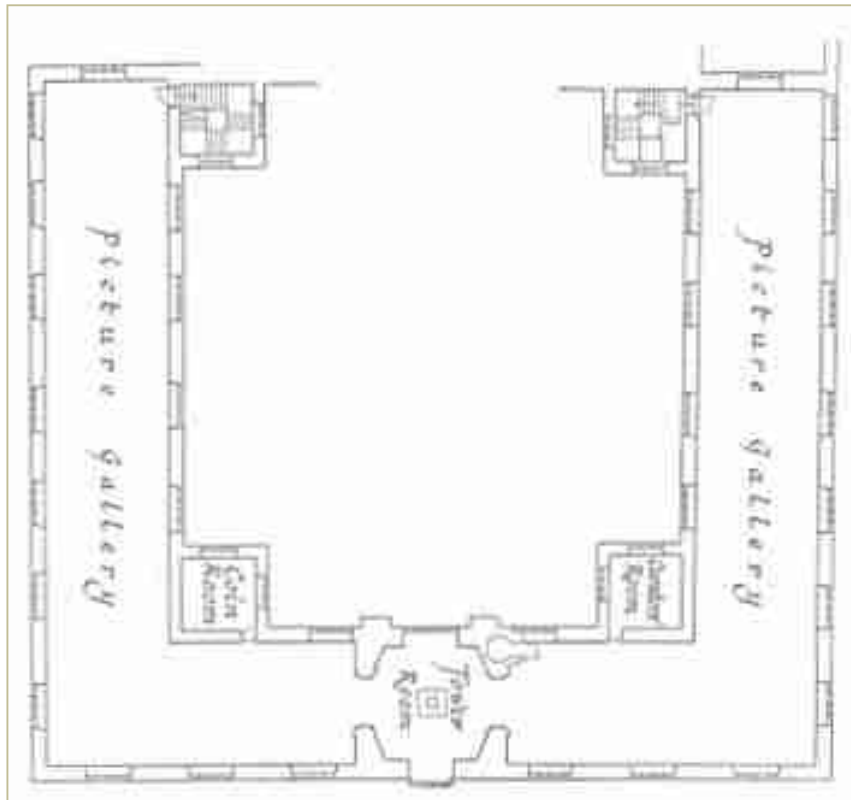
7.5.1.1 Ground floor c.1845



7.5.1.2 First floor c.1845



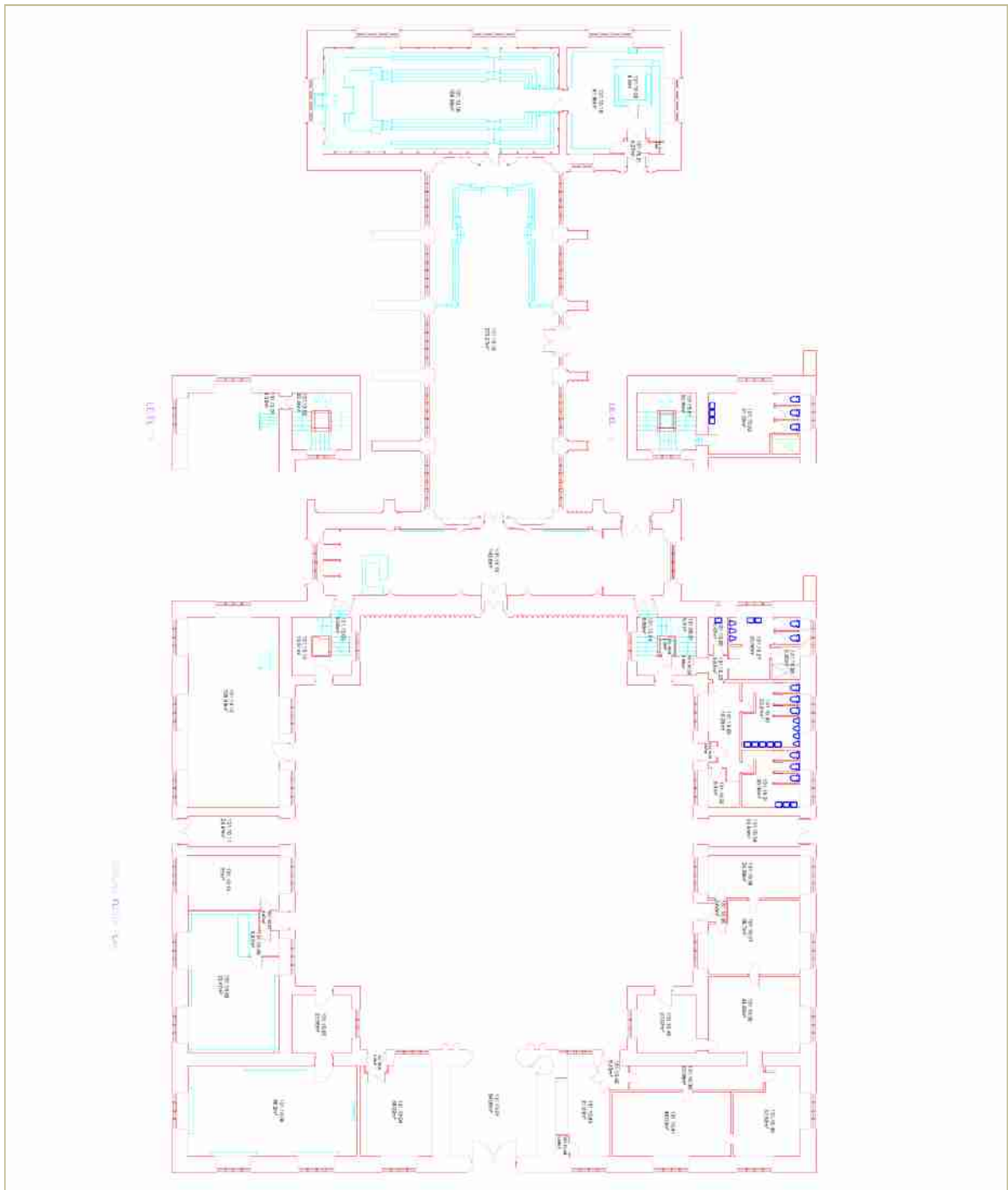
7.5.1.3 Second floor c.1845



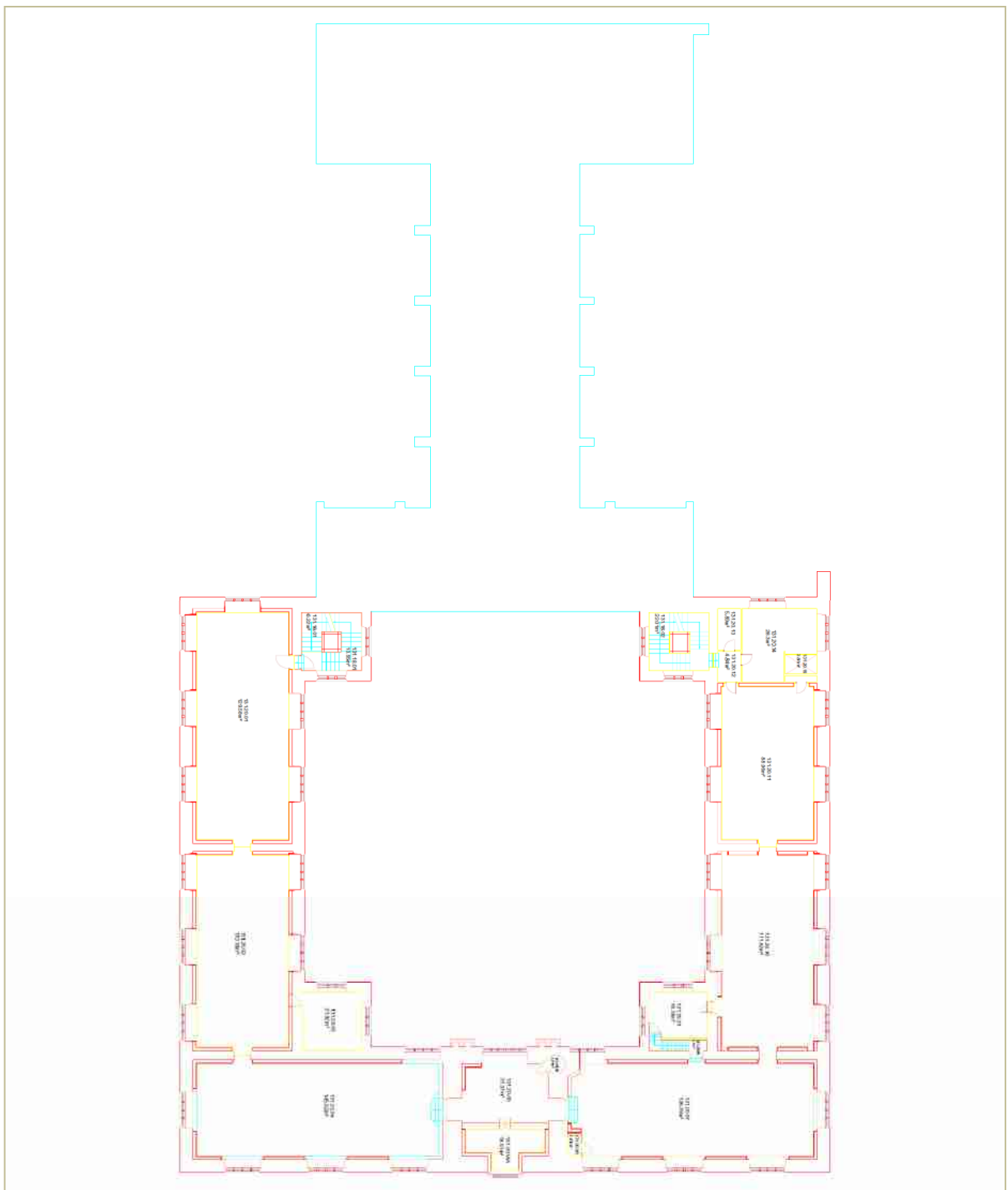
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7.5.2 Modern floor plans

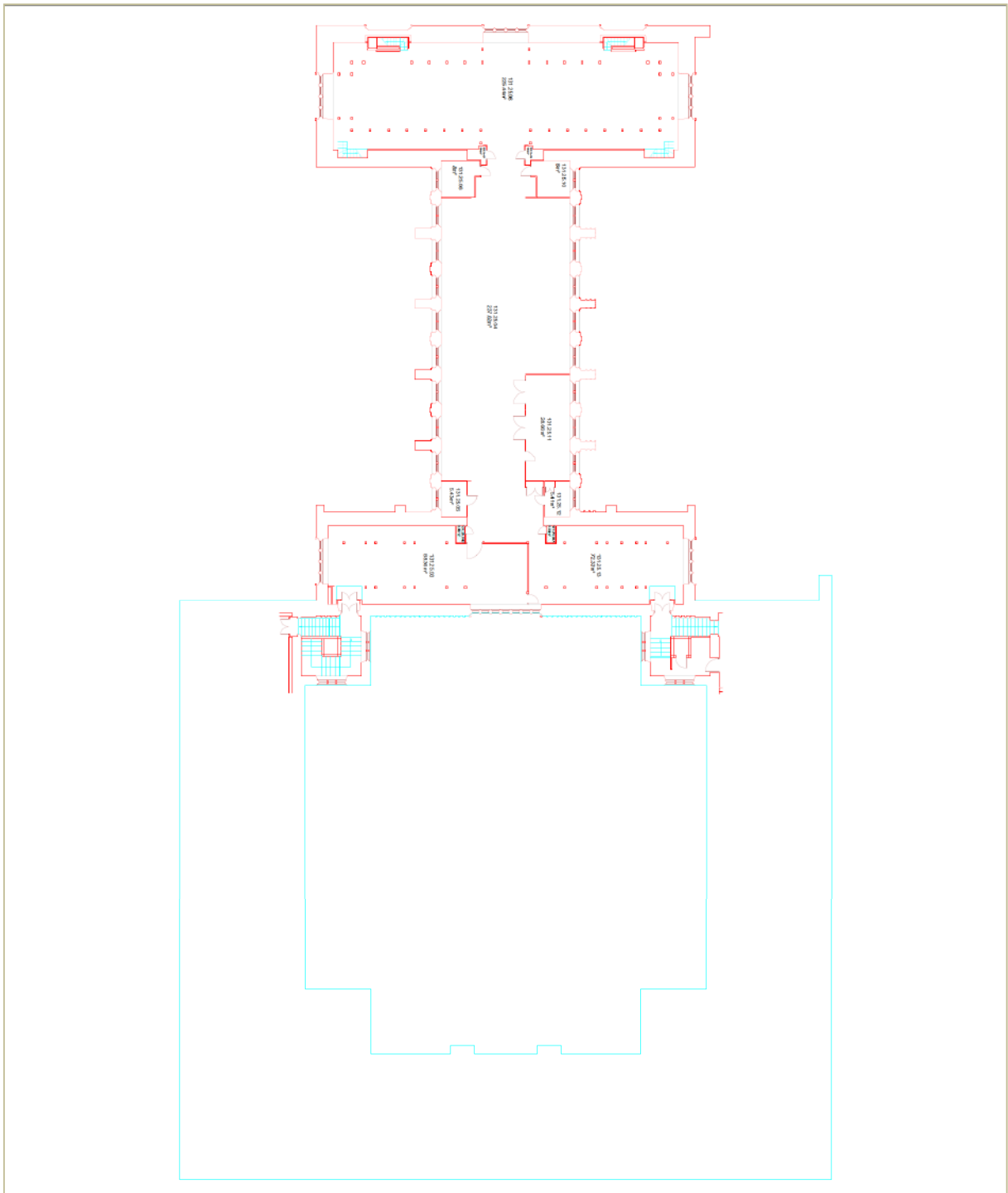
7.5.2.1 Ground-floor plan



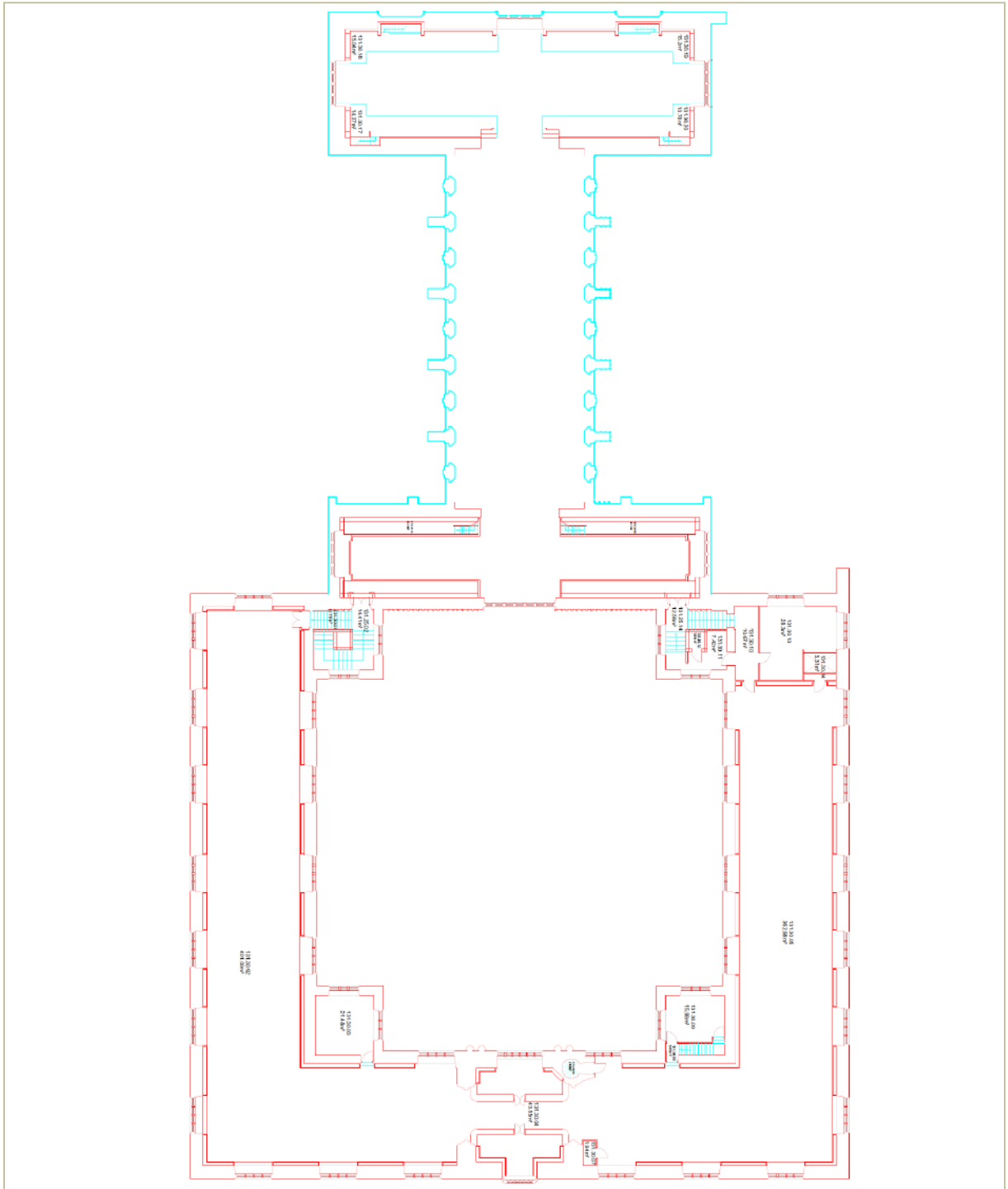
7.5.2.2 First-floor plan



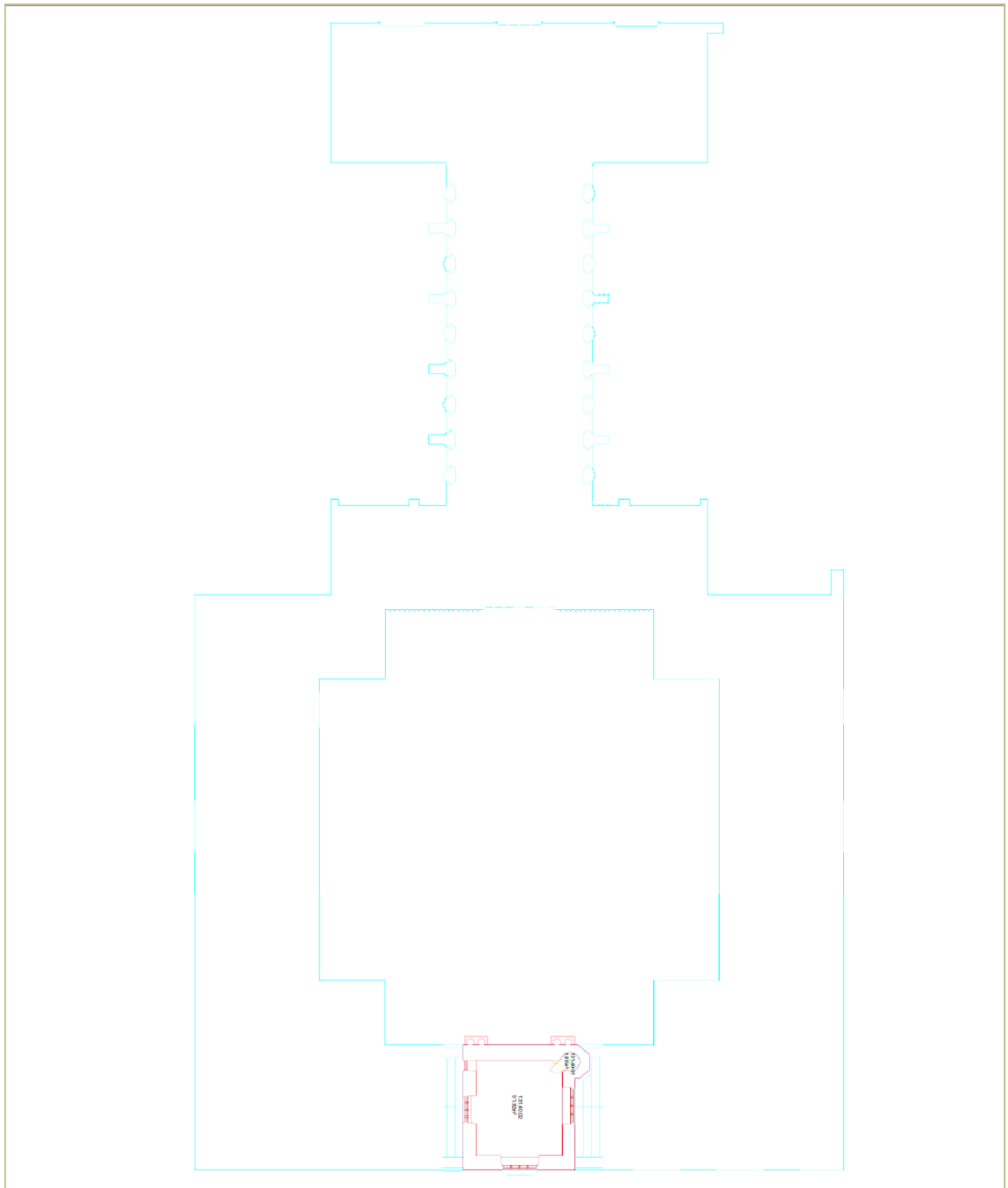
7.5.2.3 Gallery-level plan



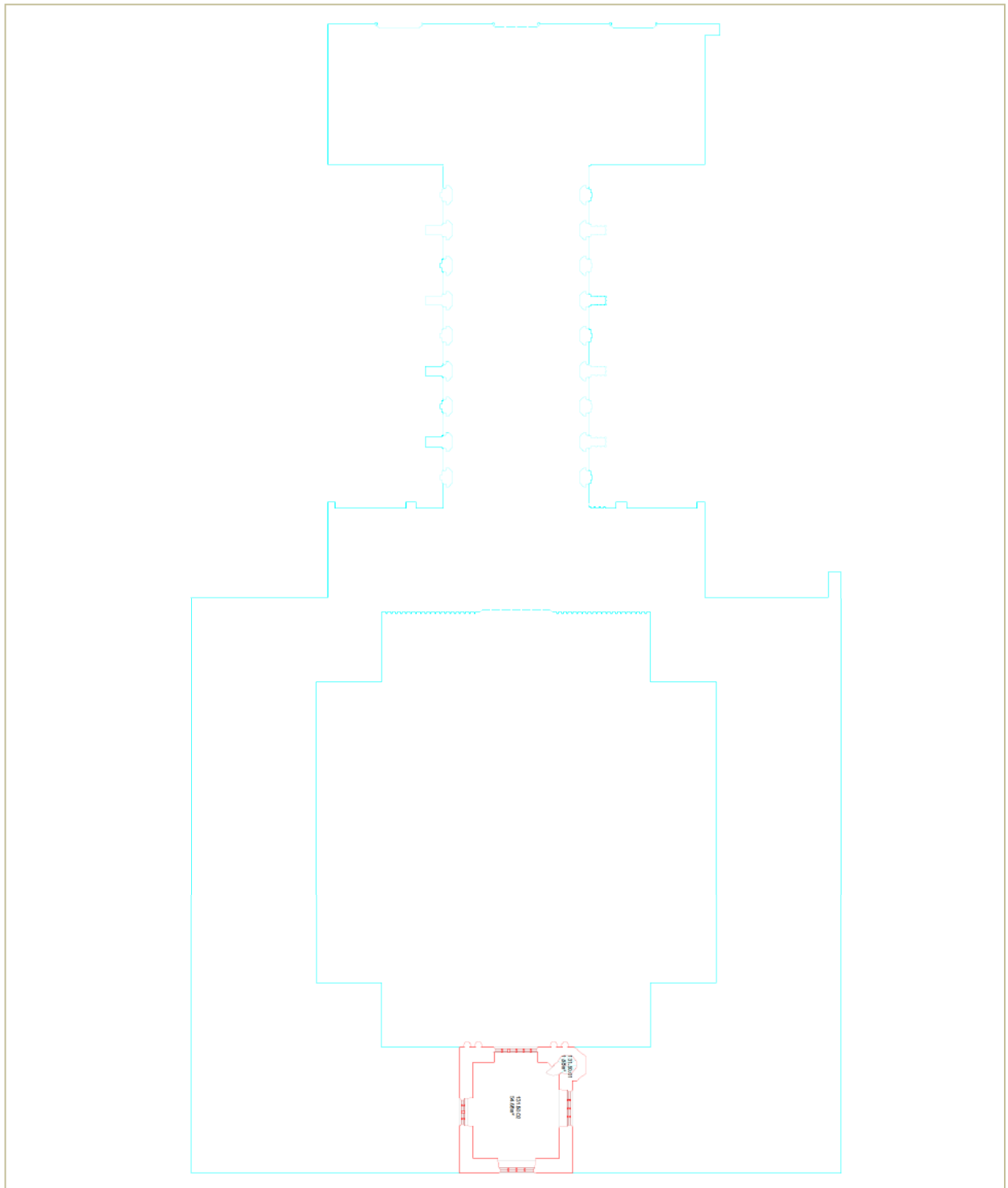
7.5.2.4 Second-floor plan



7.5.2.4 Third-floor plan



7.5.2.4 Fourth-floor plan



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