UNIVERSITY OF
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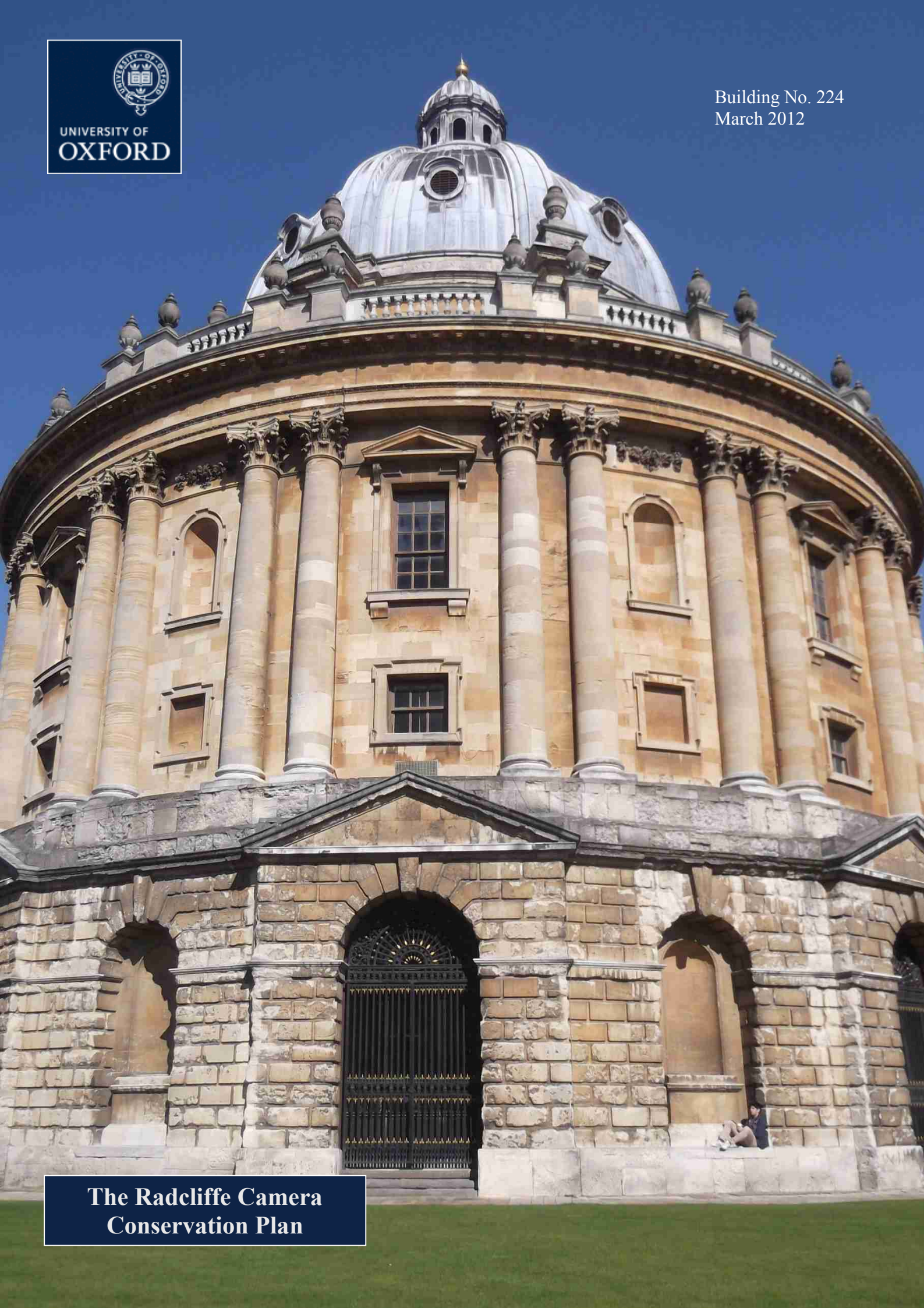

The Radcliffe Camera Conservation Plan

Oxford University

Estates Services

First draft March 2012

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Radcliffe Camera was constructed in 1737-48 to a design by James Gibbs. The Clerk of Works was Thomas Jersey and the masons were William and John Townesend and Francis and William Smith. It was funded by a bequest of Dr. John Radcliffe (1652-1714) and was managed by the trustees of his will until 1866, when it became a reading room of the Bodleian Library. The freehold was granted to the Bodleian Library in 1927. It is the finest example of 18th-century Baroque architecture in England and a defining feature of Oxford's famous skyline. It continues to fulfil its original function as a library and reading room.

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* and 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 Radcliffe Camera.

The purpose of this Conservation Plan is to update the Radcliffe Camera'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 Radcliffe Camera'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 Radcliffe Camera (outlined in red) and the surrounding area, orientated with North at the top of the image

1.2 Scope of the Conservation Plan

This plan will cover the exterior and the interior of the Radcliffe Camera, a grade-I-listed building in Radcliffe Square in central Oxford, which forms part of the Bodleian Group of libraries.

Over the course of its existence the building has been known as both the Radcliffe Library and the Radcliffe Camera. This document will refer to the heritage asset as the Radcliffe Camera, unless specifically referring to the building in the period prior to 1862.

The plan is not a catalogue and to facilitate its practical use will concentrate only on the most vulnerable aspects of significance, suggesting how they should be approached and conserved in the future. A brief list of the most significant architectural features can be found in **Appendix 4** and should be referred to when planning any repair or alteration work.

1.3 Existing Information

A Conservation Management Plan has not previously been produced for the Radcliffe Camera; however, there are various forms of existing material available:

The original listed building description (**Appendix 1**) is the logical starting point for this plan. Its brevity is typical of a listing of its age but it does outline the main features of the building, giving some indication of the features that were thought to make up the particular character for which the building was listed.

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

The Radcliffe Camera is one of Oxford's most prized buildings and there are various published books and articles that examine it and the development of the Bodleian Library as an entity. There are also various published sources regarding the architectural development of Oxford and the history of the city and University. These publications provide an important resource for studying this building. Notably, the building accounts for the original construction and selections of the Trustees' minutes were published in 1958.[1]

The Oxford University Archives and Estates Services' archives contain useful plans and documents and these have kindly been made available for the composition of this document.

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

1.4 Methodology

The Conservation Plan is a document that assesses the current and predicted conservation needs of the Radcliffe Camera and attempts to address them with a view towards maintaining or 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 Radcliffe Camera 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.

[1] Gillam, S.G., *the Building Accounts of the Radcliffe Camera* (Oxford, 1958).

- 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.

2 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

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2.1 History of the Site and University[2]

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 Radcliffe Camera stands in Radcliffe Square, the monumental centre of the city and the University. Radcliffe Square is formed by the conjunction of the Old Schools of the Bodleian Library (1602-37), the western façade of All Souls' College (founded on the site c.1436, North Quadrangle completed to designs by Hawksmoor c.1720-48), the eastern façade of Brasenose College (founded 1509), and St. Mary's Church to the south (there was a church on this site since at least the 11th century, though the current building has its origins in the 13th century).

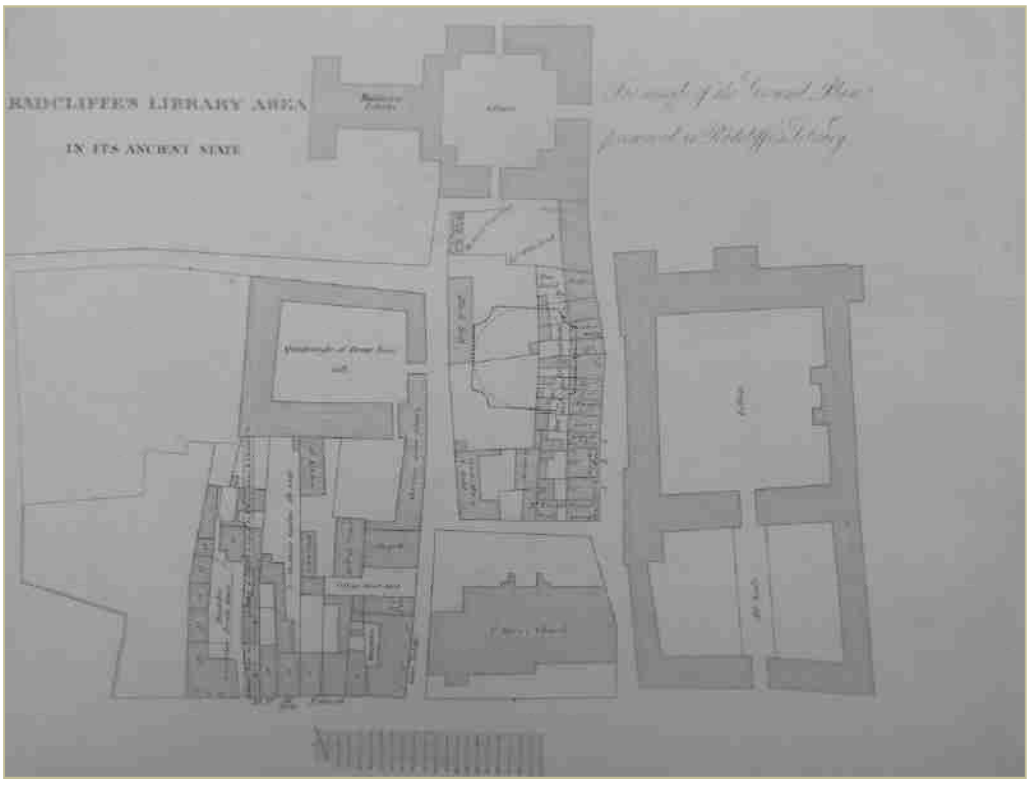

Figure 2. The plots on Radcliffe Square prior to the construction of the Radcliffe Camera, with north at the top of the image

Prior to the construction of the Radcliffe Camera, Radcliffe Square was dominated by a series of tenements forming a block extending southwards from the Old Schools with streets on

[2] A short chronology of the Radcliffe Camera can be found in **Appendix 3**.

three sides (**Figure 2**). These were purchased and demolished in the first half of the 18th century in anticipation of the construction of the Library (see below).

The site of Radcliffe Square was in the centre of the mediaeval city, with Broad Street to the north, then known as Canditch, lying just outside the city walls. Henry II granted Oxford its charter in 1155, and with the formal recognition of the University, Catte Street and the eastern end of Broad Street became the centre of a small area of 'schools' set up in tenements, which in turn attracted scholars from across Europe. Various colleges were founded in the area during the late middle ages, notably Balliol on Broad Street in 1263, and the focus of the University settled on this part of the city.

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 Catte Street and the eastern end of Broad Street, including the Old Bodleian Library (1602-1637), the Sheldonian Theatre (1669), the Old Ashmolean (1678-83), the Clarendon Building (1711-13), the Old Indian Institute (1884-96), and the New Bodleian Library (1937-40). 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, Catte Street, and Radcliffe Square being defined by University buildings, and being a focus for ceremonies, protests, and tourism.

2.1.1 History of the Bodleian Group

The Radcliffe Camera 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 Old Bodleian; and the Radcliffe Camera itself. These 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 long before the Radcliffe Camera was constructed. The Old Bodleian Library was first established by Duke Humphrey of Lancaster in 1488 with the opening of a room above the Divinity School but 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 1866 the two were integrated and the Radcliffe Library became known as the Radcliffe Camera (see below).

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.

The New Bodleian Library is 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. The Old Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera continue to operate as reading rooms.

2.2 History of the Radcliffe Camera

Dr. John Radcliffe (1652-1714), an alumnus of University College and fellow of Lincoln College, was the wealthiest physician of his age. Despite exhibiting a certain disdain for book-learning, he made it clear in the final years of his life that he intended to endow a library (a move Samuel Garth is oft-quoted with describing as analogous to a eunuch

founding a seraglio). Radcliffe's intentions were made clear as early as 1712, when his plans to build a library were referenced in letters of the Dean of Christ Church, Francis Atterbury.[3]

Even before Radcliffe's death, there was some discussion as to the placement of his library, and it was suggested that it be built out from the Selden End of the Duke Humfrey's Library into Exeter College's garden. The ground floor was to be granted to Exeter in exchange for the loss of its garden space, but this was not deemed an acceptable arrangement by the college's fellows, whose proposed terms made their displeasure clear.[4]

Radcliffe died on 13th September 1714 and his will stipulated that £40,000 should be made available for the foundation of a library, payable in 10 annual instalments after the death of his sisters, along with, in perpetuity, £150 *per annum* for a salaried librarian and £150 *per annum* for the purchase of books.

Radcliffe's sister, Millicent Radcliffe, died in 1715, but his other sister, Hannah Redshaw, did not die until 1736. Despite this, the Trustees of Radcliffe's estate continued their planning for the construction of the Library in the years immediately following the doctor's death. With Exeter's gardens no longer being mooted as a possibility, the Trustees considered a southwards extension of the Old Schools, before settling on a free-standing structure in what was to become Radcliffe Square. In November 1717 the Trustees began the 20-year negotiations to purchase the houses on the land in this area and in 1720 the efforts of the University's MPs saw the passing of an Act of Parliament entitled: *Enabling any corporation within the University of Oxford or any other persons to sell or convey any messuages and ground within the university for building a library, pursuant to John Radcliffe's will, and for empowering any colleges in the university to sell or convey any ground or houses to each other.*[5]

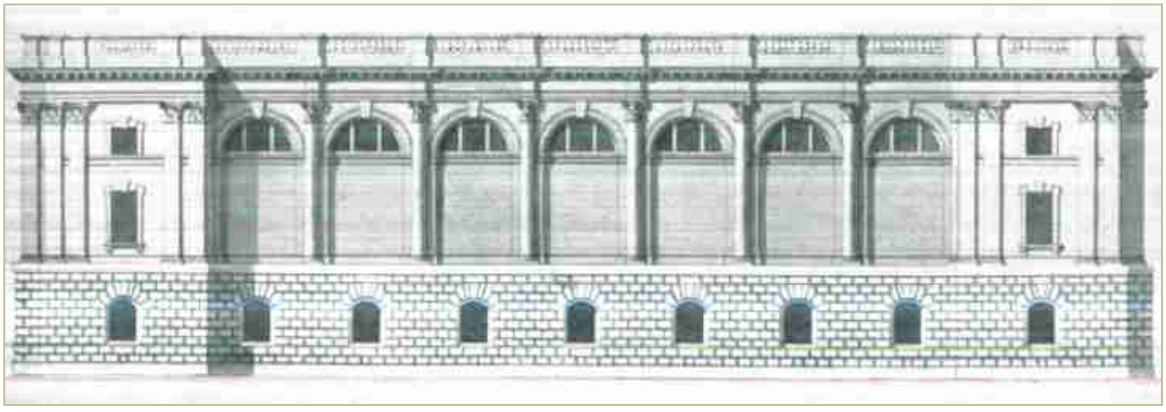

Figure 4. One of Gibbs's designs for the Radcliffe Library

[3] Myres, J.N.L, *Bibliotheca Radcliviana*, 1749-1949: *Exhibition: Bodleian Library, Oxford,* 1949 (Oxford, 1949) 10.
[4] Colvin, H.M., 'Architecture' in Sutherland, L.S., and Mitchell, L.G., (eds.), *The History of the University of Oxford: Volume* VI *The Eighteenth Century* (Oxford, 1986) 846.
[5] Available online: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/changes/chron-tables/private/8, accessed 21st March 2011. A near-identical Act had been passed for Cambridge the preceding year.

Hawksmoor had produced a plan for a circular, domed library as early as 1712, when Radcliffe first made his plans for a library known. He envisaged the redevelopment of the city centre, including the creation of a *Forum Universitatis*, as the heart of the University, in roughly the location of Radcliffe Square, and a *Forum Civitatis* at Carfax. [6] It was not until 1720 that the Trustees approached the pre-eminent architects of the day (Christopher Wren, John Vanbrugh, James Thornhill, Thomas Archer, John James, Nicholas Hawksmoor, and James Gibbs) with a view towards producing plans for the library; however, such overtures remained speculative until the land could be purchased and the funds for construction released by the death of Hannah Redshaw. [7]

Figure 5. John Smallwell's model based on Hawksmoor's design. Photographed by Sarah Wheale

The first house on the site to be demolished was the northernmost house on Catte Street, which was removed in 1733. The demolition of the buildings on this site would later be described by *County Life* as '…a grand town-planning gesture such as later ages would have been too parsimonious and sentimental to contemplate.'[8] No doubt anticipating the death of Hannah Redshaw, the Trustees asked the only two surviving architects from the group approached in 1720, Nicholas Hawksmoor and James Gibbs, to submit plans. Hawksmoor submitted a plan for a circular, domed reading room perched on a broad, rectangular base, reminiscent of the first-century tomb of Cecilia Metalla on the Appian Way.[9] Hawksmoor's design was magnificent, monumental, and wholly impractical. Gibbs submitted a simple, rectangular design, with linear reading rooms more in line with the experience of the Old Bodleian and the Duke Humfrey's Library (**Figure 4**).

Whilst Gibbs's design was eminently practical, it evidently ignored the fact that the library was an act of *euergetism*, intended to be a monument to Radcliffe as much as anything else: Hawksmoor's stark re-rendering of the monumental mausolea of classical antiquity, through

[6] Tyack, G., *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (Oxford, 1998) 167-71
[7] 'The Radcliffe Camera,' in Salter, H.E., and Lobel, M.D., (eds.), *The Victoria History of the County of Oxford: Volume 3: The University of Oxford* (London, 1954) 55-56; Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees 27th July 1720.
[8] 'The Radcliffe Camera, Oxford' in *Country Life* 2nd May 1931, 548.
[9] Colvin, H.M., *op. cit.*, 847.

the lens of Wren's proposed mausoleum for Charles I (**Figure 6**),[10] was clearly the Trustees' preferred design. In 1734-5 a model based upon Hawksmoor's design (**Figure 5**) was commissioned from John Smallwell who constructed it at a cost of £87.11*s*.[11]

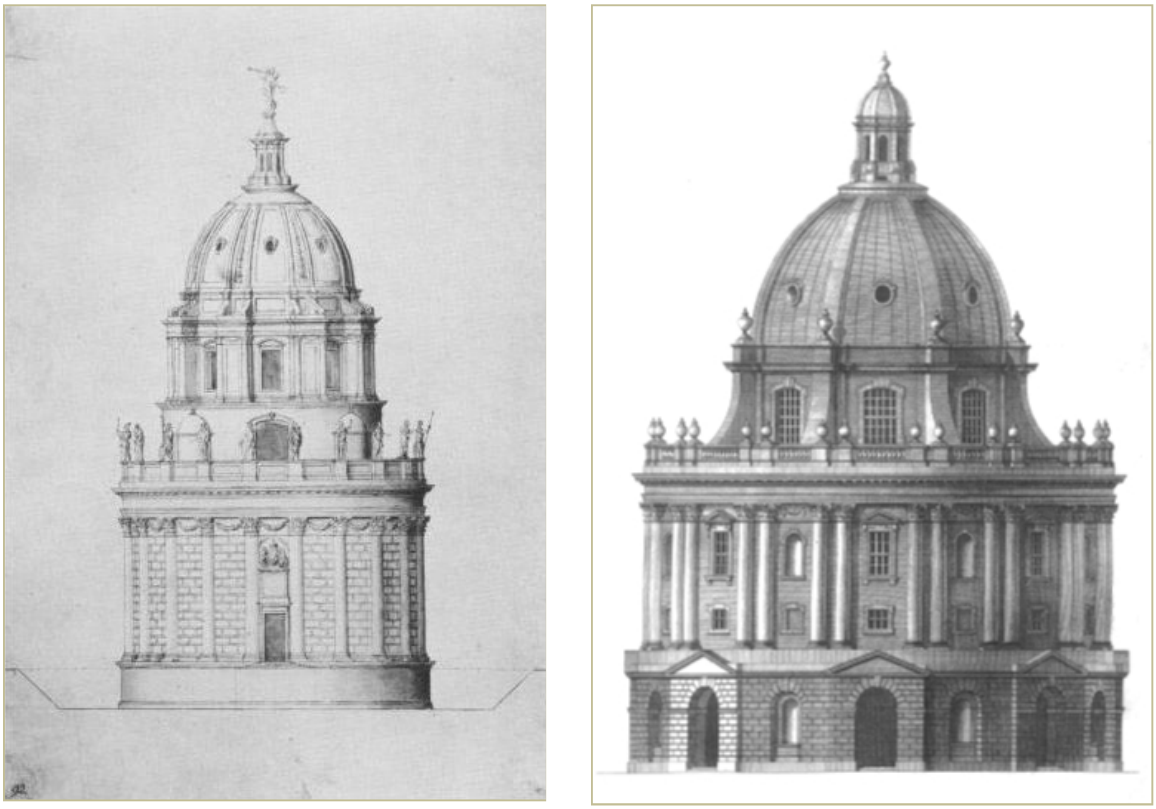

Figure 6. Left, Wren's design for the Mausoleum of Charles I. Right, Gibbs's design for the Radcliffe Camera

Radcliffe's sister, Hannah Redshaw, died in 1736, releasing the funds required for the construction of the Library. It is evident that Hawksmoor was the Trustees preferred choice of architect; however, his death, following a lengthy illness, on 25th March 1736 cleared the field for Gibbs, who was hired as architect-in-chief at a wage of £100 *per annum* for the duration of the build. It seems that the Trustees were enamoured with Hawksmoor's scheme to the extent that Gibbs was convinced to alter his own to follow Hawksmoor's. That being said, his final design was no mere pastiche of Hawksmoor, and by discarding the rectangular base he was able to create something altogether more elegant, which Pevsner is correct in describing as '…much more urbane.'[12]

[10] Wren's proposed mausoleum was a clear influence on Hawksmoor's design, but its vertical emphasis actually has more in common with the Library as eventually constructed under Gibbs; Beddard, R.A., 'Wren's Mausoleum for Charles I and the Cult of the Royal Martyr' in *Architectural History* 27 (1984) 36-49.
[11] This model went to Ditchley Park, the seat of one of the Trustees, the Earl of Litchfield. It was used as a child's dolls' house prior to being presented to the Bodleian in 1913, where it remains; Gilliam, S.G., *op. cit.* xii.
[12] Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *Buildings of England: Oxfordshire* (Harmondsworth, 1974) 263.

On 4th March 1737 Gibbs and his chosen masons, Francis Smith and William Townesend, had a meeting with the Trustees where Townesend was instructed to '…prepare Stones and things ready for the building [of] the Library.'[13] The foundation stone was laid on 17th May 1737, though it was only decided 4 days previously that it should contain an inscription.[14] Copper plates inscribed with Gibbs's plans were produced to be circulated amongst the senior members of the University in order to allow any objections to be voiced. Work began apace, though both masons died in short order (Francis Smith in April 1738 and William Townesend in 1739) and were replaced by their sons, William Smith and John Townesend. By February 1739, the stonework was completed to the level of the balustrade; however, even at this point Gibbs's plans were not deemed final. On the 8th March 1740, Gibbs was asked by the Trustees if he wished to make any further alterations to his designs and to inform Mr Vertue, an engraver, who was inscribing the plans on the copper plates.[15]

Figure 7. The complex timber construction of the interior of the dome

There was a break in work in autumn 1740 due to fears of small pox. On 10th February 1741 the Trustees ordered that Gibbs cease work on the stone dome and on 4th March 1741 asked that he send them details of the 5'8'' of the dome that had already been completed. It seems that there was some loss of confidence regarding the viability of the dome and on 20th April 1741 Gibbs suggested to the Trustees that it should be completed in wood and lead, rather than the stone originally envisaged.[16]

Figure 8. The open ground floor of the Radcliffe Camera, c.1813

[13] The date for this meeting is often given as 4th March 1736, i.e. prior to Hawksmoor's death, but it is listed clearly in the Trustees Minutes as 4th March 1736/7 (i.e. March 1737 in the Gregorian calendar); Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees.
[14] Gillam, S.G., *op. cit.*, xiv.
[15] Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees.
[16] *Ibid*.

Estimates and a proposal were submitted by carpenters and an agreement was made for the completion of the dome on 22nd March 1742. The Trustees resolved to retain the stone portion of the dome that had already been completed, and it is unclear why this was removed between 3rd July and 27th November 1742. The timber of the dome was put up in a mere 7 months and was in place by November 1742. Interestingly, dendrochronological tests show that the timbers of the dome were felled between October 1740 and April 1741, only one year prior to the construction, meaning that they would not have been properly seasoned, as was common practice, when used (though this has not affected the structural integrity of the design).[17]

The timber and lead of the dome was completed by March 1743. Two workmen were killed in a tragic accident whilst dismantling the scaffolding. Once the roof was complete and the scaffolding removed, work began immediately on the interior of the building.

The ground floor of the building was originally an open arcade (**Figure 8**) with access from the southern side of the building, opposite St. Mary's, then across the underside of the building and up the stairs at the north end into the reading room.[18] The gallery was fitted with iron gates beneath the arches (only those facing All Souls', Brasenose, and St. Mary's could be opened) which allowed access to be controlled and could be closed at night '…to enclose and preserve that Place from being a lurking Place for Rogues in the Nightime or any other ill Use.'[19] Robert Bakewell of Derby submitted a proposal for the iron gates, which was accepted by the Trustees on 29th February 1744. When these were finished in 1746, Bakewell's bill came in considerably higher than his estimate; however, Gibbs spoke to the Trustees on Bakewell's behalf and explained the price of iron had risen by 40*s.* a ton shortly after he made his estimate, due to the outbreak of King George's War in March 1744. Hostilities with France also meant that the iron had to be transferred by land, increasing the costs drastically. Gibbs explained that Bakewell's work was of a high quality and the Trustees agreed to pay his bill in full.[20]

In March 1745, Michael Rysbrack was commissioned to produce a statue of John Radcliffe for the building, which was completed and delivered in 1747. The building was nearing completion and in March 1746 Gibbs reported to the Trustees that only the woodwork, the metal handrail to the stairs, and the locks, hinges, and other minor metal fittings needed to be finished.

By 1748 the Library was nearing completion to the point that Francis Wise was, after some wrangling, elected its first librarian, and Pudsey Mussendine appointed its first porter. This pairing of librarian and porter was to be the entirety of the Library's staff until 1834.

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[17] Worthington, M., and Miles, D., *The Radcliffe Camera, Oxford, Oxfordshire: The Tree-Ring Dating of the Timber Roof of the Dome: Scientific Dating Report* (English Heritage, 2007) 5.
[18] Craster, E., *History of the Bodleian Library* 1845-1945 (Oxford, 1952) 129. Craster reports the southern entrance is clearly visible in the *Oxford Almanack* for 1790.
[19] Gibbs, J., *Bibliotheca Radcliviana: Or a short description of the Radcliffe Library at Oxford* (London, 1747) 9.
[20] Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees, 18th April 1746.

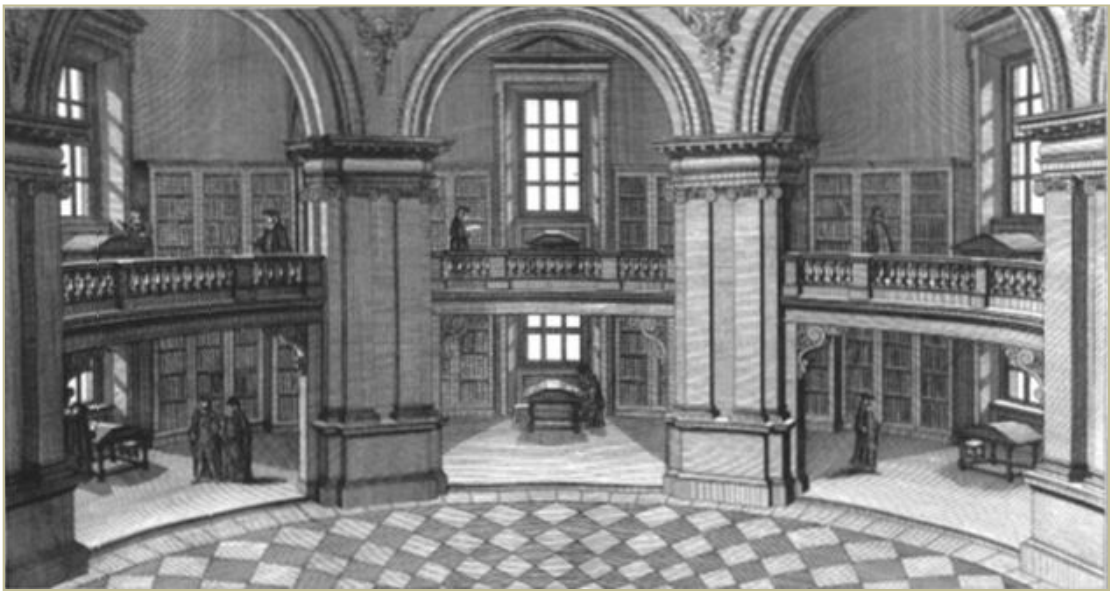

Figure 9. Gibbs's engraving of the interior as built, 1747.

The building was completed by early 1749, with the minutes for the meeting of the Trustees on 8th February 1749 reading: '£40,000 given for building a Library at Oxford which has all been laid out and the Library compleated [sic.] and the tradesmen all paid.'[21] The Library was then opened on 13th April 1749, with a week of celebrations costing a purported £20,000. The opening ceremony involved one of the Trustees, the Duke of Beaufort, handing the key of the building to the Vice-Chancellor, John Purnell. This highlighted the Library's ambiguous status as a non-university institution within the centre of the University. This indistinct position became a serious problem under Wise's librarianship as, whilst the Trustees clearly intended the Library to be used by the University, Wise sought to keep the building closed as much as possible in order to avoid making the 3-mile journey from his home in Elsfield to Oxford.[22] The situation came to a head in April 1759 when Wise had a smith padlock the front door. This was removed by the smith at the Vice-Chancellor's command. When Wise had a second smith fit another lock, the Vice-Chancellor removed it personally and sent the damaged lock to Wise with a letter demanding to know why he had '…clapt a lock on *our* Radcliffe Library.'[23] He made it clear that he had removed the lock through his authority as Vice-Chancellor, suggesting that he for one viewed the Library as under the jurisdiction of the University.

With the building completed, some effort was made to improve its setting. In February 1750 the Trustees resolved to remove the 7-8 foot-high wall of St. Mary's churchyard and incorporate the northernmost portion of this area into Radcliffe Square. It was levelled and faced with stone to match the rest of the area. Stud stones were laid out to mark the boundaries of the land held by the Trustees (**Figure 10**). These alterations opened up the

[21] Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees; added to this was £150 *per annum* for the Librarian's wage, £100 *per annum* for the purchase of books, and another £100 *per annum* for the repair and maintenance of the building.
[22] Gillam, S.G., *op. cit.* xxxvi; Gillam states that Wise viewed the position as a sinecure, though this had clearly not been the intention of the Trustees.
[23] *Ibid*, xxxiv.

northern façade of St. Mary's Church, and the Trustees paid for repairs to the old Convocation House in 1759 as its '…very ruinous appearance appears as a disfigurement to the site of the Library.'[24] The Trustees sought to improve the space further in 1751 when they paid for the erection of 14 obelisks with lamps in Radcliffe Square, with the agreement that the University would pay for their lighting and maintenance; however, in 1759 the Trustees resolved to take over their maintenance and refunded the University their costs for the period 1751-59. The area was also regravelled at the Trustees' expense in 1753.

Figure 10. Engraving of the exterior looking east c.1790. Note the bollards demarcating the Trustees' land (removed in 1993)

The small room at the top of the stairs was converted into a muniment room for the storage of the deeds to the Library, and other documents pertinent to Radcliffe's bequests, in 1753. This involved the creation of a window to ventilate the space. The ventilation was evidently inadequate, as the deeds were removed in 1817 due to an infestation of mould.

Francis Wise died in 1767 and was replaced as Librarian by Benjamin Kennicott. Kennicott's stewardship is notable for his acquisition of some important documents (most notably the Kennicott Hebrew Bible in 1771) for the near-empty library, but was otherwise only slightly more energetic than Wise's tenure. Some necessary repairs and maintenance, which had been neglected under Wise, were carried out: In the autumn of 1769 the shelves and bookcases were repaired and painted with gold letter and figures. The upper windows were repaired, fastened down, reputtied, and repainted with a double coat of paint to prevent them rotting.[25] The lead-work on the roof and several existing leaks were repaired. The lavatory at the bottom of the stairs had originally been fitted with piped water but this had stopped working at some undefined point in the past (evidently several years previously) and the space had become 'not only...of no use, but… offensive' and was refitted with 140 yards of wooden piping.[26] When Francis Wise had died in 1767, his sister had donated his valuable numismatic collection to the Library and Kennicott had a carpenter prepare a display case for this alongside these wider repairs.

Thomas Hornsby became Librarian in 1783. His stewardship was of little note. In 1795 the Trustees ordered that the iron gates be fitted with copper wards. In 1801 Encaenia was held in

[24] Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees.
[25] The exterior of the windows have been painted about 30 times since 1749 and the interior about 5 times. The original colours were a greyish stone, possibly slightly lighter on the interior than the exterior; Hassall, C., *Radcliffe Camera: Paint Analysis* (Report, January 2009).
[26] Gillam, S.G., *op. cit.*, xxxviii; this was further repaired in 1807.

the Library due to repairs being carried out in the Sheldonian. In 1809 Arthur Young published his *View of the Agriculture of Oxfordshire* in which the first suggestion was made that the Radcliffe Library be utilised as a science library in order to prevent the duplication of works already held by the Bodleian. He even went so far as to suggest that the ground floor should be enclosed and converted to use as an agricultural museum.[27]

George Williams was appointed Radcliffe Librarian following Hornsby's death in 1810. In the same year, Bulkeley Bandinel became sub-librarian (and Bodley's Librarian from 1813) at the Bodleian. Under this pair the Radcliffe Library underwent a renaissance. The porter's salary was almost immediately increased from £20 to £30. Shortly after Williams's appointment a committee was established to purchase books for the Library and it was decided for the first time that these would be confined to medicine and natural history. A book stamp was purchased and Williams began work on a catalogue for the Library. £1,089 was paid to Mr. White of Fleet Street, a bookseller, and another bookseller, Mr. Payne of Pall Mall was appointed official bookseller to the Trustees. The amount allocated to the Librarian for the purchase of books was increased to £500 in 1811, and additional funds were made available by the Trustees on a year-by-year basis: £500 in 1812; £2000 in 1813; and £1000 in 1814.

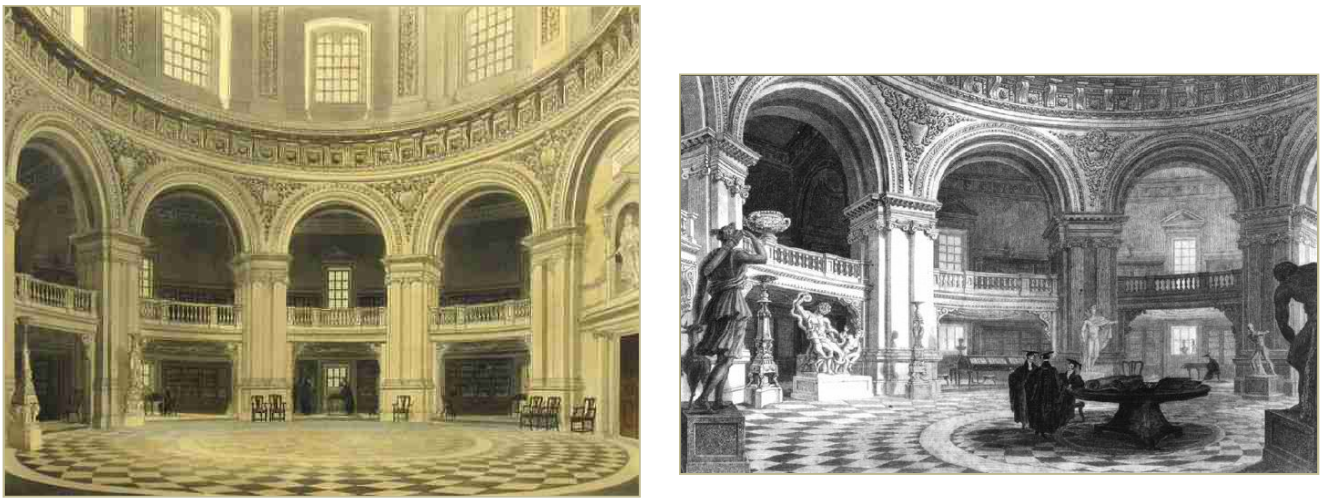

Figure 11. Left, engraving of the interior of the Radcliffe Camera c.1813. Right, etching of the interior of the Radcliffe Camera c.1835. The elaborate gas lamps on their pedestals can be seen on the left-hand side of both images

In June 1814 the Library was the setting for a unique event, as the Prince Regent hosted a dinner for the Tsar of Russia, Alexander I, and the King of Prussia, Frederick William III, to celebrate the initial defeat of Napoleon and his exile to Elba following the Treaty of Fontainebleau. The eastern and western gates of the Library were presumably opened, as the guests processed into the building from All Souls' College along a carpet laid on the street,

[27] Young, A., *View of the Agriculture of Oxfordshire* (London, 1809) 343-4; available online http://find.galegroup.com/mome/quickSearch.do?now=1331728396851&inPS=true&prodId=MOME&userGroupName=oxford, accessed 14th March 2012.

and the feast was cooked in Brasenose College. A temporary wooden staircase was set up to one of the windows so that the public could ascend to the gallery via the small stone staircases, walk around and spectate upon the diners, before descending through the window. Apparently there was some congestion, as once on the gallery spectators refused to leave and the army had to attend to move them on.[28]

Under Williams the Library became a successful and utilised building. In 1819, the first suggestions were made to light the building with gas. This would have allowed for a reduced reliance on natural lighting, facilitating longer opening hours. In 1825, P.B. Duncan donated several casts of classical statues to the Library and these were followed in 1828 by over 1,000 specimens of polished ancient marbles from S. Jarrett. These items were displayed in the Library. It is recorded that members of the public would visit the Library just to view the exhibits and the building, so the atmosphere must have been something between that of a library and a museum (**Figure 11**).[29]

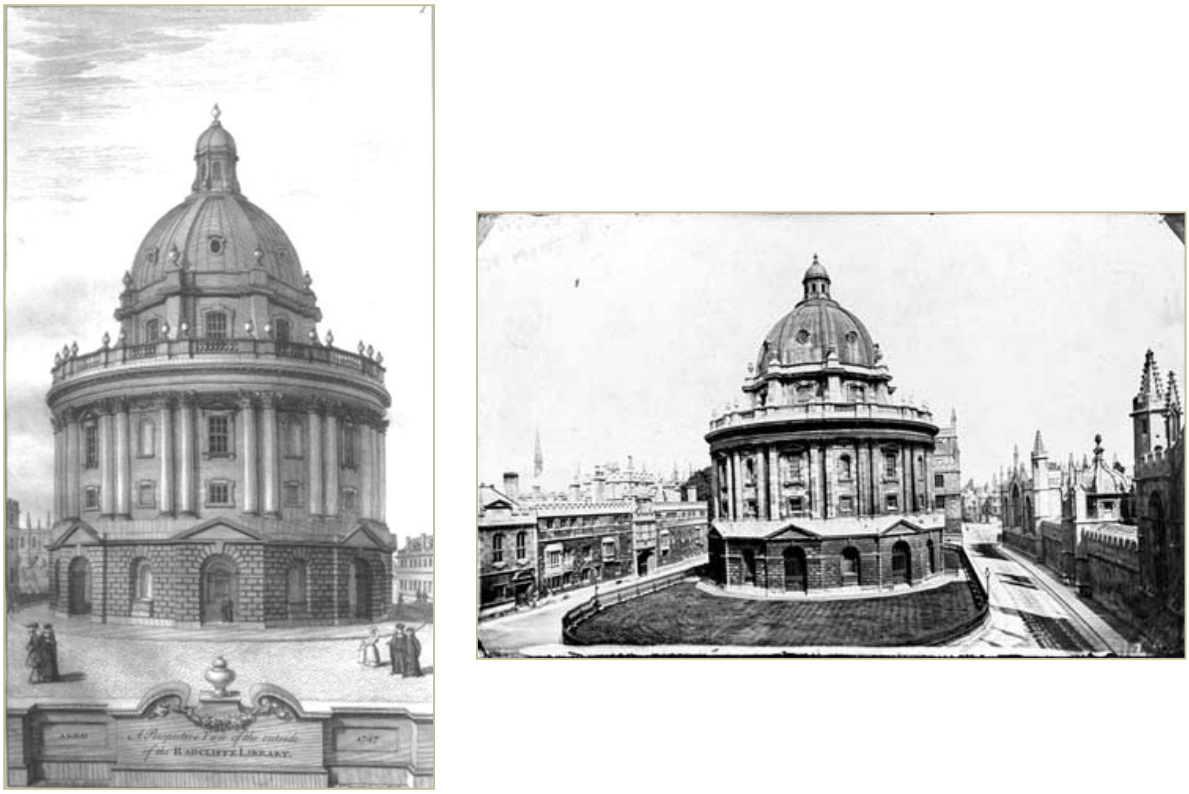

Figure 12. Left, Gibbs's engraving of the Radcliffe Camera in its setting, 1747. Right, photograph of the Radcliffe Camera with lawn and railings, late 19th century by H.W. Taunt

[28] Bliss, N., *A Correct Account of the Visit of HRH the Prince Regent, and his Illustrious Guests, to the University and City of Oxford, in June* 1814*: To which is added the English Poems, recited on this occasion, accompanied by some general remarks* (Oxford, 1814) 16-17.
[29] Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees, 15th May 1834.

It was resolved in 1827 to fit railings and a lawn to the area around the Library and these were installed at a cost of £1,310 (**Figure 12**). Interestingly enough, when investigating the area to enclose, the Trustees discovered that the necessary conveyance on the land had not been carried out since 1737 and so the legal estate of the Library was invested in Lord Bagot, a descendant of the former Trustee, Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot. Finding themselves in the strange position of not actually owning the Library, the Trustees had to seek out Lord Bagot and arrange sale (presumably at a nominal sum) and conveyance of the deeds.[30] The railings were painted in 1831 and again in 1842, 1846, and 1850.

Williams completed a catalogue of the Library in 1832 but died in 1834 before it could be prepared for publication. The Trustees publically registered their regret at his passing and their appreciation for his work, something they had not done for any of the previous librarians. John Kidd took up the position of Librarian and was ordered to prepare a catalogue for publication. He produced a catalogue, which was apparently his own work with reference to Williams's notes, which was published in 1835. Kidd subsequently requested a raise in salary which was refused (along with each subsequent request, on the grounds that Radcliffe's will gave the Trustees no authority for such action) but he was granted a £100 bonus for completing the catalogue. Despite this, in 1834 the porter's salary was raised and an under-porter was appointed to attend to visitors who were not readers.

Figure 13. Sir Robert Newdigate's candelabras from the villa of Hadrian, displayed in the Camera from 1775 to 1846 and now in the Ashmolean Museum

The interior of the open ground floor was cleaned and coloured in 1834. In 1835 the building was fitted with gas lighting for the first time. This was initially only to be fitted to part of the building, but was then extended to cover the entirety of the building in order that it might be utilised to provide heating at a later date. Due to the potential dangers engendered by the installation of piped gas, the building was insured for £10,000, with its contents being insured for an equal amount.[31] The exterior of the building (along with the gates) was cleaned

[30] Gillam, S.G., *op. cit.*, xlvii.
[31] Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees, 10th June 1835.

and painted in 1838, 1842, 1846, and 1850.

Williams's and Kidd's efforts in acquiring books had obviously been successful; in 1838 bookcases were introduced at the gallery level for the first time and these were followed by another five bookcases and some tables in 1845. Unfortunately, whilst an average of between £500-700 had been spent annually on books between 1816 and 1840, the Trustees felt this was unsustainable and from 1841-62 the amount spent annually on new books fell to £200.[32]

In 1847 the British Association for the Advancement of Science held its meeting in the Library. In 1849 open-wire panels were installed in some of the bookcases at a cost of £22.10*s*.

In 1851 Henry W. Acland (Reader in Anatomy and later Regius Professor of Medicine) was appointed Radcliffe Librarian and he immediately raised the issue of heating the Library. Heating was finally installed in 1853-4[33] The gas lighting was replaced at the same time, which included placing a large pedestal with a nine-branched gas standard in the centre of the reading room and gas lights on bronze pillars around the gallery and the lower ambulatory.[34] The Trustees increased the opening hours of the Library to 9am-10pm in 1852, and whilst the Library was not yet part of the Bodleian, it is clear that this was intended to complement the adjacent library: 'As the hours during which the library may be used [are] extended now…it is at once apparent that the Bodleian presents greater advantages to students than can anywhere else be enjoyed…'.[35]

By the 1850s, the Bodleian's reading rooms were struggling to cope with the needs of their readers and space was a major concern: 'There was a general demand, voiced by the witnesses who gave evidence before the 1850 University Commission and approved by the Commissioners, for a spacious, well-warmed and properly ventilated reading-room free from the buzz of conversation, in which books of reference might be placed on open shelves; likewise for hours of opening. None of these advantages were to be had in unlit Duke Humfrey; and one of the Commission's witnesses had described the Bodleian as "practically useless to College Tutors during term-time, owing to its hours."'[36]

Acland was one of the major forces behind the construction of Deane and Woodward's University Museum on Parks Road in 1855-60, which was to become the new centre for the emerging scientific disciplines within the University. With the creation of this new scientifically-focused site, Acland was strategic enough to spy an opportunity that was mutually beneficial to all parties: On 16th July 1857, he proposed that the Radcliffe Library's building on Radcliffe Square should be lent to the Bodleian to be used as a reading room and that the Library itself (with its scientifically-focused collections) should be moved to the University Museum, which was still undergoing construction. The Bodleian and the Trustees accepted and in 1860 Acland was instructed to undertake the necessary steps to transfer the

[32] Myres, *op. cit.*, 21
[33] Minutes of Radcliffe's Trustees, 1st July 1853.
[34] Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 127.
[35] Annal entry for 1852; Macray, W.D., Annals *of the Bodleian Library* (Second Edition; Oxford, 1890) 355-56.
[36] Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 122-23.

Library and building. Between 5th and 10th August 1861, the scientific documents from the Radcliffe Library were transferred to the newly-completed University Museum.

Acland immediately suggested that a covered walkway should be constructed to connect the Old Bodleian and the old Radcliffe Library building. He had Benjamin Woodward draw up a design for this; however, Woodward died in 1861 and the design was never executed. It was on 27th January 1862 that the old Radcliffe Library building was reopened as the Radcliffe Camera. The Radcliffe Camera's status as a reading room of the Bodleian Library was formalised by an agreement between the University and the Trustees, signed on 14th December 1866. Whilst use of the building was given over the Bodleian, the freehold remained in the possession of the Trustees.

H.E. Strickland had suggested in 1852 that the open ground floor could easily be converted to a usable room through the insertion of a damp-proof floor and glass panels in the archways, providing a stack with space for 66,000 volumes.[37] In March 1863 this proposal was undertaken, with the lower arches being glazed and the ground floor fitted with a new floor, heating apparatus, and bookcases for use as a stack. This realigned the building, as originally the entrance had been from the open gate in the southern arch and across the open ground floor to the staircase at the rear.[38] With the space being enclosed, a new entrance had to be constructed. The external stairs on the northern end were built, leading up to the internal staircase at the intermediate landing between the ground and first floors. The new entrance of the Camera faced onto the Bodleian Library (though out of alignment with its arches, which form an axial vista through the arch of the Clarendon Building and (since 1940) onto the original doorway of the New Bodleian) highlighting their new relationship. The conversion and the new entrance were constructed under the direction of the architect Sydney Smirke, at a cost of £2,771. It was agreed that the Trustees would repay these costs to the University if they ever chose to reoccupy the building.

As the Trustees retained the freehold of the building, they continued to approve changes. In 1877 the floor of the Upper Camera, which touched the top of the vault below, was permanently raised on an iron framework and the vault of the Lower Camera strengthened under the direction of Alfred Waterhouse.[39] In 1885, they approved the construction of two new staircases within the Upper Camera to the gallery level. These are the two metal staircases at the northern end of the room, which were subsequently constructed in 1889 at the cost of £150. In 1888, there was a trial of movable shelving in the ground floor stack of the Camera, running in grooves cut in the floor.[40] It was proposed to fit electric lighting in the building in 1893 and the Trustees approved this in 1894; however, the funds were not found to install this until 1905.

William H. Jackson, a natural historian and sub-warden of Keble, became Librarian upon the death of Sir Henry Acland in 1900, and in the same year the Trustees met with the University

[37] *Ibid*, 127-9.
[38] *Supra.*, Note 18.
[39] Craster, E., *op. cit.* 136.
[40] Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 220.

to discuss the possibility of constructing an underground bookstore beneath Radcliffe Square. Despite the Bodleian's occupation of the Radcliffe Camera, space had remained an overwhelming issue for the Bodleian, especially as until the construction of the Examination Schools in 1876-82 the ground floor of the Old Schools Quadrangle had remained unavailable to the Library. The construction of the Examination Schools had eased the problem somewhat, but there was extensive need for further stack space. The Trustees met again with the University in 1908 and construction work on the underground bookstore was begun in 1909. The construction involved taking up a great deal of Radcliffe Square but the store, with its connecting subway, was opened in 1912. Associated air intake grilles were constructed in the paved area of Radcliffe Square and these were raised by 150mm in 1988. A stairway was constructed into the northernmost bay of the Lower Camera.

The Upper Camera was cleaned and repainted in 1902. In 1905 an anonymous donation (later revealed to be from G.H. Pope of Wadham) allowed for the installation of electric lighting within the Camera. The vestigial gas standards were left in place and lighting was provided by brackets projecting from the gallery (two to a bay), with additional lights on desks and bookcases, and with a central fitting with eight lights (**Figure 14**).[41]

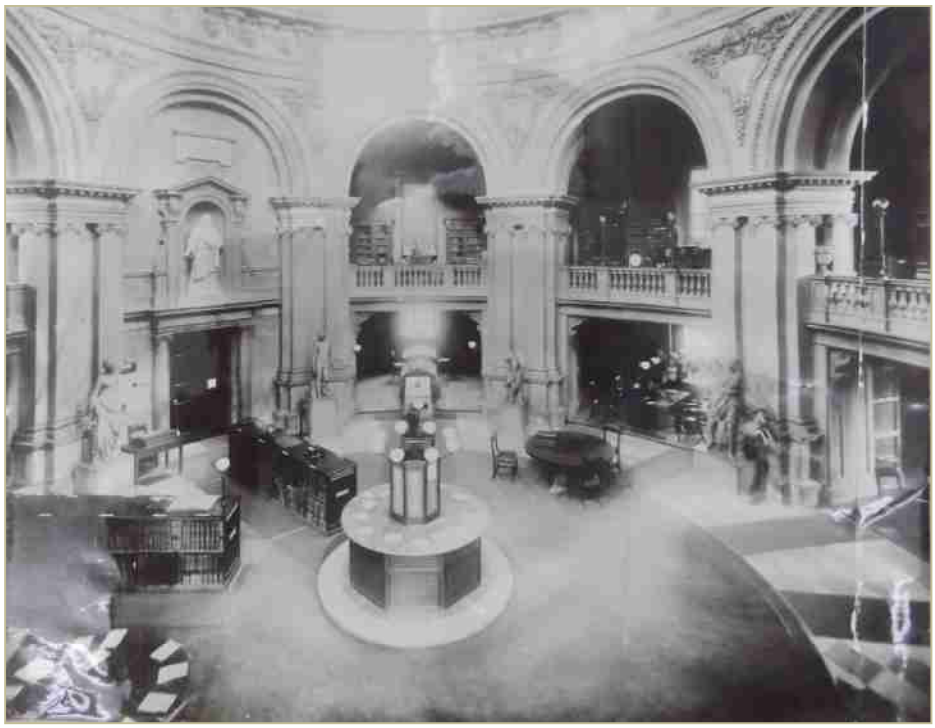

Figure 14. The interior of the Upper Camera in 1908

Unfortunately, the exterior stonework of the Camera had not fared well since its construction and in 1913 it was repaired by Oxford's leading architect, Sir Thomas Graham Jackson, at a cost of £2,668.17*s*. He may also have conducted repairs to the stone previously in 1880-81.[42]

[41] Gillam, S., *The Radcliffe Camera* (Oxford, 1992) 31.
[42] Jackson, T.G., *Recollection: The Life and Travels of a Victorian Architect* (ed. Jackson, N.; London, 2003) 272.

In the Long Vacation of 1925, the Upper Camera and the staircase were cleaned and redecorated and the distemper that had been applied to the interior walls and the dome was removed and replaced with white paint. In 1926, the electric lighting in the space was completely overhauled, with floodlighting applied to the dome. At the same time, electric lighting was installed in the ground floor for the first time, as this (being a stack rather than a reading room) had previously been lit by only a single gas lamp.[43]

James Ford became Sub-Librarian in 1924, following the death of W.H. Jackson; however, his stewardship was short-lived as in 1927 the Trustees resolved to formally convey the freehold of Radcliffe Square and the Radcliffe Camera to the University, so the Camera came under the jurisdiction of Bodley's Librarian.

The Camera was a popular reading room, accounting for two-thirds of the 260 readers who used the Bodleian per day in 1914. This number had doubled since 1892, and by 1920 there were on average 500-600 daily users in the Camera during term time.[44] Pressure on space for readers was immense and in 1928 it was resolved to convert the stack on the ground floor of the Camera into a reading room, as soon as alternative stack space could be found elsewhere.[45] It would not be until after the construction of Giles Gilbert Scott's New Bodleian Library in 1940 that this would become possible.

In 1931, death watch beetles were discovered in the timbers of the dome, precipitating repairs to the lead and timbers, as well as extensive cleaning throughout the building. The roof was vacuum-cleaned, producing a reported ton of dust and 15 hundredweights of twigs and detritus.[46] In 1932, the Camera's electrical installation was rewired and this provided an opportunity to overhaul the lighting within the Upper Camera.[47] The library Catalogue and the associated card catalogue were removed from the centre of the room in 1934 and relocated to the Upper Reading Room of the Old Bodleian. This liberated the central area for much-needed readers' desks: In 1935 a staff enclosure and desks with an additional 52 reading spaces (set in a radial pattern around the central enclosure) were installed in the centre of the room, increasing the total number of seats from 122 to 174.[48] Improvements were made to the heating apparatus at the same time. The following year, the classical casts from the building were removed (mainly going to Stowe School in Buckinghamshire), presumably in order to make further space available for readers.

[43] Myres, J.N.L, *op. cit.*, 24.
[44] Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 337.
[45] In 1929 the Picture Gallery next to the Upper Camera in the Old Bodleian was converted into an English Literature Reading Room in order to provide 48 seats, mainly for undergraduates, and to subsequently relieve some pressure on the Camera; *Ibid*, 337-8.
[46] *Supra,* Note 43.
[47] The overhead lighting and all the desk lamps were replaced with indirect lighting provided by the original gas standards (now fitted with electric lights) reflecting from bowls placed in the alcoves beneath the gallery. Three-light brackets were attached to each pillar at gallery level, alongside lights on the cornice of the gallery; Craster, E., *op. cit.*, 338; *Supra,* Note 40.
[48] *Ibid*.

Lord Justice Greene made a donation in 1936 specifically for the removal of the 1827 iron railings around the outside of the building (though retaining the lawn), opening up Radcliffe Square (**Figure 15** and **16**). This seems to have been generally viewed as a positive change at the time: '…the general appearance of Radcliffe Square being greatly improved thereby.'[49] It would seem that opinions on the aesthetic value of Victorian railings have come full circle since then.[50]

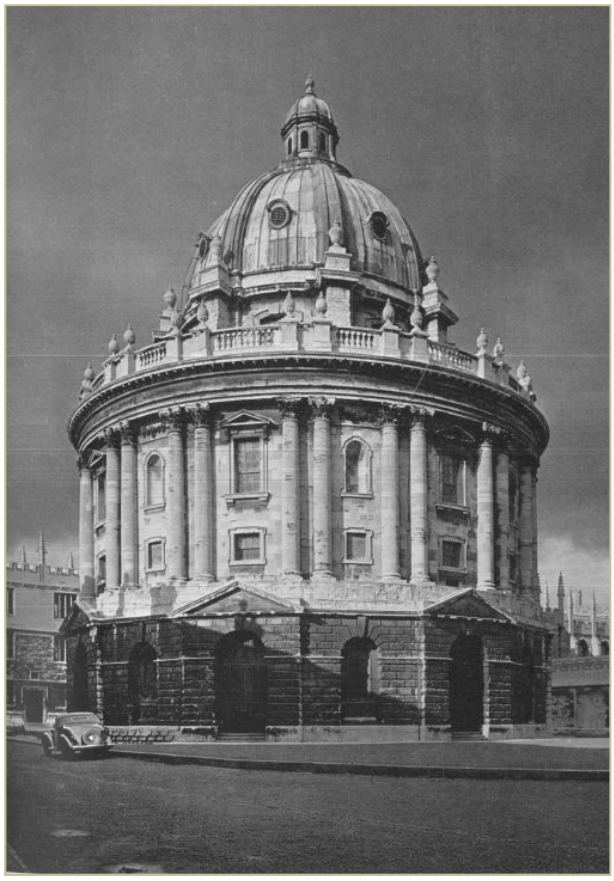

Figure 15. The Radcliffe Camera in 1956, note the discolouration on the ground floor and the lack of railings

Pressure for space for readers remained a constant issue and the completion of the New Bodleian Library in 1940, with its extensive stack space, made it possible to convert the ground floor of the Camera from a stack into a new reading room. In 1940 it was cleared of books and bookcases and the walls and vaults cleaned.[51] New electric lighting was fitted alongside new heating apparatus. Desks were installed for 44 readers. The Lower Camera was opened in May 1941, bringing the building much closer to the modern experience.

In 1946, the doors of the bookcases were removed, providing readers with direct, open shelf access to material. Repairs to the timbers and lead work of the dome were carried out at some point in the 1950s. In 1958, the bronze gas standards were removed.[52] In 1959, seven of the steel inner windows in the arches of the Lower Camera were replaced by Walter Godfrey Allen (architect and surveyor to St. Paul's Cathedral) with new aluminium frames. The wrought iron grilles in the lower arches were repainted and the tips gilded. Allen had prepared plans in 1956 for the redecoration, relighting, and refurnishing of the Lower Camera, including returning the main entrance to this level (something that Allen was asked to prepare plans for various times over the next decade); however, these plans were never carried out due to a lack of funds.[53]

[49] *Supra*, Note 43.
[50] e.g. http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/projects/railings.php; accessed 20th March 2012.
[51] 'A good start on interior cleaning in Oxford has been made with the ground storey of the Radcliffe Camera, which was black and is now a pleasure to work in.'; Arkell, W.J., *Oxford Stone* (London, 1947) 169.
[52] *Supra*, Note 41.
[53] Oxford University Archives Ref: ST 44.

The Oxford Historic Buildings Appeal, launched in 1957, raised £1.75 million in just 13 months for the repair and conservation of Oxford's historic buildings. The project transformed the stone of central Oxford from the polluted black of the late 19th century onwards to the mild yellow tones enjoyed today (**Figure 16**).[54] The Radcliffe Camera was cleaned towards the end of this process. The southern side of the Camera was, like most of the other buildings, jet washed with water, but the project experimented with dry-sand blasting on the northern side of the building (and Brasenose).[55] The Headington freestone of the lower storey (the plinth is in the much-better-wearing Headington hardstone) was retained, but repaired in places with Portland stone.[56] Where necessary, the Taynton Stone of the upper portion of the exterior was replaced with Clipsham. The columns had been patched with Clipsham in the 1930s and these parts were not renewed, though they were redressed to reduce the colour contrast; however, the unpatched portions of the columns were in a poor condition and all the capitals had to be recarved, excluding the portions sheltered by the cornice. The cornice itself was completely replaced with a reproduction in reinforced concrete with a Taynton natural stone veneer and a Taynton cyma moulding, being at least visually faithful to the decayed original. All the high-level urns were renewed, as were several around the parapet. [57] This work was conducted between 1965-68 and formed part of a wider scheme of renovations which included the repair of c.250 holes in the lead dome (1965), the removal and replacement of the lead on the flat portions of the roof (including the vacuum cleaning of the roof space),[58] and the full redecoration of the interior of the Upper Camera and stairwell, replacing the white paint of the 1925 renovations with the original colour scheme.[59] In 1969 desk-lights were reinstalled and the floodlighting of the dome was improved, making the Camera far less gloomy at night.[60] It may be at this point that the floor of the Upper Camera was covered and a raised floor constructed around the ambulatory.

Following discussions over 1970-73, it was decided by a decree of Council to close Radcliffe Square to traffic, including the installation of a movable barrier extending from the southern wall of the Bodleian over Catte Street. This was enacted in November 1973. In 1988, echoing 1814, a dinner was held in the Camera for Charles, the Prince of Wales, as part of a campaign to raise funds for the Bodleian.

[54] Clipsham, which a great deal of Oxford's monumental buildings had been refaced in during the late 19th/early 20th century, was the project's refacing stone of choice when the Headington freestone of the buildings required replacing, though the project sought to retain original material where possible.
[55] 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) 23-31; Oxford University Archives Ref: ST 44.
[56] *Strategic Stone Study: A Building Stone Atlas of Oxfordshire* (English Heritage; March, 2011) 6.
[57] *Supra*, Note 52.
[58] The original cast lead, inactive after 200 years in the sun and prized by the nuclear industry, was sold for £80 a ton, and replaced with milled lead.
[59] Duck-egg blue and coffee, with gilding on the rosettes, in the dome. Silver-birch and magnolia on the gallery. The redecoration took 7 months at a cost of £10,000.
[60] *Supra*, Note 40.

It was decided in 1989 that iron railings, originally fitted in 1827 and removed in 1936, should be returned to Radcliffe Square. The original 1989 planning application was relatively unambitious and sought merely to place studs and railings in front of the windows and alcoves, presumably to prevent the public sitting in or leaning against them. This application was withdrawn and a more comprehensive application was submitted in 1991. The 1991 application sought to restore the original railings, as well as adding additional cycle parking. Oxford City Council refused to grant listed building consent and noted that: '…the proposed rail, supported on posts, would not preserve or enhance the appearance of the Radcliffe Camera and its setting as a building of special architectural and historic interest. It is considered that the present open setting of the lawns should be maintained.' This was clearly no longer deemed the case in March 1993, when a December 1992 application for new railings and an extension of the paved areas was approved.[61] The extant railings were subsequently fitted.

Figure 16. Radcliffe Square from the southwest in 1990. Note the lack of railings and compare the discolouration with Figure 15

Listed building consent was granted in 1996 for a temporary internal refuge for invigilators on the main staircase, from which access to the building is now controlled.

In 2008, a listed building consent application was made for the installation of electronic book sensors at the entrances to both reading rooms; however, this remains under consideration, though sensors have since been fitted in the Lower Camera. During the Long Vacation in 2010, scaffolding was set up within the Upper Camera, reaching to the level of the dome, in order to facilitate the removal of the windows around the drum. These were conserved off-site before being refitted. The interior of the room was cleaned and conserved at the same time.

The construction of the New Bodleian Library in 1936-40 relieved a great deal of pressure on the Radcliffe Camera, meaning that it was no longer required to serve as a stack, though the

[61] Applications 89/00964/L, 91/00696/L, and 92/01221/L. Available online: http://public.oxford.gov.uk/online-applications/propertyDetails.do?activeTab=relatedCases&keyVal=HZCWQWMFFA000, accessed 20th March 2012.

underground book-store beneath Radcliffe Square remained in use. The decision in 2010 to relocate the New Bodleian's major stack space to an off-site location allowed the conversion of the underground book-store into reading rooms as the Gladstone Link. Access to the new reading room required the removal of the early 20th-century stairs (and associated timber-panelled librarian's workstation) in the Lower Camera and their replacement with a new set of stairs and an associated lift, which were more suited for access to a public reading room than to a book-store.

The Radcliffe Camera continues to serve as a reading room of the Bodleian Library. Access is now via the 1863 entrance on the northern side onto the main staircase, from which readers can travel up or down to their desired reading room. The Lower Camera now provides access to the southern end of the Gladstone Link, whilst the northern end is accessed from within the Old Bodleian, emphasising the connection between the buildings as constituent parts of a single institution. The layout of the Upper Camera has changed substantially since its construction and it now reflects most closely the 1935 alterations. The reintroduction of the railings in Radcliffe Square, along with the stairs on the northern side of the building, mean that the exterior experience is something close to that of 1863-1926, though the stonework is now in a far better condition.

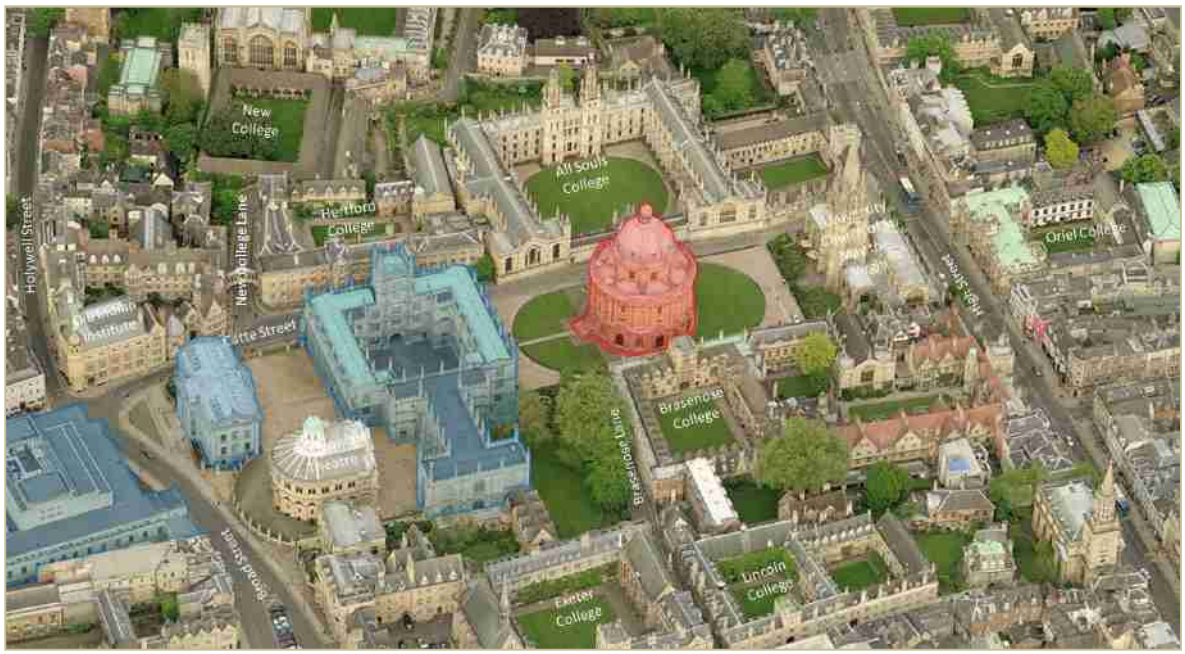

Figure 17. The Radcliffe Camera (red), orientated with east at the top of the image. The other buildings of the Bodleian Group are highlighted in blue

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SIGNIFICANCE

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3 SIGNIFICANCE

NPPF paragraph 128 specifies that in assessing planning applications:

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

The significance of the Radcliffe Camera has been publically recognised by its designation as a Grade I listed building in 1954 (see **Appendix 1**); and it was 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.*'[62]

3.1 Significance as part of the City Centre, Radcliffe Square, the Oxford Skyline, and the Central (City and University) Conservation Area

The Radcliffe Camera is one of the most distinctive buildings in Oxford and makes an indispensible contribution to its world-renowned skyline **(Figure 18)**. Its characteristic dome is not visible at most points within the city centre, but can be seen from most points around the outskirts of the city and its silhouette, as the primary component of the 'dreaming spires' configuration, has become something of a *de facto* logo for Oxford. It is of

Figure 18. The Oxford skyline from Boars Hill, looking northeast. Photograph by Andrew Gray

[62] **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.

unrivalled significance within the streetscape.

Radcliffe Square has become a focus for tourism within the city as well as forming the effective centre of the University. The enclosing buildings around Radcliffe Square act to obscure the area from the surrounding streets. From High Street, the only real indication that an architectural configuration of world-class importance is located moments away is given by brief glimpses provided where St. Mary's Lane and Catte Street punctuate the street. From the northern end of Catte Street, beside the Old Schools, a glimpse can be had of the curve of the Camera, enticing the viewer towards Radcliffe Square to investigate the entirety (**Figure 20**). As one approaches eastwards along Brasenose Lane, the western elevation of the Codrington Library of All Souls College is all that can be seen until one nears the end of the lane (**Figure 19**). This enclosed location engenders an effect of delayed gratification and discovery for the visitor. Even when one travels specifically to Radcliffe Square, as all tourist groups in Oxford do (**Figure 21**), the area is something of a concealed surprise, feeling like a secret being discovered. As one moves along any of the approaching lanes, the Camera is slowly revealed, until the entirety of Radcliffe Square is opened up, revealing a wide space characterised by an eclectic mix of distinct yet complementary architecture now united by a consistent limestone palette and dominated by the imposing verticality of the Radcliffe Camera in the centre. The growing revelation of the space adds to the already-significant impact of the architecture.

Figure 19. The curve of the Radcliffe Camera looking eastwards from Brasenose Lane

Figure 20. The curve of the Radcliffe Camera as spied looking southwards along Catte Street

The Baroque of the Radcliffe Camera contrasts starkly with the Gothic of St. Mary's and All Souls and it is easy to imagine how incongruous this may have seemed when first constructed, yet Gibbs's boldness paid off, resulting in a space 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.' [63]

[63] Tyack, G., *op. cit.* 171; Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *op. cit.* 254.

'*The importance of the area not only stems from the fact that this where the university evolved but also that so much of the original material used in the development of the Radcliffe Square complex still exists. As the colleges expanded, they built onto the existing college buildings rather than knock them down and start again…The Square demonstrates a chronology of architectural styles culminating in the grand centrepiece of the Camera. Whilst different in style, the buildings are unified by materials and use.*' [64]

Figure 21. Tourists in Radcliffe Square

There is no doubt that the Radcliffe Camera is the dominant feature of Radcliffe Square, in many cases noted at the expense of all else. Despite changes in the lawn, railings, and paving materials, the appearance of Radcliffe Square has actually changed very little since the construction of the Camera, so it really does stand as the culmination of the development of the space.

3.2 Significance as a constituent element of the Bodleian Complex

The relationship between the Radcliffe Camera and the other library buildings of the Bodleian Library complex is of primary significance. The Radcliffe Camera was built as a distinct institution but from its earliest days has had a complex relationship with the Bodleian and the University. Gibbs's original decision to place the staircase at the northern end, necessitating entrance from any cardinal point but the north, as well as the building's alignment slightly to the east of the archway of the Old Schools Quadrangle, suggests either a conscious move to distance it from the

Figure 22. The rusticated base of the Radcliffe Camera viewed through the arches of the Old Schools Quadrangle from beneath the arch of the Clarendon Building

[64] *Radcliffe Square: Character Appraisal* (Oxford City Council, draft document).

Bodleian or an unconscious acceptance that it was a distinct institution. That being said, the Camera has always been viewed by the University as an affiliated institution, and this seems to have been expected and accepted by Radcliffe's Trustees (if not by Francis Wise). This relationship was formalised by the loan of the Camera to the Bodleian, codified in 1866, and cemented by the creation of the Underground Bookstore (now the Gladstone Link), physically connecting the Old Bodleian and the Camera, in 1912.

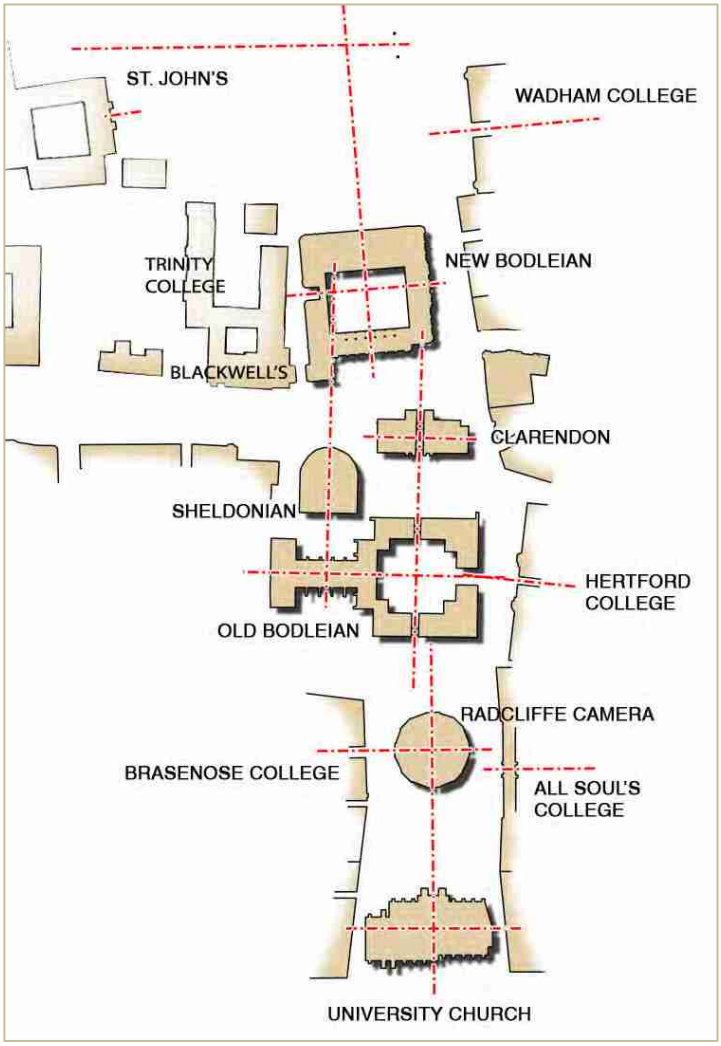

Figure 23.The geometry of the Radcliffe Square-Catte Street-Broad Street East configuration

The construction of the northern stairs and entrance in 1863, following the decision to make a loan of the building to the Bodleian, suggests an attempt to create a stronger visual relationship between the buildings. The arches of the Old Bodleian and the Clarendon Building are aligned in such a way that an axial vista is created, allowing one to look from Radcliffe Square to the George VI entrance of the New Bodleian Library. Visually the effect does not quite work for the Radcliffe Camera, which is out of alignment with the other buildings, and its 1863 entrance cannot be seen until one enters Radcliffe Square, robbing it of this axiality; however, the western curve of the Camera is visible along this axial route (**Figure 22**) and the ultimate effect is that one can move from Radcliffe Square to Broad Street and the New Bodleian without leaving the University's monumental core (**Figure 23**). The significance of the Radcliffe Camera in this way is that it is a major component of the interacting monumental centrepiece of both the city and the 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.

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 significant, as the

Bodleian Library is (and traditionally has been) considered the historic and academic core of Oxford University.

3.3 Architectural and Aesthetic Significance

3.3.1 Exterior Elevations

'*The ground floor is rusticated; smooth, wide-jointed blocks. There are eight large arched and pedimented bays all originally open – til 1863 – and eight intermediate bays with niches…The upper floor has coupled Corinthian columns, and the bays now alternate between windows and niches. Both are in two tiers. The large windows have pediments, the small one lugs top and bottom. This is similar in the bays as in the niches. Top with balustrade and balls, and then drum and the dome, which is the chief distinctive mark of the Oxford skyline. The drum has windows between buttress piers, and the dome – not of stone – is more elongated than that of St. Paul's, i.e. rather of the St. Peter's type. Pronounced ribs; small lantern*.'[65]

The Radcliffe Camera represents the pinnacle of Oxford's grand tradition of monumental construction in the early 18th century. As mentioned above, as the latest of an eclectic mix of buildings, it also represents the culmination of styles in Radcliffe Square. The aesthetic value of the Radcliffe Camera was appreciated from the moment of its construction and the 1747 *Gentlemen and Lady's Pocket Companion for Oxford* described it as the 'most magnificent Structure in Oxford.'[66] The aesthetic value of the Radcliffe Camera remains a major contributing factor in its significance and it is a widely appreciated building, even by many who may never experience the interior spaces.

Tatham in 1773 complained that, whilst he thought the building elegant, its setting was inappropriate and its presence lessened the impact of the surrounding buildings.[67] It is such opinions, annoyance at its construction despite appreciation of the building, which highlight the Camera's architectural significance: Gibbs boldly placed a contemporary, Baroque building, undivorced from the influence of 18th-century Rome (and designed by a Catholic), in the heart of Oxford's Gothic centre: '…one cannot but admire the courage of an age and an architect boldly building in the style of the time right in the midst of some of the grandest work of past ages. How different from half-hearted attempts to blend the ancient with the modern which characterise post [inter]-war Oxford architecture.'[68]

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[65] Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *op. cit.*, 263-4.
[66] Cooper, M., *The Gentleman and Lady's Pocket Companion for Oxford: Being a Short Account of what is most worthy of observation in the City, and in each College of the University* (London, 1747) 13; available online: http://find.galegroup.com/ecco/infomark.do?&source=gale&prodId=ECCO&userGroupName=oxford&tabID=T001&docId=CW107707712&type=multipage&contentSet=ECCOArticles&version=1.0&docLevel=FASCIMILE, accessed 28th March 2012.
[67] Tatham, E., *Oxonia explicata & ornata: Proposals for disengaging and beautifying the university and city of Oxford* (Oxford, 1773) 15-16; available online: http://find.galegroup.com/ecco/infomark.do?&source=gale&prodId=ECCO&userGroupName=oxford&tabID=T001&docId=CW105665810&type=multipage&contentSet=ECCOArticles&version=1.0&docLevel=FASCIMILE, accessed 28th March 2012.
[68] Betjemen, J., *An Oxford University Chest* (London, 1938) 170.

3.3.2 Interior Spaces

'*The ground floor, originally open, is surmounted by a shallow dome, and the architectural forms are suitably plain and massive. Upstairs is the library itself, made up of a single circular domed reading-room surrounded by an arcade with massive piers articulated by Ionic pilasters; the bookcases are all placed in the outer ambulatory, behind the arcade, with an upper row reached from the gallery, leaving the central space empty of furniture. As in the centrally planned churches of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque which Gibbs had seen and studied, light enters both through the outer windows and through the drum on which the dome satisfyingly rests. And, as so often in Gibbs's buildings, the resulting effect of light and space is enhanced by the decorative plasterwork, carried out under the supervision of Gibbs's collaborator Giuseppe Artari, with the help of the Danish plasterer Charles Stanley and the local craftsman Thomas Roberts. There is no finer classical interior in Oxford, and few in England.*'[69]

Figure 24. Piers and gallery of the Upper Camera

Figure 25. Dome of the Lower Camera

The interior of the Radcliffe Camera consists of three spaces: the Upper Camera (**Figure 24**); the Lower Camera (**Figure 25**); and the staircase (**Figure 26**). These are all significant spaces with substantial aesthetic value, though the Upper Camera is by far the most significant area. The decorative plaster ceiling is of particular aesthetic value, as is the carved stone decoration. The components of the interior, notably the thick piers with their ionic pilasters,

[69] Tyack, G., *op cit.*, 167-171.

impart an imposing sense of mass to which the lightness of the dome stands in stark contrast. Tyack's estimation of its significance (above) is correct and not disputed. Unfortunately the central space is not empty of furniture but is dominated by the 1935 central enclosure, which is aesthetically intrusive.

The Lower Camera has changed substantially since its inception as an open undercroft. It remains an attractive space with substantial aesthetic value. Betjemen described it as: 'This circular composition, many-domed, and delicately ornamented, is almost as impressive as the reading room above.'[70] This may overstate the case, but it remains a distinguished space of some significance, its domed stone ceiling being its most significant feature. Alterations, notably the enclosure of the archways, have been relatively kind to the space and it retains an attractive character.

Figure 26. The upper landing of the stairwell

The staircase is less significant than the reading rooms though it remains an imposing space. It is the area of the building that has suffered the most from later alteration, notably the punctuation of the intermediate landing by the northern entrance and stairs in 1863. It has a wrought iron handrail and there is a niche with a bust of Gibbs, donated by T.C. Bucknall Estcourt in 1846. The space rises to the height of the gallery in the Upper Camera and its ceiling is similarly groin vaulted.

3.4 Archaeological Significance

The Radcliffe Camera is constructed on a site that was extensively occupied in the mediaeval and post-mediaeval periods (**Figure 2**) and is within the heart of Oxford City Council's City Centre Archaeology Area. Oxford has a rich archaeological heritage including: Bronze Age barrows (late third millennium BC), with evidence for Iron Age infilling of the double-ditched barrow in the Science Area; ring ditches suggesting Iron Age settlement; Roman earthworks; a Roman burial and several ditches near the Lindemann Building; Late Saxon pottery from the site of Jesus College; mediaeval (post-1066) ridge and furrow, suggesting an intensive agricultural use in this period; Civil War earthworks; and post-mediaeval field boundaries. With this in mind, it is not inconceivable that the site of Radcliffe Square may also have experienced earlier occupation.

[70] *Supra*, Note 67.

The deep excavation associated with the construction of the Underground Bookstore will likely have destroyed any archaeological material on the northern side of Radcliffe Square; however, the southern side of the area, between St. Mary's and the Camera, is likely to contain significant material with potential evidential value.

3.5 Historical and Cultural Significance

The Radcliffe Camera has substantial illustrative value regarding the architectural development of 18th-century Oxford and the importance of private munificence to such enterprise. The rejection by Gibbs, a firm Tory, of contemporary Palladianism, a venture associated politically with the Whigs, stands as a monument to the staunch Toryism of the 18th-century University. The building is also significant for its substantial association value, being linked to such figures as John Radcliffe, Nicholas Hawksmoor, James Gibbs, and Sir Henry Acland. There is also some, albeit superficial, association value with the great figures of the Napoleonic Wars due to the celebratory dinner held there in 1814.

The architectural achievement of the Radcliffe Camera, combined with its scale and central location, has made it inextricably linked to both the urban and institutional characters of Oxford, imbuing it with an iconic status. It is a building associated with academic achievement and an inevitable feature of any depiction of Oxford. It is difficult to overstate how strongly this grand and venerable building is now linked to the popular image of Oxford University. This is perhaps ironic considering its relatively recent acquisition by the Bodleian; however, this does in many ways represent the particular history of the University as a series of disparate institutions with their own distinct histories and developments that have coalesced successfully under a single banner whilst retaining some heterogeneity.

3.6 Significance as a Reading Room

The building continues to fulfil its original function as a reading room, with the addition of the Lower Camera in 1863. It is a major reading room for the Bodleian Library, in this way making an important contribution to Oxford's unrivalled academic achievement. It holds collections on: General and British History; Archaeology and Anthropology; Film Studies; English Literature; and Theology. The provision of desk space reduces pressure on the Bodleian's other reading rooms. Equally, the Radcliffe Camera is a pleasant place to work in its own right and provides a grand setting, very much in line with readers' expectations of an historic Oxford library. The building also provides one of two entrances to the reading rooms of the Gladstone Link.

The building has always had some affiliation, however ambiguous this may have been in its early days, with the University. The retention of its function as a library linked to Oxford University is central to its historical and continued significance.

4

VULNERABILITIES

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4 VULNERABILITIES

The ability of the Radcliffe Camera to fulfil its current function

The Radcliffe Camera continues to fulfil much the same function as it was originally designed to, that of a reading room affiliated with Oxford University. The upper space was designed for this function and is well suited to it, with abundant natural light, though Gibbs's original rectangular designs would have allowed for better use to be made of the space. Whilst the lower space was not designed with this function in mind, it is well suited to it. Whilst the function of the lower space has changed, from an open undercroft to an enclosed reading room, this use remains in line with the original intention for the building as a whole. The continued use of the Radcliffe Camera as a reading room affiliated with Oxford University is central to the character of this hugely significant building and is important to its ongoing maintenance and conservation. The listed building 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 will 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 Radcliffe Camera 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 building is limited by the both the original design, which relies on the spiral staircase at the northern end, and subsequent alterations, notably the 1863 stairs and entrance. Such a lack of consideration being given to accessibility is typical of design in both periods.

There is no ramped access to the building and access is via 13 steps. From within the building there are 12 steps down to the Lower Camera and 37 steps up to the Upper Camera. There is no disabled lavatory within the building. There is no lift access within the building, though there is lift access from the Lower Camera to the Gladstone Link. Members of staff are available and make an effort to aid readers as necessary, being able to move material to an accessible reading room as required.[71]

The limitations of access through the main entrance are unfortunate, as ideally all users should be able enter the building through the same point and move freely around the building without disadvantage. The decision to relocate the main entrance to the northern end in 1863

[71] Bodleian Libraries Library Details, http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/services/disability/access/details, accessed 29th March 2012.

is also unfortunate in this respect, as access, at least to the Lower Camera, was far more feasible through the original entrance via the archway to the south.

4.2 Maintenance

4.2.1 Exterior Elevations and Setting

Figure 27 Left, weathering to rusticated stone base, note repaired cornice. Top right, repairs to stonework on ground floor. Bottom right, damage to stonework on ground floor

The exterior elevations and dome of the Radcliffe Camera are of high significance. The exterior of the building is of both historical and aesthetic value. It contributes substantially to the surrounding area (one of the most significant architectural spaces in the world) as well as being significant in its own right. The exterior has been refaced in parts, certainly in 1913 and 1965-68, though possibly also earlier. Whilst there is patching (Clipsham patching on Taynton stone) evident on the upper floor, it is the rusticated Headington freestone (with Portland stone repairs) of the lower storey which stands out, exhibiting the damage typical of this soft stone. In places, the hard lines of the repaired cornices and pediments stand out suspiciously against the soft edges of the freestone base from which they protrude (**Figure 27**). Though, where they have been retained in their original condition it is clear why their repair was necessary. Despite its patchiness, the upper storey does appear more a uniform

whole than the lower floor, and certainly less noticeably worn. The Headington hardstone plinth has aged characteristically well. The iron gates, conserved in 1959, are in excellent condition. The 1863 stairs on the northern side stand out as a clear later addition.

In general, the exterior has aged well due to timely repair and necessary patches of refacing; however, it remains open to weathering and erosion (especially the remaining elements of Headington freestone), potential vandalism, and pollution; damage which could detract from the significance of the heritage asset.

The dome and cupola have undergone regular repair during their lifetimes; these have at times been substantial and the lead covering may have been replaced. The dome is in many ways as important as the elevations to the significance of the building, as it is this distinctive feature which can be seen from a distance and contributes so effectively to Oxford's iconic skyline. Historic graffiti is preserved scratched into the glass of the windows in the drum.

The primary changes to the landscape setting of the building since its construction have been the introduction of the lawn and the railings. Radcliffe Square has been refaced multiple times in the last two and a half centuries, notably the tarmac along the eastern end, which remains a neutral feature, but generally in a sympathetic manner. The street surface in Radcliffe Square has been independently Grade II listed since 1972. The retention of this quality of setting within a busy urban centre is worthy of note and should be maintained.

4.2.2 Interior Spaces

The interior spaces of the building, notably the Upper Camera, are of comparable significance with the exterior. 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.

4.2.2.1 Upper Camera

The Upper Camera is the most significant space within the building. It is essentially a single double-height room with an ambulatory and gallery around the exterior. Massive piers, embellished with Ionic pilasters, support the drum of the dome which so effectively draws the eye upwards, imparting a sense of verticality to a space that feels already massive in scale (**Figure 24**). The decorative plasterwork of the dome is of high significance. It is in a good

condition with some minor cracks that pose no structural risk.[72] The carved stone decoration on the spandrels and along the cornice is also of significance.

Gibbs constructed the floor in Portland stone interspersed with Bremen stone (he eschewed black and white marble due to the risk of condensation in the originally unheated library)[73] and this was clearly an attractive feature (e.g. **Figures 9** and **11**), though it is currently covered by more than one layer of later flooring. There is a modern raised floor around the ambulatory. It is expected that it may have undergone damage through early gas and electricity installations which seem to have focused on the centre of the room. The 1936 central enclosure may have some practical value but is visually intrusive (**Figure 28**), dominating the centre of this significant space. Similarly, the issue desk in the north-eastern portion of the ambulatory is of practical benefit whilst being visually intrusive, though to a lesser extent than the central enclosure.

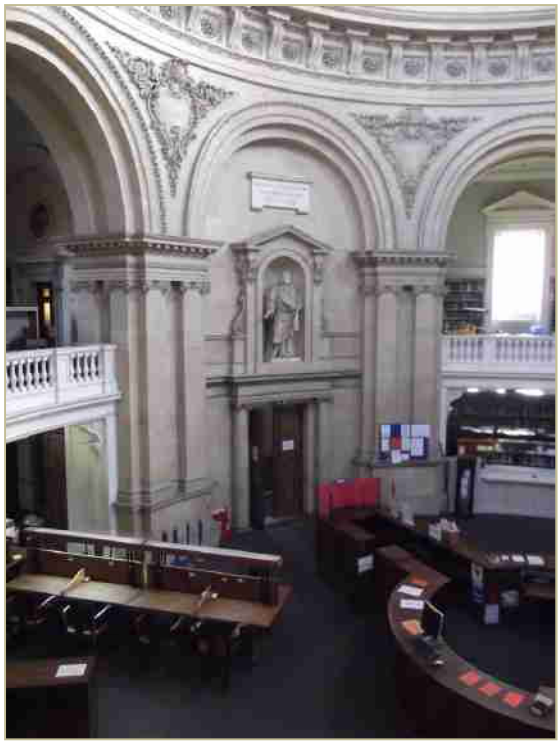

Figure 28. The Upper Camera looking down from the gallery. Note the central enclosure on the right-hand side of the image

The space is well suited to its use as a reading room, though its circular design does create some problems with the efficient placement of desks.

4.2.2.2 Lower Camera

The Lower Camera is objectively less significant than the Upper Camera. Whilst intended to be an impressive space, it was not designed to stun the viewer to as great an extent as the Upper Camera, being described by Gibbs, with perhaps a hint of false modesty, as a 'Rustic basement.'[74] There is an ambulatory consisting of a series of groin vaults, with pendentives in each supporting a perfunctory stone dome. Each small dome has a central boss surrounded by lozenge- and hexagonal-shaped decorations. The ambulatory surrounds a shallow central stone dome supported by 8 pendentives (**Figure 25**). The dome consists of a central shield surrounded by 8 alternating panels of geometric decoration. Gibbs's original floor was an elaborate stone pavement radiating outwards from a central point, but this was covered with a wooden floor in 1863 and now has a modern covering.

[72] Holden Conservation Services, *Conservation Condition Report and Treatment Recommendations: The Plaster Ceiling of the Radcliffe Camera, Oxford* (Report, 2009).
[73] Gibbs, J., *op. cit.*, 11.
[74] *Ibid*, 7.

4.2.2.3 Stairwell

The stairwell rises from the ground-floor level to the height of the ceiling of the gallery of the Upper Camera, of which it effectively forms a bay. The original spiral staircase is in good condition, and has some attractive iron screens decorated with floral motifs. There is a decorative plaster ceiling of some quality. A doorway leads to the small room which once served as the muniments room, this has a light well and a ventilation shaft. At the foot of the stairs there is a doorway which leads to lavatories, extended under the 1863 external stairs. The invigilators' refuge is relatively unobtrusive as one enters through the 1863 entrance, though looking from above or below stands out clearly as a later addition of only practical merit. Some installation of services has not been particularly sympathetic, for instance it is clear where wire courses for electrical lighting have been cut into the walls.

Figure 29. Decorative plaster ceiling in the stairwell

4.3 Pressures on Space

The pressure to find space for acquisitions and readers has been a constant feature of the history of the Bodleian Library and remains a major issue to this day. The Radcliffe Camera is a significant library in a central location which imparts upon it practical as well as monumental significance. The practical benefits of such a library space in central Oxford are substantial and the dynamic nature of the University as an institution means that pressures on the space will also be dynamic. Past alterations have not always been entirely sympathetic to the character of the space, e.g. the 1930s central enclosure in the Upper Camera, and whilst alterations may be expected in the future as pressures on the space change, it is anticipated that these will operate within a better understanding of the building's significance than previous schemes.

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CONSERVATION POLICY

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5 CONSERVATION POLICY

Having established the significance of the Radcliffe Camera as a heritage asset, and having identified ways in which the significance of the Radcliffe Camera 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 Radcliffe Camera. It needs to be reviewed regularly, and revised as appropriate to take account of additional knowledge and changing priorities.

5.1 The Radcliffe Camera's continued use as a reading room affiliated to Oxford University is important to its historical and 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 Radcliffe Camera as a reading room affiliated to Oxford University represents an important aspect of its continued significance. The building was designed to be used and enjoyed as well as serving as a grand monument to Radcliffe's memory. Limited alterations will inevitably be required to allow it to retain this significance in line with modern standards and requirements (for instance, telecommunications infrastructure or environmental standards for the storage of collections). If alteration is required in the future it should be permitted with the following provisos:

- Any alterations must be sympathetic to the Radcliffe Camera'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 Radcliffe Camera 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 design and this has been exacerbated by the 1863 alterations. Access will remain a major concern in any plans developed for the site; 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 the Radcliffe Camera 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 and the surrounding area. Notably it must respect the Radcliffe Camera's location adjacent to listed buildings (e.g. Brasenose College, St. Mary's Church, All Souls College, and the Old Bodleian), and its status as part of the Bodleian Complex

The Radcliffe Camera's position amongst the listed buildings of Radcliffe Square is central to its significance as a primary component of the monumental core of the City and University. All the buildings within this area are of high significance, though the Radcliffe Camera does have a special status as the centrepiece of this composition. Any plans for alterations should take into account the relationship between the listed buildings in this internationally-significant group.

5.6 Conservation of specific factors contributing to overall significance

The Radcliffe Camera possesses various internal and external features of some significance (**Sections 3.1** and **3.3**). An effort should be made to identify and conserve original 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 the 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, roof, and dome, will respect their significance and the contribution they make to the setting

The exterior elevations of the Radcliffe Camera are of international significance, playing a central rôle in the Radcliffe Square configuration, which forms the monumental centre of Oxford. Equally, the dome plays a central part in the much-vaunted 'dreaming spires' skyline. The Radcliffe Camera is of great significance as a component within its setting; however, the elevations are also of aesthetic significance in and of themselves, divorced from their setting. Patching and various repairs have affected the aesthetic experience, yet their detraction is minimal and the building retains its visual impact. The 1863 stairs on the northern side of the building are of less significance than the original fabric of the building, and are ultimately incongruous to the visual experience. The iron gates in the arches of the rusticated base are original and of high aesthetic value. 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 the Upper Camera, including the gallery level and the interior of the dome, will respect the significance of both the individual elements and the space as a whole

The Upper Camera is the most significant internal space in the building. The unique aesthetic achievement is created through a combination of the architecture and the fitted furniture. Broadly-proportioned piers draw the eye upwards towards the decoratively-plastered ceiling of the dome. The original, fitted bookcases are of some significance and enhance the character of the space as a place of learning. The desks have been fitted in various stages and they match the space in some cases better than in others, e.g. the 1930s central enclosure feels particularly incongruous. The 1889 iron staircases are of less significance than the original features, but do not detract from the space. In terms of furniture layout, the space has been configured in many different ways throughout its life and will no doubt change again in the future. Any alterations that are planned within this significant space, whether to the architectural and fitted elements or to its arrangement, 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**.

5.6.3 Any alterations to be made to the interior of the Lower Camera will respect the significance of both the individual elements and the space as a whole

The Lower Camera is a significant space. It has been altered substantially since its construction, most notably with the fitting of the glass partitions in the archways in 1863, creating an internal space. That being said, it remains an attractive space and a reading room of unique character. 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 stairwell will respect the significance of the space

The stairwell is the least significant of the three major internal spaces within the building, yet remains of some value. This area has been heavily altered since its construction, notably with the introduction of the new entrance at the intermediate landing in 1863 and the introduction of the temporary porter's refuge in 1996. The space remains of some significance and is a necessary feature of the experience of any visitor the building. Any alterations that are planned that may affect this space will only be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for its character in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

5.7 In the vein of NPPF paragraph 110, efforts should be made to ensure that the Radcliffe Camera'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 Radcliffe Camera or in Radcliffe Square, 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 unlikely that there is any significant archaeological material beneath the northern side of the Radcliffe Camera or Radcliffe Square due to the construction of the Underground Book Store (now the Gladstone Link) in 1909-12; however, the extensive mediaeval occupation of the area makes it likely that there may be material at the southern side of the site (**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 retaining an asset

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

All buildings need to be routinely maintained 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 Radcliffe Camera and to all other members of the University who have responsibility for the building or its contents

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 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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6.7 Image Credits

- Cover and chapter covers: Estates Services photographs.

- Figure 1: Adapted from Google Maps (see **Section 6.6**).

- Figure 2: Courtesy of Oxford University Archives, Ref. 28/33.

- Figure 3: Wilkinson Eyre Architects, *New Bodleian Library: Design and Access Statement* (March, 2010).

- Figure 4: Myres, J.N.L, (1949) Pl.7, 30.

- Figure 5: From *The Conveyor* (blog of the Bodleian Special Collections), used with permission of Sarah Wheale: http://theconveyor.files.wordpress.com/2008/08/camera-model-12.jpg, accessed 11th April 2012.

- Figure 6: Beddard, R.A., (1984) Pl.1 and Gibbs, J., (1747) Pl.V.

- Figure 7: Estates Services photograph.

- Figure 8: Print of J. Hill after F. Mackenzie.

- Figure 9: Gibbs, J., (1747) Pl.XIV.

- Figure 10: From English Heritage Viewfinder (see **Section 6.6**).

- Figure 11: Left, print of J. Bluck after F. Mackenzie. Right, Bodleian Library Ref: G.A.Oxon.40.795, vol.3.

- Figure 12: Left, Gibbs, J., (1747) Pl.I. Right, photograph by H.W. Taunt from English Heritage Viewfinder (see **Section 6.6**).

- Figures 13 and 14: Bodleian Library Special Collections Ref: G.A.Oxon.a.46.

- Figure 15: Kersting, A.F., and Dick, M., (1956) 15.

- Figure 16: Estates Services photograph.

- Figure 17: Adapted from Bing Maps (see **Section 6.6**).

- Figure 18: From Wikipedia Commons, by Andrew Gray: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/82/Oxford_from_Boars_Hill.jpg, accessed 11th April 2012.

- Figures 19-22: Estates Services photograph.

- Figure 23: Wilkinson Eyre Architects, *New Bodleian Library: Design and Access Statement* (March, 2010).

- Figures 24-29: Estates Services photographs.

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7 APPENDICES

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7 APPENDICES

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: RADCLIFFE CAMERA

List Entry Number: 1099146

Location

RADCLIFFE CAMERA, 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: 245749

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
Radcliffe Camera
SP 5106 SE 9/148A 12.1.54.
I GV
2.

RCHM 1. Built 1737-49 by the benefaction of Dr John Radcliffe to the designs of James Gibbs; William Townesend and William Smith, or Warwick, being the master-masons. The lower storeys were built in Headington freestone and the upper part in Taynton stone. In 1863 the arches of the ground floor were glazed and a north entrance made with steps up to it. Repairs were made in 1913 under the direction of Sir T G Jackson. The facing has been patched in Clipsham stone. For history, see Bibliotheca Radclivinana (1747) and "Exhibition Catalogue" ib. (1949).

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

Listing NGR: SP5159206345

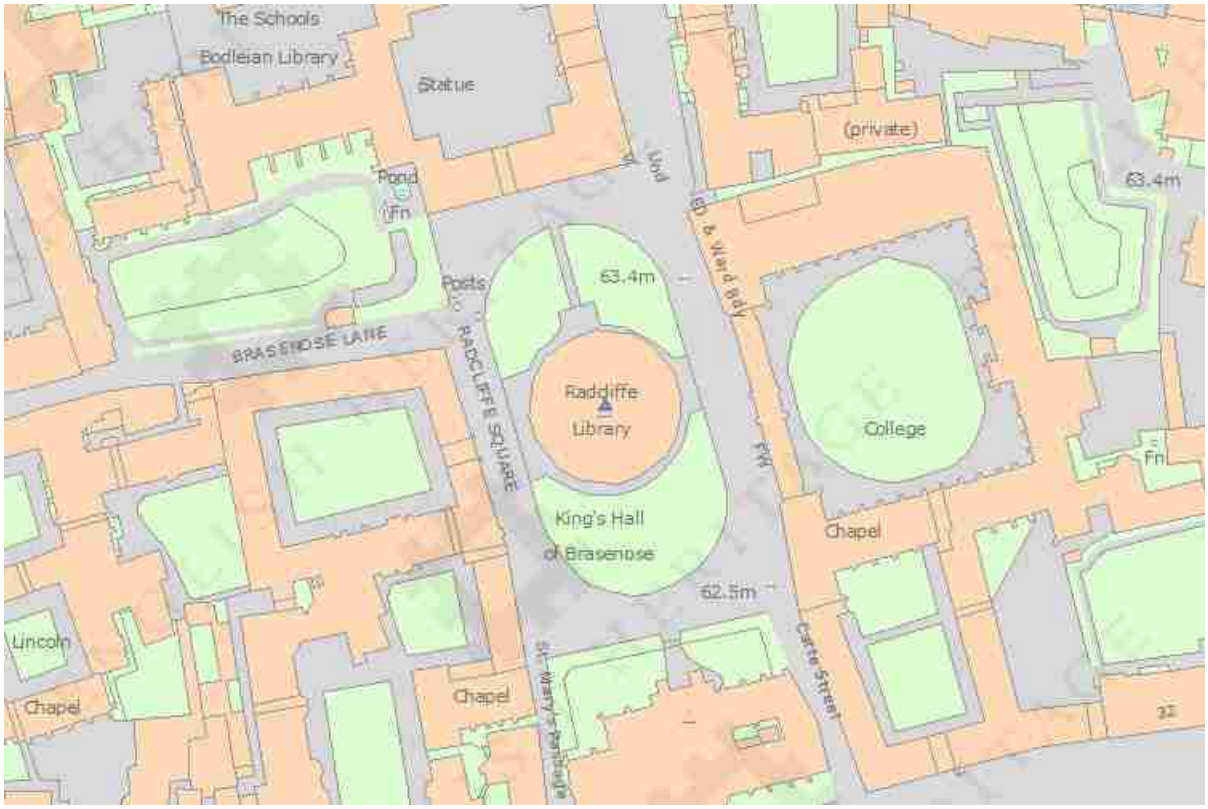
Selected Sources

1. **Book Reference** - *Title:* Bibliotheca Radclivinana - *Date:* 1747
2. **Book Reference** - *Title:* Exhibition Catalogue - *Date:* 1949

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51591 06345

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 - 1099146.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: STREET SURFACE

List entry Number: 1047150

Location

STREET SURFACE, RADCLIFFE SQUARE

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

County	District	District Type	Parish
Oxfordshire	Oxford	District Authority	

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: 245754

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 Street surface SP 5106 SE 9/811 II GV 2. C18. Cobbled street surface. Scenic value.

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

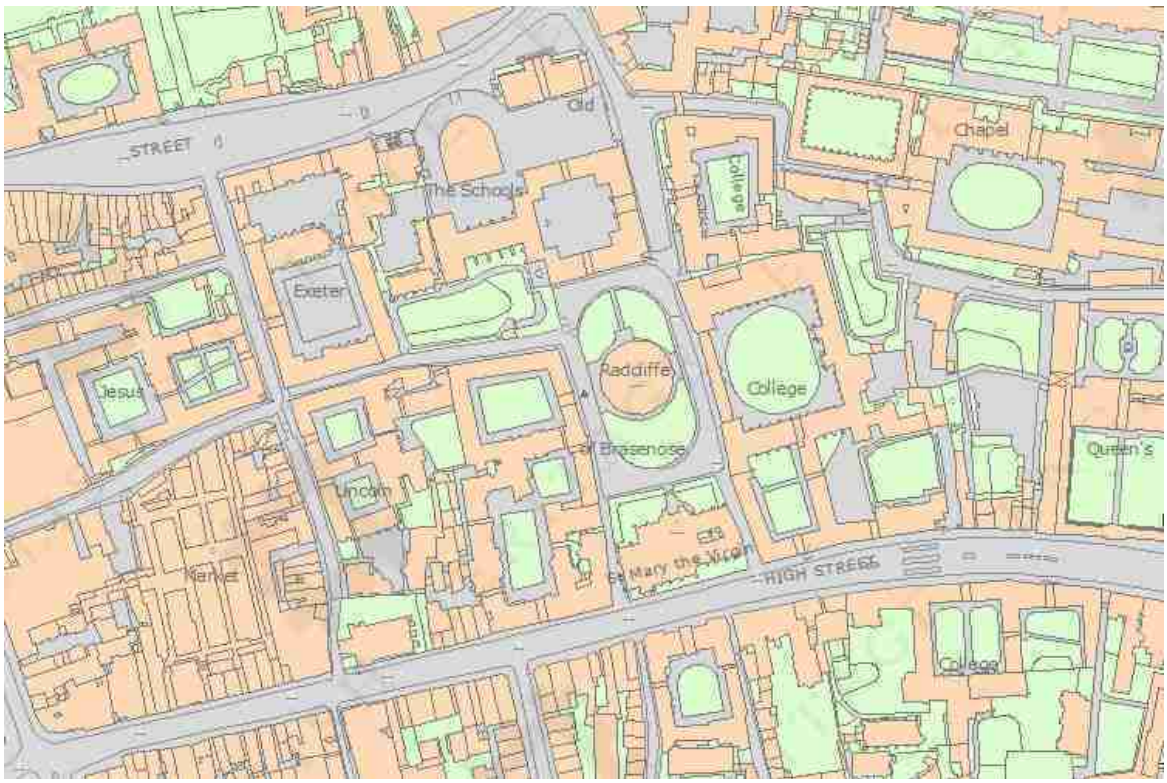
Listing NGR: SP5156506357

Selected Sources

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

National Grid Reference: SP 51569 06338

Map



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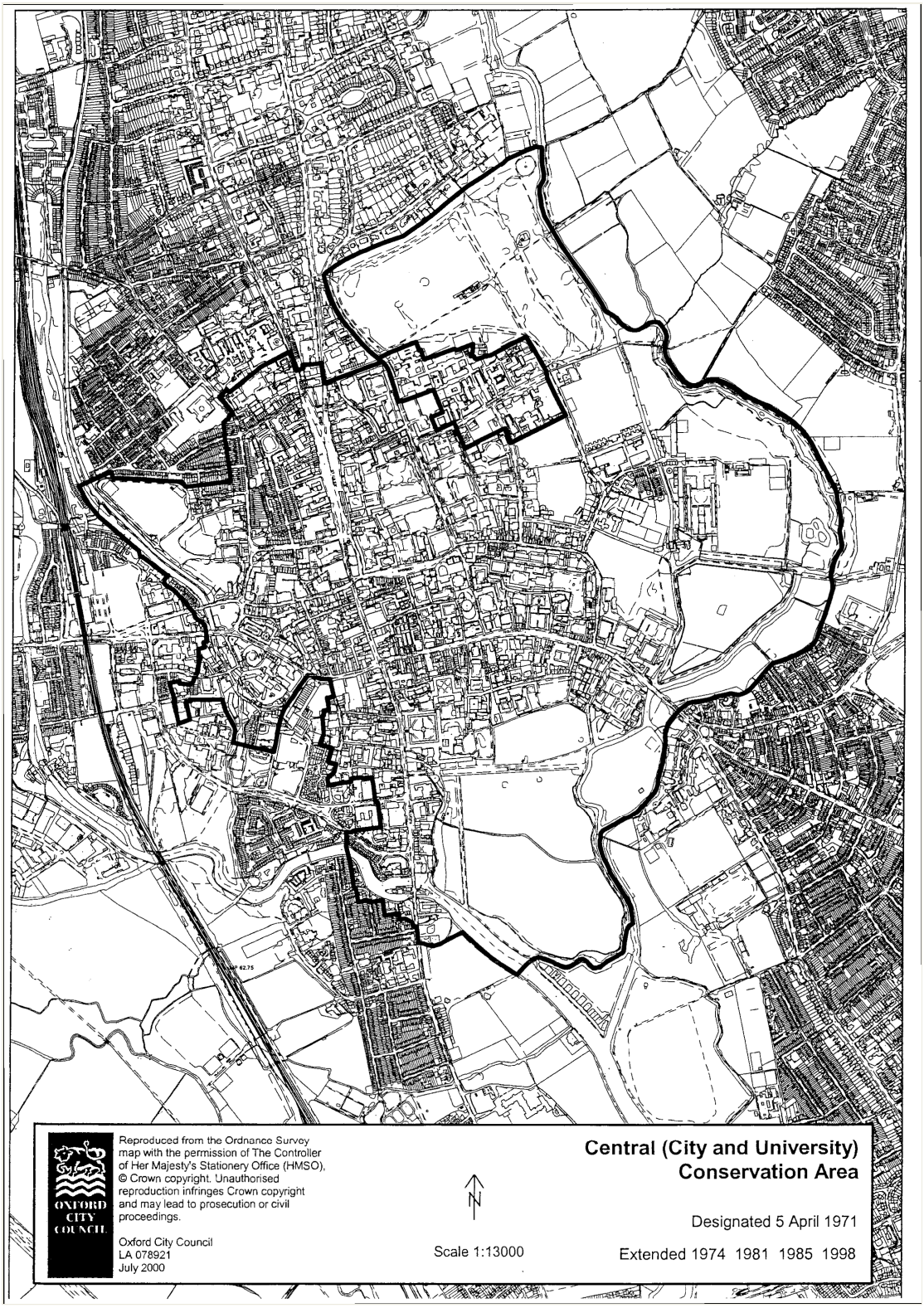
Appendix 2 Conservation Area Description



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 Radcliffe Camera

1712	Letters of the Dean of Christ Church, Francis Atterbury, indicate that Dr. Radcliffe intends to build a library
1712-13	Hawksmoor plans the rebuilding of Brasenose and prepares additional plans for the redevelopment of the entire Catte Street area
13th September 1714	John Radcliffe's will leaves £40,000, to be paid over ten years following the deaths of his sisters, for the building of a library, as well as £150 pa for a librarian and £100 pa for the purchase of books
1714-15	Hawksmoor produces his famous model for the Radcliffe Camera as a rotunda, now in the Bodleian
1715	Radcliffe's first sister, Millicent Radcliffe, dies
November 1717	The Radcliffe Trustees begin the twenty-year negotiations to purchase the houses in what would become Radcliffe Square
1720	An Act of Parliament is passed to enable any corporations within the University to buy ground for building a library
1720	The Trustees approach a series of well-known architects with a view to producing designs for the Library
1733	The northernmost house on Catte Street was demolished, the first in the area to be so
1734	The two surviving architects amongst those approached in 1720, Hawksmoor and Gibbs, are approached to submit plans
1734-5	A model (evidently based on Hawksmoor's design) is commissioned from John Smallwell and constructed at a cost of £87.11*s*
1735	Gibbs submits a practical, rectangular design for the Library, though he is eventually persuaded to conform to Hawksmoor's rotunda design
1736	The death of Radcliffe's last surviving sister, Hannah Redshaw, releases the funds necessary for the construction of the Library
25th March 1736	Hawksmoor dies
4th March 1737	Gibbs, Francis Smith, and William Townesend (masons) attend a meeting with the Trustees. Townesend is instructed 'to prepare Stones and things ready for the building [of] the Library.'
13th May 1737	600 copies of Gibbs's plans are printed off and distributed amongst senior members of the University
17th May 1737	The foundation stone for the Library is laid
April 1738	Francis Smith, one of two appointed stone masons, dies and is replaced by his son, William Smith
1739	William Townsend, the other appointed stone mason, dies and his son, John Townesend, takes over as mason
February 1739	Stone work is complete to the top of the balustrade
March 1740	Gibbs is asked if he wishes to make any further changes to his designs and they are engraved on copper plates and circulated amongst important members of the University to allow objections to be voiced
Autumn 1740	A short break in work is taken due to fears of small pox
March-April 1741	The Trustees halted work on the dome and Gibbs advised that it be finished in wood and lead rather than stone

1741-42	Proposals and estimates for the new dome were submitted by the carpenter, John Phillips
3rd July-27th November 1742	The stone of the dome already completed is removed
March 1743	The timber and lead dome is completed by the end of March. Two workmen are killed in an accident whilst dismantling the scaffolding
March 1743	Work begins on the interior of the building
March 1744	Robert Bakewell of Derby submits his proposals for the construction of the seven ornamental iron gates for the external arcade
1744-45	Michael Rysbrack is commissioned to construct a marble statue of Radcliffe
March 1745	The Clerk of Works, Thomas Jersey, is informed that his services are no longer required and he is replaced by George Shakespeare and William Robinson
1746	The iron work comes in at over estimate, but at a fair price considering fluctuations in costs
March 1746	Gibbs reports that the paving, woodwork, stair rail, and locks, hinges etc. needs competing
1747	Rysbrack's statue is delivered to the Library
March 1747	Thomas Hunt, Laudian Professor of Arabic, reports the exterior of the Library and the surrounding area is complete
1748	The Library is nearing completion and Francis Wise is elected its first librarian and Pudsey Mussendine appointed porter
8th February 1749	The minutes for the Trustee's meeting read: '£40,000 given for building a Library at Oxford which has all been laid out and the Library compleated [sic.] and the tradesmen all paid.'
13th April 1749	The Radcliffe Library is opened, with a week of celebrations costing a reputed £20,000
February 1750	The Trustees resolve to remove the northern wall of St. Mary's churchyard and incorporate that area into Radcliffe Square
1751	The Trustees erected 14 obelisks around the Library for the supporting of lamps to be maintained by the University
1753	The room off the main staircase is converted into a muniment room and a new window cut in
1753	The Trustees order that the pavement around the Library be regravelled
1755-59	The Trustees had the Library take over the maintenance and operation of the lamps in Radcliffe Square and refunded the University its expenses for doing so from 1751-59
April 1759	Francis Wise puts a padlock on the door in order to keep members of the University out. The Vice-Chancellor breaks it off in person
1767	Benjamin Kennicott becomes Librarian upon the death of Francis Wise
Autumn 1769	The cases and shelves in the Library are repaired and painted with gold lettering and figures. The upper windows are repaired, fastened down, reputtied, and repainted with a double coat of paint. The lead work and several leaks in the roof are repaired. A water closet at the foot of the staircase is refitted with piped water as it had become offensive. This was again repaired in 1807
1771	The Kennicott Hebrew Bible is acquired
1780	The Clarendon State Papers are acquired

1783	Thomas Hornsby becomes Librarian
1795	The Trustees order that the iron gates be repaired with copper wards
1801	Encaenia is held in the Library whilst the Sheldonian undergoes repair
1809	Arthur Young publishes his *View of the Agriculture of Oxfordshire* in which he suggests that the Radcliffe Library could be converted to a scientific library, preventing the unnecessary duplication of works held in the Bodleian
1810	George Williams is appointed Radcliffe Librarian upon the death of Hornsby and Bulkeley Bandinel becomes sub-librarian (and later librarian) at the Bodleian: their energies revitalise the Radcliffe Library, which had suffered from a lack of care throughout its life to that point
1810	A committee is established to purchase books for the Library, and the decision is made to confine these to works of medicine and natural history. A book stamp is purchased and Williams begins to create a catalogue. A bill of £1,089 is paid to Mr. White, a Fleet Street bookseller and Mr. Payne of Pall Mall is appointed bookseller to the Trustees.
1811	The Librarian is allowed £500 for the purchase of books
1812	Another £500 is allocated for the purchase of books
1813	The total allocated sum for the purchase of books is increased to £2000
1814	Another £1000 is allocated for the purchase of books
1814	HRH the Prince Regent hosts a dinner with the King Russia and the King of Prussia to celebrate the defeat of Napoleon in Radcliffe Camera
1817	The deeds are removed from the muniments room due to mould
1819	First suggestions of lighting the Library with gas
1825	P.B. Duncan donates several classical casts to the Library
1827	The Trustees approve a plan to fit iron railings to the area around the Library at a cost of £1,310
1827-28	It is found that conveyance on the land of the Library had not been carried out since 1737 and the legal estate was invested in Lord Bagot, a descendent of the former Trustee, Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot. The estate was conveyed to the contemporary trustees on 23rd October 1828
1828	The Trustees accepts 1,000 polished specimens of ancient marbles to display in the Library from S. Jarrett
1831	The Trustees order that the iron railings be painted
1832	Williams catalogue is completed
1834	John Kidd succeeds Williams as Librarian
1834	Kidd is authorised to spend £400 on binding and is ordered to complete the Catalogue of the Library for printing
1834	The porter's salary is raised and an under-porter appointed
1834	The interior of the basement is cleaned and coloured
1835	Gas lighting was fitted in part of the Library and then expanded to the whole of the building, with an aim towards also providing heating, on the urging of Kidd
1835	The first catalogue of the Library (by Kidd, though in part based on Williams' notes) is completed and published
1836	Kidd requests a raise in salary, which is denied but he is granted £100 for completing the catalogue
1838	The Trustees order that the exterior of the building be painted at the cost of £50
1838	Bookcases are for the first time introduced into the Gallery

1841-62	The annual sum granted by the Trustees to be spent on books is reduced from an average (1816-40) of £500-700 to £200
1842	The Trustees order that the exterior of the building and the railings be painted
1845	Five extra bookcases and a table are installed on the Gallery
1846	T.C.B. Estcourt presents a bust of Gibbs to the Library
1846	The Trustees order that the exterior of the building and the railings be painted
1847	The British Association for the Advancement of Science holds its meeting in the Library
1849	Open-wire panels were installed in some of the bookcases at a cost of £22.10*s*
1850	The University Commission identifies the need for a Bodleian reading room in which new books could be set out and which would be open in the evening
1850	The Trustees order that the exterior of the building and the railings be painted at a cost of £70
1851	Henry W. Acland is appointed Librarian
1851	Acland raises the again the question of heating the Library
1852	Strickland informs the University Commission that the basement could easily be converted through the insertion of a damp-proof floor and glass panels
1852	The opening hours of the Radcliffe Library are extended to 9am to 10pm
1853-54	Heating is installed at a cost not exceeding £350, with the boiler placed in such a way as to allow it to be extended to cover the basement if necessary. Gas lighting is replaced (a large pedestal is installed at the centre of the room) and pipes relaid at the same time
16th July 1857	It is proposed that the Radcliffe Library be lent to the Bodleian as a reading room and that the scientific books be moved to the University Museum, still under construction
1860	Acland is authorised to take the necessary steps to oversee the resolution of 16th July 1857
5th-10th August 1861	The scientific documents are moved to the newly-completed University Museum
1861	Acland proposes that Radcliffe Library should be connected to the Bodleian via a covered passage
27th January 1862	The Radcliffe Library is opened as the Radcliffe Camera, available to readers from 10am until 10pm.
March 1863	The arches of the lower floor are glazed (and fitted with a new floor, heating apparatus, and bookcases) and the new northern entrance and stairs are constructed by Sydney Smirke at a cost of £2,771
14th December 1866	The Radcliffe Library becomes a reading room of the Bodleian Library under the administration of Bodley's Librarian
1877	The Trustees fund the permanent raising of the floor of the Upper Camera on an iron framework, so that it no longer rests of the top of the vault below. The vault of the Lower Camera is strengthened under the direction of Alfred Waterhouse
1885-89	The Trustees authorise the construction of two additional staircases to the

	gallery level from the reading room at a cost of £150, but they are not constructed until 1889
1893-94	The first formal proposal to install electric lighting is made and the Trustees approve it the following year, though the necessary funds are not found until 1905
1900	William H. Jackson becomes Librarian
1900	The Trustees and the University meet to discuss the construction of an underground bookstore in Radcliffe Square
1901	T.G. Jackson's Radcliffe Science Library is constructed as an extension to the University Museum
1902	The reading room is cleaned and repainted
1905	An anonymous donation from G.H. Pope of Wadham makes the installation of electric lighting possible for the first time
1908-09	The Trustees and University meet again to discuss the construction of an underground bookstore in Radcliffe Square and work is begun in 1909
1912	The underground bookstore and connecting subway is opened
1913	T.G. Jackson repairs the exterior stonework of the Radcliffe Camera at a cost of £2,668.17*s*
1914	The average number of readers daily in the Bodleian and Camera numbered 260, two-thirds of which were in the Camera. This number had more than doubled since 1892
1920	The average number of readers using the Camera each day in term time was estimated at 500-600
1924	James Ford becomes Sub-Librarian
1925	The reading room and staircase are cleaned and redecorated in the Long Vacation, and the distemper is removed from the interior wall and dome
1926	The electric lighting is overhauled and floodlighting installed in the dome. Electric lighting is installed in the basement, previously lit by a single gas lamp
1927	The Trustees transfer the freehold of the Radcliffe Camera and Radcliffe Square to the University
1928	The Curators resolve that the basement, currently serving as a stack, should be converted to a reading room as soon as its contents could be housed elsewhere
1929	The Picture Gallery next to the Upper Reading Room in the Bodleian is made an English Literature reading room, providing 48 seats and relieving some of the pressure on the Camera
1931	Death watch beetles are discovered in the timbers of the dome. The entire building is extensively cleaned as part of the repairs
1932	The electrical installation of the building is overhauled, allowing an opportunity to remodel the reading-room lighting. The replacement of overhead lighting with indirect lighting improves the appearance of the architectural features
1934	T.G. Jackson's Radcliffe Science Library is extended
1934	The general catalogue is removed from the centre of the reading room to the Upper Reading Room of the Bodleian, freeing up the space for the 1935 alterations
1935	A central staff enclosure and 52 additional reading desks are installed, raising the total number of seats from 122 to 174

1935	Improvements to the heating apparatus are undertaken
1936	The casts of classical statuary are moved to Stowe School in Shropshire
1936	The iron railings around the outside of the building are removed and the lawn levelled through a donation made by Lord Justice Greene
1939-40	The completion of the New Bodleian means that the basement of the Camera can be transformed from a stack to a reading room for English and Law. It is cleared of books and bookcases, the walls and vaulting cleaned, new electric lighting provided, new heating installed, and desks installed for 44 readers
May 1941	The ground floor reading room is opened
1946	The doors of the book cases are removed in the Long Vacation, giving readers direct access to material
1965-9	Exterior stone cleaned and repaired. Lead on roof renewed. Interior redecorated and repainted.
1970-73	A decree of Council closes Radcliffe Square to motor traffic (following discussion it is closed in November 1973), including the installation of a movable barrier extending from the southern wall of the Bodleian across Catte Street
1985	Planning application approved for the raising of the stone slabs over the ventilation ducts
1989-1991	A listed building application is made and withdrawn for the reinstallation of the railings around the Camera. A further application, which includes provision for 30 new bicycle racks, is refused in 1991
1993	Listed building consent and planning permission is granted for the reinstatement of the railings around the Camera, as well the extension of the paved areas and the repositioning of the cycle stands
1996	Listed building consent is granted for a temporary internal refuge for invigilators at the foot of the main staircase
2008	A listed building application is submitted to fit electronic book sensors in the Upper and Lower Reading Rooms
2010	The windows around the drum are removed and conserved off site before being refitted. Interior cleaning and conservation work
2010	Listed building consent and planning permission is granted for the creation of an opening in Radcliffe Square to facilitate the removal of 600,000 books from the underground store
2010	Listed building consent is granted for internal alterations to the Radcliffe Camera involving the removal of modern stairs and the insertion of a new lift and stairs. A window and grille in the Lower Reading Room is temporarily removed to provide contractors access. Internal alterations are undertaken in the underground book store to form the Gladstone Link
2010	In November, 200 students occupy the Radcliffe Square in protest over rises in tuition fees

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 Radcliffe Camera; 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.

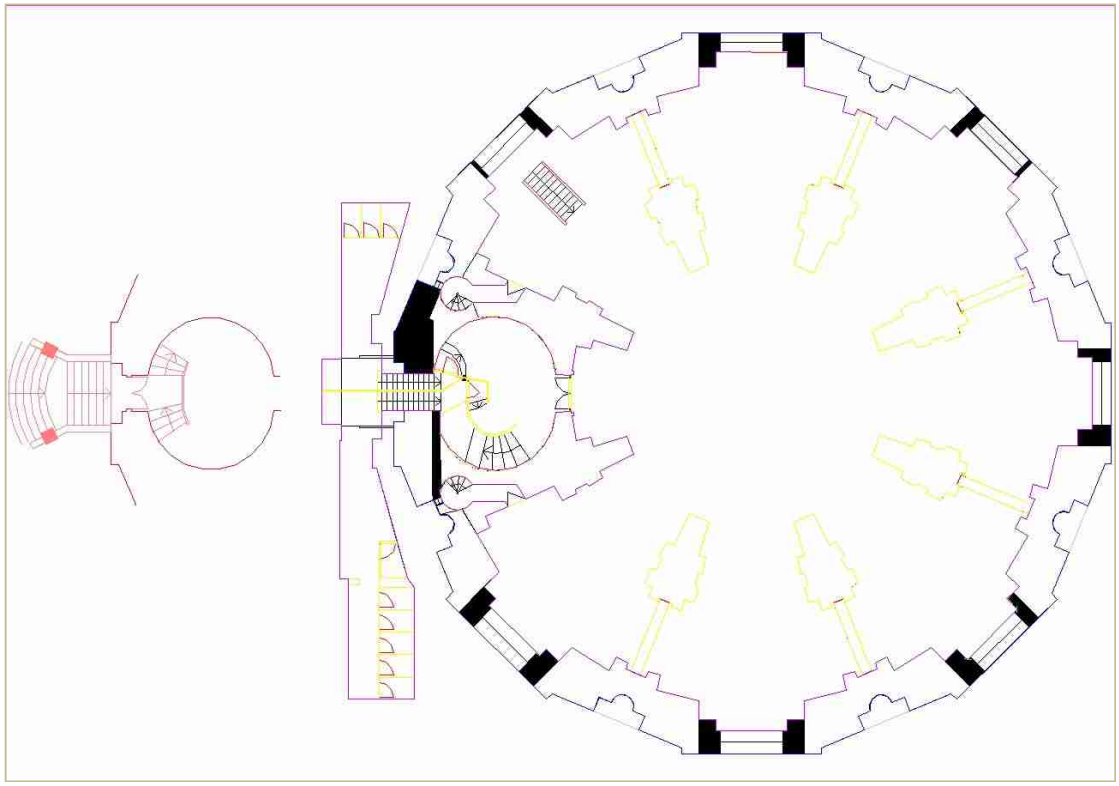
The Radcliffe Camera, Building # 224		
SIGNIFICANT FEATURE	✓	Further Information
General:		
External elevations, dome, and roof		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57
Windows throughout		p.22, 32, 41-42, 49, 57
Internal stonework		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
Decorative plasterwork		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
Original flooring materials		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
Staircases and metalwork		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
Historic bookcases and desks		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
Specific Features:		
External Elevations		
-Headington Hardstone plinth		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57
-Rusticated Headington Freestone base (including arches, pediments, and cornices)		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57
-Taynton stone upper storey with associated windows, alcoves, engaged columns (including bases and heavily repaired capitals), and decorative elements		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57
-Cornice, parapet, and associated urns		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57
-Buttresses, cornice, and associated urns		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57

-Lead-covered dome and cupola		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57
-Windows throughout		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57
-Iron gates/barriers in lower arches		p.19, 31, 37-39, 41, 48-49, 57
Upper Camera		
-Stonework, including piers, pilasters and capitals, arches, cornice band, dentils, modillions, any decorative elements		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Historic joinery including balusters, modillions, original fitted bookcases, and doorways		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Any decorative plasterwork, notably on the dome		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Original Portland and Bremen stone floor (beneath modern flooring)		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Windows, including original glass and historic graffiti on upper windows		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Busts and statuary		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
Lower Camera		
-Stonework, including arches, pendentives, domes, columns, entablature, and pediment over doorway, and any decorative elements		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Original stone floor (beneath wooden floor and modern flooring)		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
Stairwell		
-Decorative plasterwork		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Bust and portrait		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Ironwork of screen		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Stonework, including stairs and door settings		p.42-43, 49-51, 57
-Joinery including doors, panelling, and handrail		p.42-43, 49-51, 57

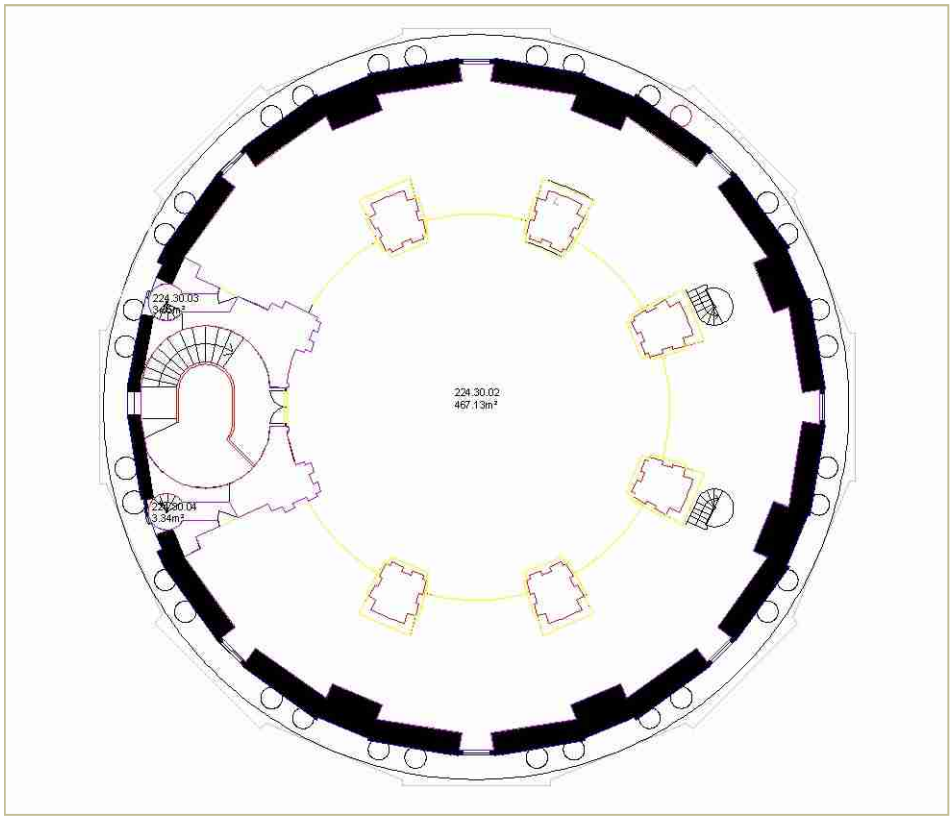
PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING <u>ANY</u> REPAIRS OR ALTERATIONS ON THE ABOVE-LISTED ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES, CONTACT THE CONSERVATION TEAM AT ESTATES SERVICES ON (01865) (2)78750

Appendix 5 Floor plans

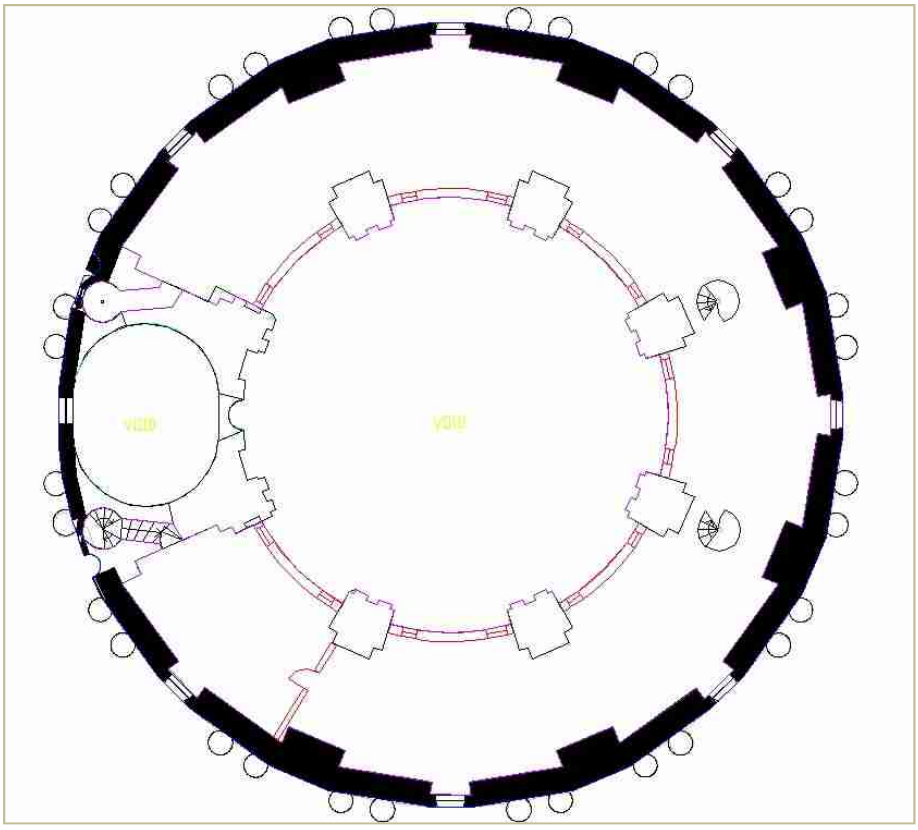
7.5.1 Ground-floor Plan



7.5.2 First-floor plan



7.5.3 Gallery-level plan



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