

WESTON LIBRARY (BUILDING NO. 130)
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN
ISSUE 04
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WESTON LIBRARY (BUILDING NO.130): CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	04	5	CONSERVATION POLICY	32
1.1	Purpose of the Conservation Management Plan	04	5.1	Statutory Requirements	32
1.2	Scope of the Conservation Management Plan	06	5.2	University Policy	33
1.3	Existing Information	06	5.3	Consultation	33
1.4	Methodology	06	5.4	Understanding Significance	34
1.5	Planning Constraints	06	5.5	Maintenance & Repair	34
			5.6	New Design	36
			5.7	Sustainability	37
			5.8	Research & Recording	37
			5.9	Reviewing the CMP	37
2	UNDERSTANDING THE SITE	07			
2.1	Historical Context	07			
2.2	History of the Weston Library	08			
2.3	Historical Plans & Photographs	12			
				BIBLIOGRAPHY	38
3	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTERN LIBRARY	17			
3.1	Criteria & Methodology	17		APPENDIX A: LIST ENTRY	39
3.2	Assessment of Heritage Values	17			
3.3	Summary of Significance	22		APPENDIX B: SCHEDULE OF ORIGINAL MATERIALS AND FINISHES	41
3.4	Significance Plans	23			
				APPENDIX C: WILKINSONEYRE MAINTENANCE REPORT, JANUARY 2017	43
4	VULNERABILITIES	29			
4.1	Library Philosophy	29		APPENDIX D: 2006 STUDIES	52
4.2	Services	29			
4.3	Maintenance	30			
4.4	Water Ingress Protection	30			
4.5	Environmental Control	30			
4.6	Materials	30			
4.7	Public Operations	31			
4.8	Security	31			
4.9	Setting	31			
4.10	Signage	31			
4.11	Book handling system	31			

SECTION 1.0

INTRODUCTION

The Weston Library was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and was historically known as the New Bodleian Library. It was originally constructed between 1936 and 1940, and underwent major refurbishment between 2011 and 2014. The building is listed at Grade II, recognising the architectural value of the building and the integrity of its detailing, as well as its important associations with Scott and the Bodleian Library.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The University of Oxford has an exceptional portfolio of numerous listed buildings and historic sites, including the Weston Library. These buildings have survived by virtue of their continued University function and occupation, often having undergone historical adaptations to assist in their on-going use.

The University is committed to carrying out the highest standard of work to its historic estate. In recognition of this, Estates Services maintain a series of conservation management plans (CMPs) which set out the history, significance and conservation requirements of their listed buildings.

A CMP is a document intended to guide the future care and development of a heritage asset by setting out a framework for its management, maintenance and safeguarding. Understanding the Weston Library, particularly what makes it significant, is a central theme of the CMP and draws on the extensive information previously prepared for the 2012 CMP and refurbishment project.

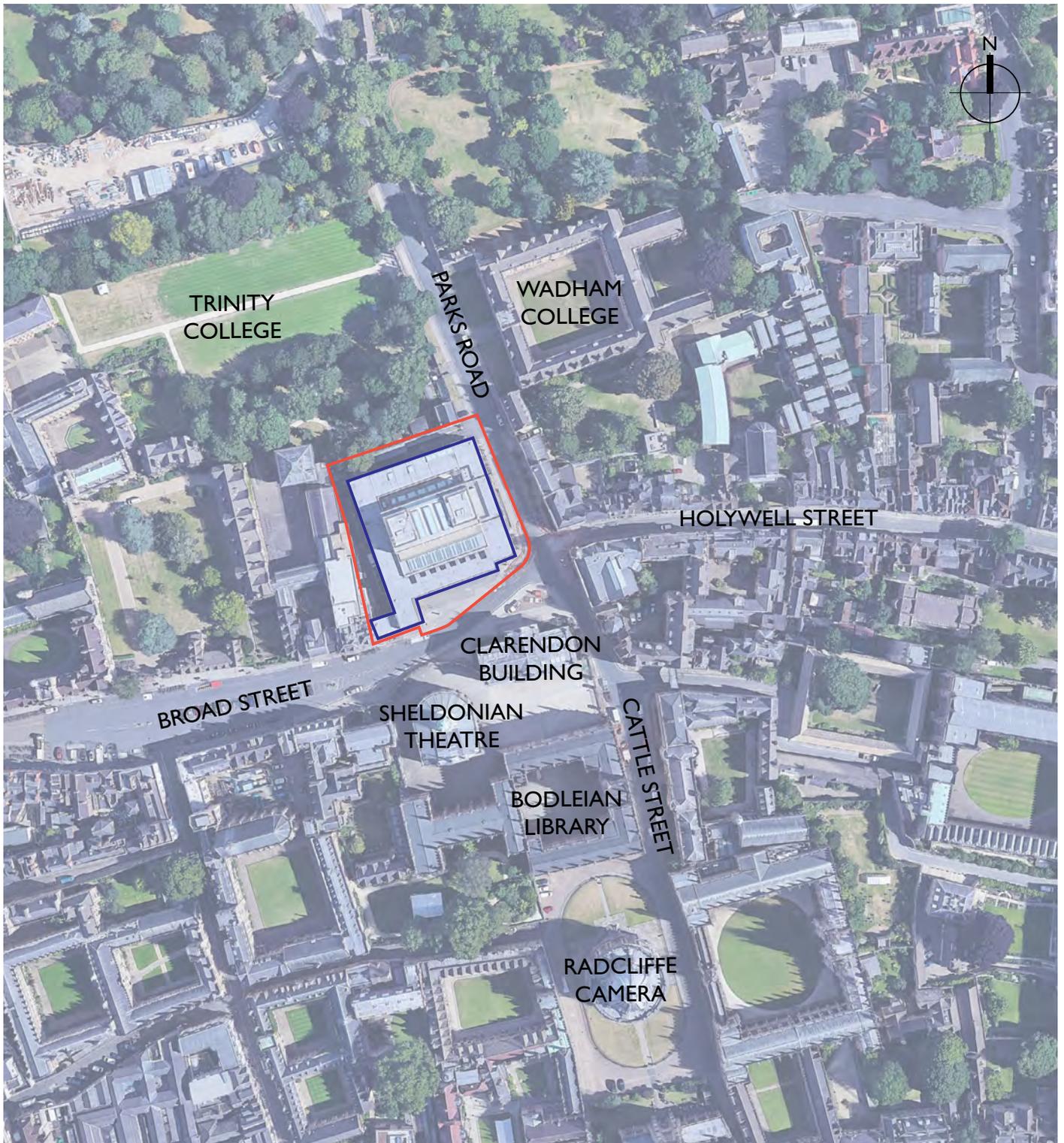
The 2019 Weston Library CMP recognises the need set out in the 2012 edition to update the CMP in response to new legislation or major alteration to the building.

The CMP will:

- Inform new projects;
- Plan conservation and restoration works;
- Improve accessibility and inclusivity;
- Assist management;
- Involve users; and
- Disseminate the heritage of the historic building.

The importance of understanding significance is recognised in statutory legislation. Chapter 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; rev. 2018) sets the overarching expectations for the protection of heritage assets in England: *‘These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations’* (para. 184). Under the NPPF, the suitability of proposed change is measured against the degree of harmful impact to the significance of the heritage asset, as well as the potential public benefits of said change.

INTRODUCTION



PLAN 1: LOCATION

- Weston Library
- CMP Study Area

This plan is not to scale

INTRODUCTION

1.2 SCOPE OF THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The CMP focusses on the Weston Library building and its associated curtilage, as identified on Plan 1 (page 05).

The building and other constructed features (such as external steps and boundary walls) are the principal concern of the CMP. Although the library collection is immensely important and a primary contributor of what makes the Weston Library as whole significant, the CMP only looks at the collection where its care, storage and presentation affects the fabric and/or the character of the building.

Similarly, the below-ground archaeology of the site and its immediate environment is referenced to provide context and direction for further information gathering. However, identifying the archaeological potential of the site is not a key objective of the CMP.

1.3 EXISTING INFORMATION

There is a considerable amount of existing information concerning the Weston Library, much of which was prepared to inform its refurbishment and the previous iteration of the CMP. This includes:

- Conservation Statement & Gazetteer (Purcell [Miller Tritton], 2006).
- Gazetteer – Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings (Purcell [Miller Tritton], 2008).
- Heritage Impact Assessment (Purcell [Miller Tritton], 2010).
- Design & Access Statement (Wilkinson Eyre, 2010).
- Structures, Construction & Geotechnical Statement (Pell Frischmann, 2010).
- Conservation Plan (OUES, 2012).

1.4 METHODOLOGY

This CMP is an update of the 2012 edition and re-incorporates much of the existing baseline information. In recognition of the extensive refurbishment project and new conservation needs of the building, sections 4 and 5 (*Vulnerabilities and Conservation Policy*) have been substantially re-written to provide a realistic management strategy for the long-term care of the building. This is intimately linked with a renewed understanding of the Library's significance, which provides the foundation for managing the building's care and enabling considered change.

1.5 PLANNING CONSTRAINTS

Oxford City Council anticipate the adoption of the new Local Plan 2036 later this year (2019). Until then, the Weston Library is subject to the following planning policies:

- Core Strategy 2016 (adopted March 2011)
 - Policy CS18 – Urban design, townscape character and the historic environment
- Oxford Local Plan 2001-16 (adopted November 2005)
 - HE.2 – Archaeology
 - HE.3 – Listed Buildings and their Setting
 - HE.5 – Fire Safety in Listed Buildings
 - HE.7 – Conservation Areas
 - HE.9 – High Building Area
 - HE.10 – View Cones of Oxford
 - HE.11 – Architectural Lighting

The proposed submission draft of the Oxford Local Plan 2036 currently identifies the care of the historic environment under policies:

- DH1: High quality design and placemaking
- DH2: Views and building heights
- DH3: Designated heritage assets
- DH4: Archaeological remains
- DH5: Local heritage assets
- DH6: Shopfronts and signage
- DH7: External servicing features and stores

SECTION 2.0

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

University of Oxford

The University of Oxford is the oldest in the English-speaking world, with evidence of teaching in the city dating from 1096. In 1167, Henry II banned students from studying at the University of Paris, driving demand for academia at home.

Discord between ‘town’ and ‘gown’ in the 13th century contributed to the establishment of enclosed halls of residences for University students. These were a precursor of Oxford’s colleges, the earliest of which – University, Balliol and Merton – were founded in the mid-13th century.

The University and its earliest colleges were historically concentrated at the east end of Broad Street, outside the medieval city walls. The earliest surviving University building is the Divinity School, built between 1424 and 1490. The Schools Quadrangle and Sheldonian Theatre were built in the 17th century, continuing the expansion of the University’s centre. A proposal was put forward by Nicholas Hawksmoor in 1703 to formalise this part of the city as a designed campus, but the buildings naturally coalesced as a group.

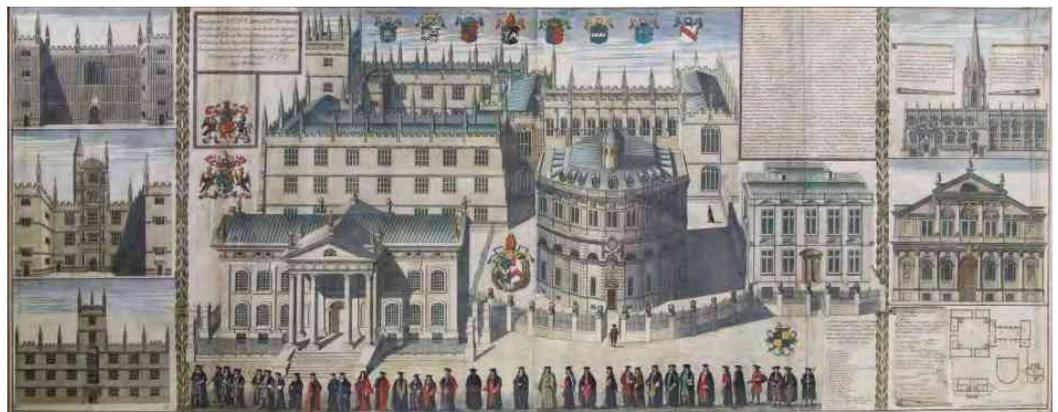
Bodleian Libraries

The Bodleian Libraries is a collection of 28 libraries with its historical centre at the east end of Broad Street. The first University library was established within the University Church of St Mary the Virgin but was superseded by the establishment of Duke Humfrey’s Library above the Divinity School in 1488. Unfortunately, the books were removed in 1550 in response to

anti-Catholic sentiments and the University did not have funds to replace them.

The library’s decline was reversed in the late 16th century upon the receipt of financial support from Sir Thomas Bodley. Duke Humfrey’s Library was refurbished and new books stocked, including some of Bodley’s. It was subsequently re-named *Bodley’s Library* and officially re-opened in 1602. Bodley also negotiated with the Stationers’ Company for the legal deposit of a copy of every registered publication at the library, causing its collection to grow rapidly and constantly. The Schools Quadrangle was built between 1613 and 1619, the original lecture rooms eventually being taken over for additional book storage. The Clarendon Building was built to the north of the Schools between 1712 and 1713, and was home to the University Press, which developed from the late 15th century as a means of enabling the University to print its own work.

To the south of the Schools Quadrangle, the Radcliffe Library was established following provisions made in the will of John Radcliffe. The distinctive building was designed by James Gibbs and built between 1737 and 1749. The Radcliffe Library remained separate from the Bodleian until their merger in 1860, when Gibbs’s building became known as the Radcliffe Camera. The Clarendon Building became the administrative centre for the Bodleian Library in 1975.



The group on University buildings on the south side of Broad Street in the early 18th century: The Clarendon Building, Schools Quadrangle, Duke Humfrey’s Library, Sheldonian Theatre and old Ashmolean Museum (Museum of the History of Science, 28073).

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.2 HISTORY OF THE WESTON LIBRARY

Summary Timeline

- 1925**
Bodleian Librarian, Dr Cowley, warns about the Bodleian Library's capacity to continue expanding.
- 1926**
Five proposals were set out by Sir Michael Sadler and the Rockefeller Foundation agreed to financially support a new library.
- 1930**
A new Library Commission was set up to carry out the project.
- 1931**
Sir Edmund Craster was appointed as Bodley's Librarian and the report Library Provision in Oxford was published. Its findings were endorsed by Congregation on 26 May.
- June 1934**
Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was appointed architect for the project. He and Craster conducted a tour of European libraries in search of precedents.
- August-October 1934**
Craster carried out a tour of North American libraries.
- 23 February 1935**
The University's Building Committee approved a solid bookstack concept.
- April 1935**
Craster undertook a second tour of European libraries.
- 10 June 1935**
The instructions to the architect were approved.
- 1936**
Contractors were appointed, including Roneo for the shelving, and construction started in December.
- 25 June 1937**
Queen Mary laid the foundation stone.
- February 1938**
Sovex were appointed to deliver the conveyor system.
- November 1938**
Lamson were appointed to deliver the pneumatic tube system.
- March-June 1938**
The conveyer was installed.
- 1940**
Construction was completed.
- 1941**
A public air raid shelter was built in the basement.
- 1940-45**
1.5 million books were transferred.
- October 1946**
Edward VI officially opened the New Bodleian Library.
- 1966**
The basement air raid shelter was demolished.
- 1966-69**
The Indian Institute extension was added.
- May 2006**
Initial studies were carried out to assess the history and significance of the New Bodleian in anticipation of major refurbishment.
- 2010-15**
The building underwent extensive alteration and refurbishment. It was re-opened as the Weston Library.

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

Despite more than 400 years of expansion, by the early 20th century, the Bodleian Library still continued to suffer from a lack of space. A dense storage stack was built under Radcliffe Square between 1909 and 1912; however, the collection and reader numbers continued to grow.

In 1925, Dr Arthur Ernest Cowley, Bodleian Librarian, warned the University that the Library would run out of space in a decade. Five proposals were subsequently put forward by Sir Michael Sadler:

- 01 The library, in its aim to serve 'higher education', could limit future acquisitions and discard past accessions that were no longer useful.
- 02 The system of underground chambers could be extended.
- 03 A building could be constructed outside of Oxford so that future expansion was limitless.
- 04 Existing central areas could be re-developed; for example, remodelling the Schools Quadrangle or Clarendon Building to provide additional stacks, or enclosing the Schools Quadrangle under a roof.
- 05 To build a new library in University Parks.

Ultimately, all five options were rejected. Moving the Library from its original home off the east side of Broad Street was quickly vetoed and the radical alteration of the existing buildings was deemed inappropriate.

'Whatever is done, Bodley's end of the ancient Library, together with Duke Humfrey's Library and Selden End should be inviolated. To destroy their association with the Bodleian would be vandalism.'
'The Future of the Bodleian', Sir Michael Sadler, 1926

A decision to build another new library was reached in 1931, providing storage, reading rooms and departmental offices. The Rockefeller Foundation agreed to provide 60% of the necessary funding, providing the University make up the shortfall. In preparation for defining a brief, the University undertook a series of visits to new university libraries across Europe and the USA. The Library Commission subsequently reported that the best course of action would be to build a book stack instead of a traditional library.

A site was identified on the north side of Broad Street, directly opposite the Clarendon Building, which was occupied by a series of 17th-century houses prior to their demolition to make way for the new library. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was appointed as architect in June 1934. The design provided storage for 5 million books and included a subterranean tunnel connected to the Old Bodleian, housing a mechanical conveyor system for delivering books and a pneumatic tube system.

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

Construction began in December 1936 under Oxford-based contractors, Benfield and Loxley, and continued for four years at a cost of £379,000. With the outbreak of the Second World War (1939-1945) a year before completion, the official opening of what was known as the 'New Bodleian Library' was delayed. The extra time was instead used to transfer 1.5 million books from the Old Bodleian. The basement also partially given over to military use and an air raid shelter. The Red Cross Educational Books Section was based here and supplied books for British prisoners of war.

Contemporary reviews of the finished building were mixed, primarily due to Gilbert Scott's combination of classical and modern styles. The architect admitted in 1933 that he held *'no brief either for the extreme diehard Traditionalist or the extreme Modernist and it seems [...] idle to compare styles and say that one is better than another.'*⁰¹ Craster described the building as *'an experiment in working a new library into an old historic framework.'*⁰² The new building functioned primarily as a bookstack, which was designed by Roneo Ltd (not Scott), which vacated space for reading rooms in the Old Bodleian.

The Library was officially opened by George VI in October 1946. The King was welcomed into the building through the corner entrance off Broad Street, although this was never intended as its main entrance and has been little used since.

The first major alteration to the Library was the addition of the Indian Institute within a south-facing roof extension designed by Robert Potter and built between 1966 and 1969.

The second major programme of alteration was carried out between 2011 and 2014. The £80m project was focussed on safeguarding the collection, modernising research facilities and promoting wider engagement. This was achieved by:

- creating state-of-the-art storage facilities for the Bodleian collection;
- upgrading conservation facilities;
- creating new exhibition galleries;
- establishing a new public cafe and shop;
- refurbishing the existing reading rooms and creating an additional reading room; and
- creating new teaching and research facilities.

The architects for the project were WilkinsonEyre, who designed a new public atrium in the centre of the building and entrance colonnade off Broad Street. The refurbishment also addressed issues with the infrastructure of the building and its facilities. The demolition process took 12 months to complete, during which time builders BAM found Second World War-era notes from the Red Cross concealed behind radiators.

The building was officially re-opened as the Weston Library in March 2015 by Professor Stephen Hawking and Sir David Attenborough.

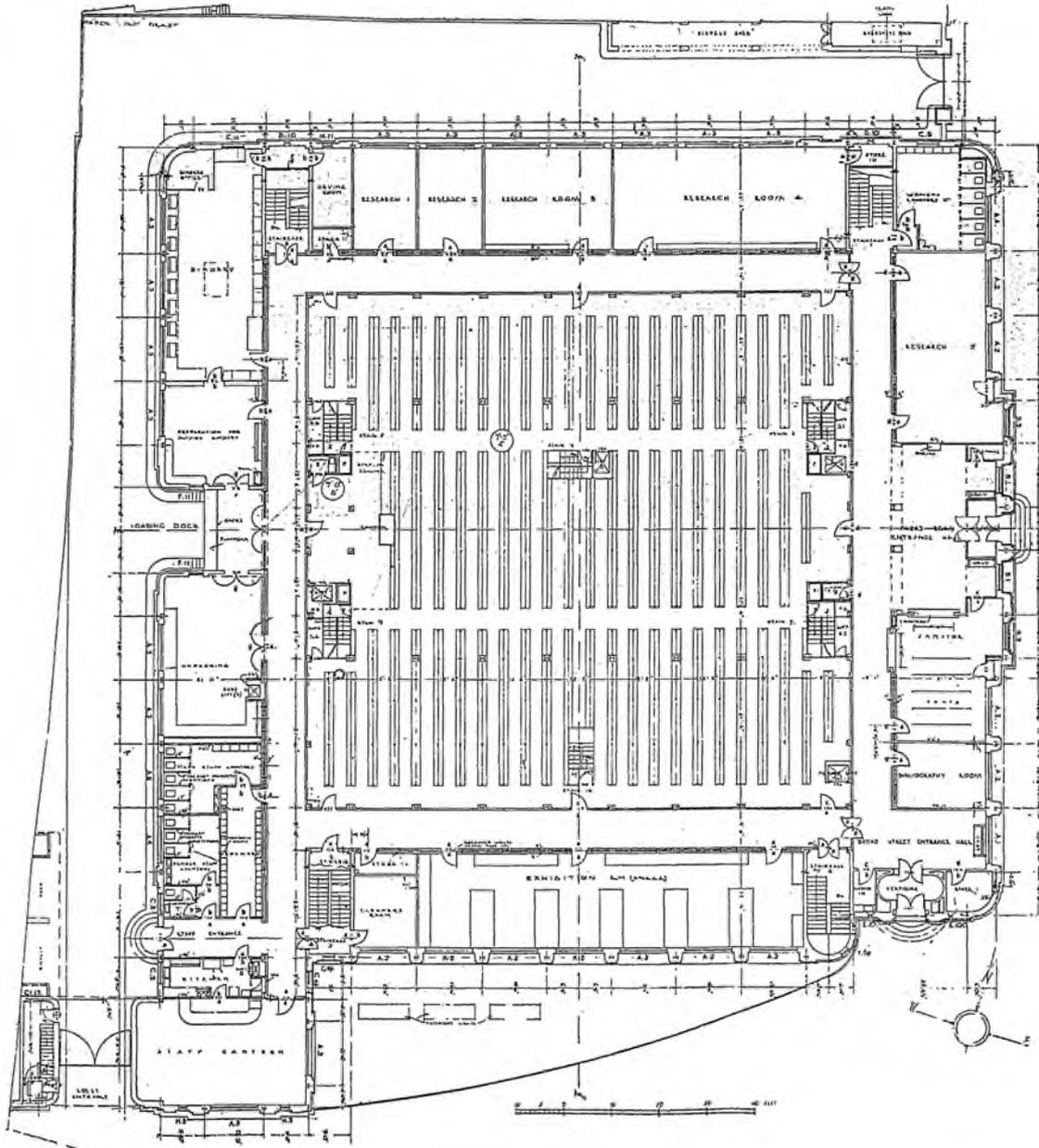
'The brief for this historic and Grade II listed Giles Gilbert Scott building was, literally and metaphorically, to open the doors of the library to the public to enable them to embrace knowledge. This was combined with the technically challenging requirements of protecting the precious and very rare documents stored within the archive and ensuring their preservation for future generations. [...] Working with clear reference points, recognising items of most significance, using sensitivity and a clear understanding of the design intention of Gilbert Scott and showing subservience to it in carrying out careful and well-executed repairs to the original fabric, while at the same time not being afraid to incorporate stunning bold interventions that enhance and contribute to the whole, WilkinsonEyre have achieved a masterpiece.'
Royal Institute of British Architects

⁰¹ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

⁰² E. Craster, *The Bodleian Extension Scheme*, (1941).

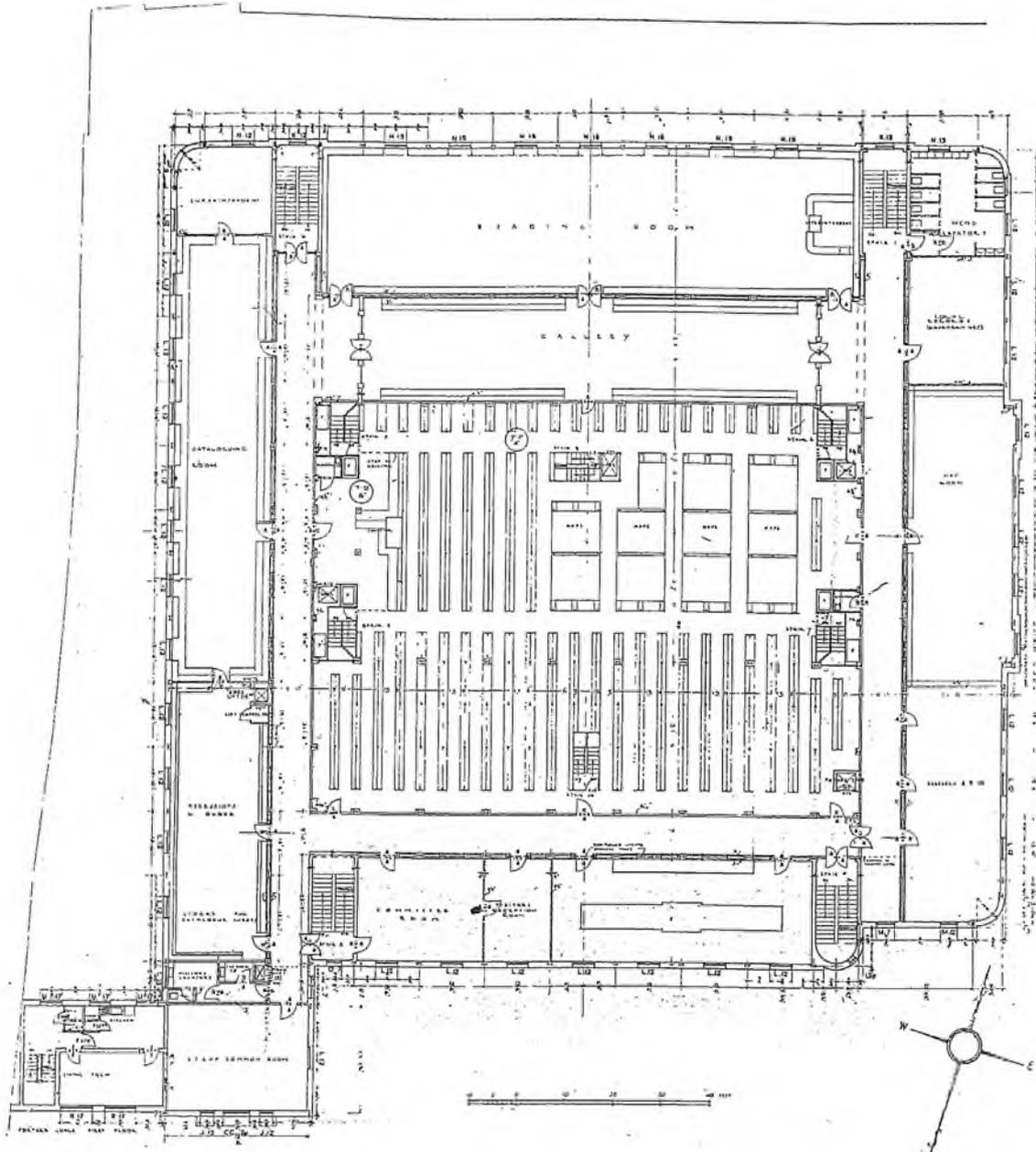
UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.3 HISTORICAL PLANS & PHOTOGRAPHS



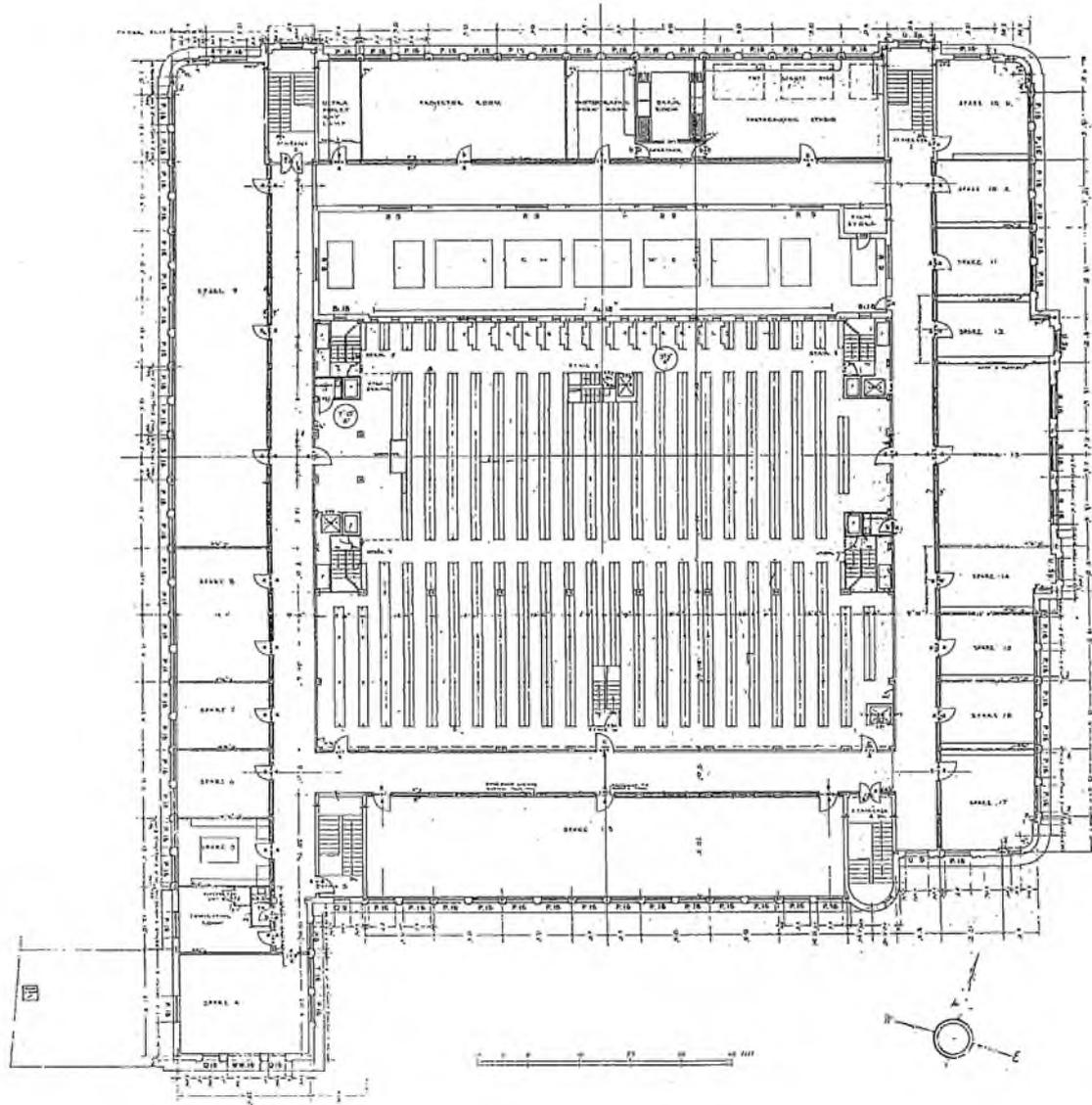
GROUND FLOOR AS ORIGINALLY BUILT

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE



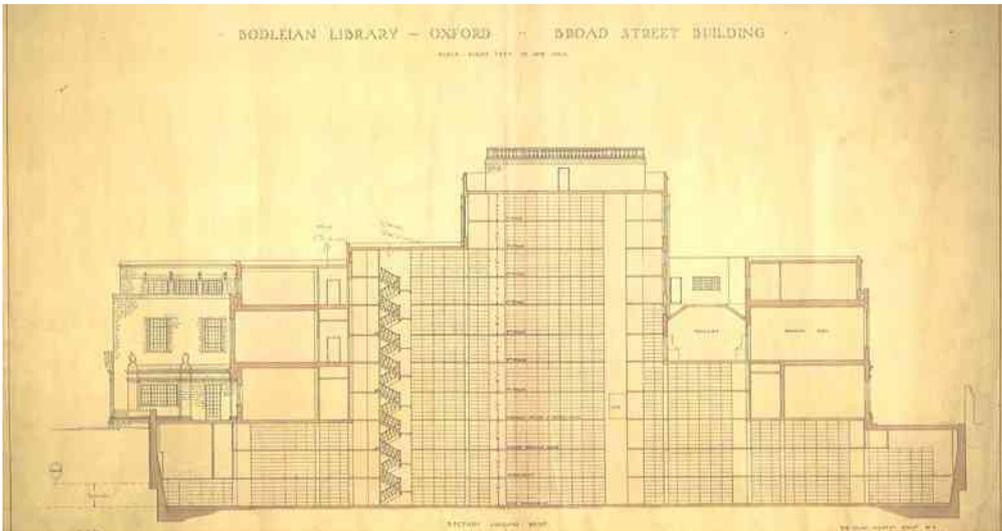
FIRST FLOOR AS ORIGINALLY BUILT

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE



SECOND FLOOR AS ORIGINALLY BUILT

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE



Section



The cleared site on the north side of Broad Street, 1936

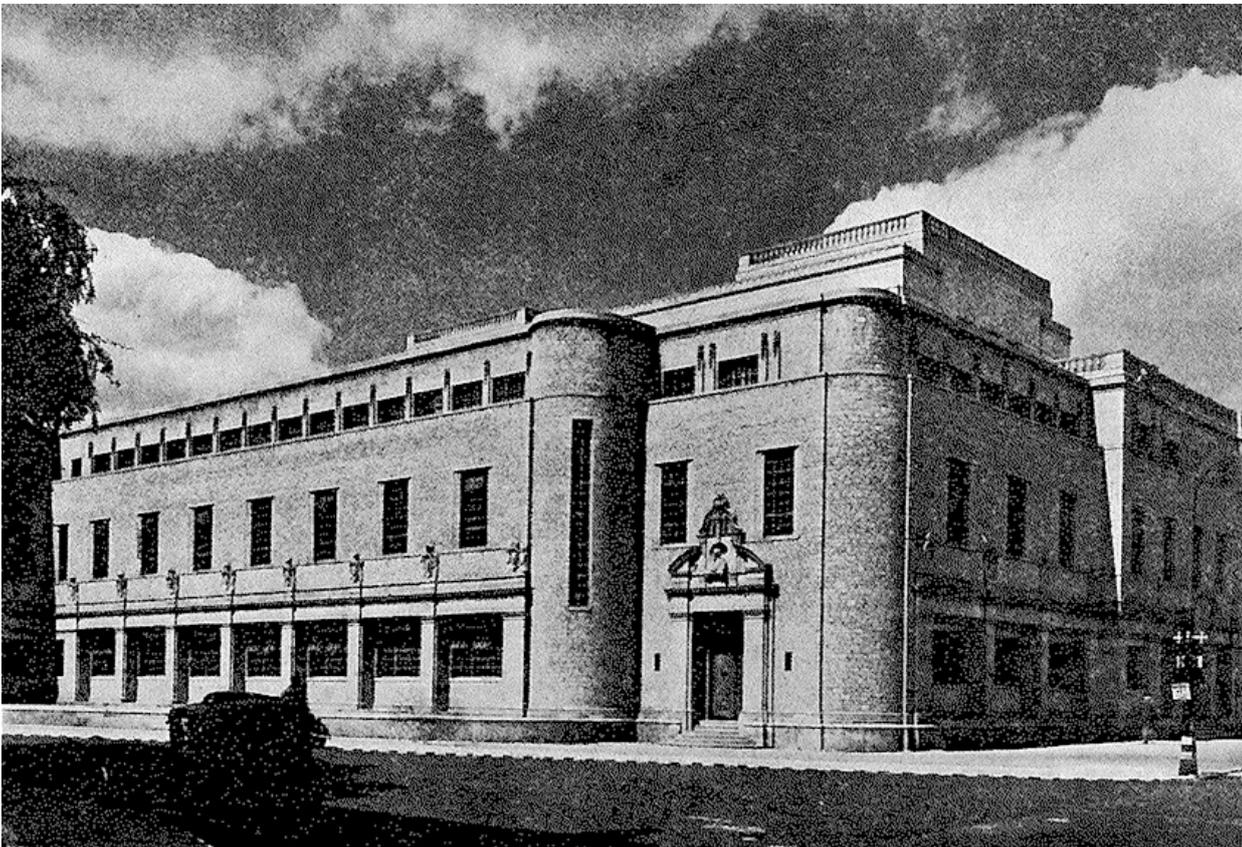


The Library undergoing construction, c.1938

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE



The steel frame under erection



The Library exterior, 1940

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

SIR GILES GILBERT SCOTT (1880-1960)

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was the grandson of Sir George Gilbert Scott and is noted for his unusual breadth of project types and combination of the classical and modern styles. As well as new designs, he carried out many church projects and re-built the House of Commons following its World War Two bomb damage.

In 1903 Scott's competition design for a new Anglican cathedral in Liverpool was successful, despite his relative youth and Catholic religion. He was knighted in 1924 following the completion and consecration of its first phase. In 1942, Scott was appointed architect to the new Coventry Cathedral; however, he resigned in 1947 in objection to a number of design changes.

In 1930, Scott was appointed to design the new Cambridge University Library which was completed just as he received his appointment for the New Bodleian at the University of Oxford. He had already worked in Oxford in the 1920s, designing the Longwall Quad at Merton College. Later, he designed the Hartland Building at St Anne's College. Construction of this started in 1937 but the full realisation of Scott's design was delayed twice, with further phases constructed in 1951 and 1972.

Among Scott's best-known work is his series of telephone kiosks, the first of which he designed in 1924, which have become synonymous with Britain's streetscapes.

His talent for industrial design came to prominence in 1930 when he was appointed consultant architect for Battersea Power Station. His designs for the new Bankside power station (now the Tate Modern) were published in 1947.



Cambridge University Library



Liverpool Anglican Cathedral



Bankside Power Station

SECTION 3.0

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY

3.1 CRITERIA & METHODOLOGY

Significance is the term given to the total sum of the cultural and heritage values that make a place special to this and future generations. It encompasses not just the physical fabric of a building but also its setting, contents, use, history, traditions and wider context; these may be tangible or intangible. It is therefore unique to each place and relative significance can vary from element to element: a building may be significant for one or several overarching reasons, but a specific element may be more or less significant than the whole for different reasons.

Heritage values are the key elements which contribute to the significance of the Weston Library: what makes it unique. As a designated heritage asset, it has inherent historical and architectural value; these are the main criteria for its status as a listed building.

Significance is measured against a sliding scale: whilst many attributes will be significant, not all will be significant to the same degree. It is important to recognise these variations so that conservation management and future change is determined proportionately to significance.

3.2 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUES

3.2.1 Associations

The Weston Library is a part of life for the thousands of students at the University of Oxford, continuing a tradition laid down more than 500 years ago with the founding of Duke Humfrey's Library. Its relationship with the Bodleian Library is fundamentally significant and is inextricably linked with its high educational and historical values. The Bodleian forms the academic core of the University of Oxford, spanning every subject and department, and continuing to engage every student.

The operational importance of the Bodleian Library as a resource for learning and research is equalled (arguably, superseded) by the significance of its collection, which is especially notable for its breadth of coverage and number of rare historical items which have been collected over more than 500 years. There is further value in the collection through its associations with various donors, including Sir Thomas Bodley, after whom the library is named. Items held by the Bodleian include the country's second largest collection of western manuscripts, a notable map collection, a copy of the Magna Carta and 7,000 incunabula. The calibre of these items is commensurate with the highest standards of research and education for which the University is world-renowned.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY

The collections form one of the world's most important coherent bodies of documentary heritage and include items inscribed on the Unesco Memory of the World register. In addition to the written word, the collections include outstanding holdings of art and photography and a significant quantity of objects. The collections are recognised in Arts Council England's Designation Scheme which 'identifies the pre-eminent collections of national and international importance held in England's non-national museums, libraries and archives, based on their quality and significance'. Bodleian Library Collection Management Policy: Special Collections

The opening of the New Bodleian Library by George VI in 1946 is commemorated in the name of the lobby off Scott's original Broad Street entrance. The Weston Library has since established a number of new associations in the re-naming of its reading rooms and new spaces to commemorate the significant work of individuals linked to the Library:

- Sir Charles Mackerras (conductor and Bodleian donor, 1925-2010), after whom the Music Reading Room has been named.
- Charles Wendell David (Rhodes Scholar and pioneer of open access libraries, 1885-1984), after whom a reading room has been named.
- Julian Blackwell (President of Blackwell's bookshops, one of which directly neighbours the Weston), after whom the new Blackwell Hall was named.
- ST Lee [...], after whom the new exhibition gallery was named.
- The Garfield Weston Foundation, whose £25m donation for the refurbishment of the building is commemorated in its renaming.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY

3.2.2 Streetscape Value

The Bodleian group comprises a significant cluster of buildings at the east end of Broad Street. These are individually very significant heritage assets which come together to define the streetscape and demonstrate the Bodleian's historical growth. Moving around the east end of Broad Street, viewers can observe all the component parts of the library: the Weston Library dominating the north side of the street with the Clarendon Building opposite; the Schools Quadrangle and Duke Humfrey's Library behind; and glimpses through the passages of the Radcliffe Camera. Each building represents a chapter in the evolution of the library and collectively creates a highly significant streetscape, one which is arguably Oxford's most iconic.

The Weston Library occupies a particularly visible position within this streetscape, returning around the corner of Broad Street and Parks Road. The striking Doric portico of the Grade I listed Clarendon

Building dominates the streetscape, symbolising a building of status and contrasting the sleekly modern approach to the classical tradition at the Weston Library. Despite its prominent location, the Weston Library asserts a quieter presence within the streetscape of Broad Street, not detracting from the older and more significant buildings on its south side.

The library buildings have evolved along a roughly south-to-north axis, with the University Church off the High Street and the newest building (the Weston) on the north side of Broad Street. There are slight irregularities in the alignment of the group which illustrate its historical development over the course of 400 years. Later parts of the Bodleian group have been actively designed with great consideration of the surrounding townscape, creating the distinctive network of spaces and buildings. In particular, the line extending from the Weston Library's ceremonial entrance through the Clarendon Building and into the Schools Quadrangle was consciously designed to emphasise their association with one another. The Radcliffe Camera is also deliberately centred within a square that was created in a cleared space bordered by the University Church, All Souls College, Brasenose College and the Schools Quadrangle.

These townscape considerations are shown on Plan 2.



The view from the Weston Library terrace

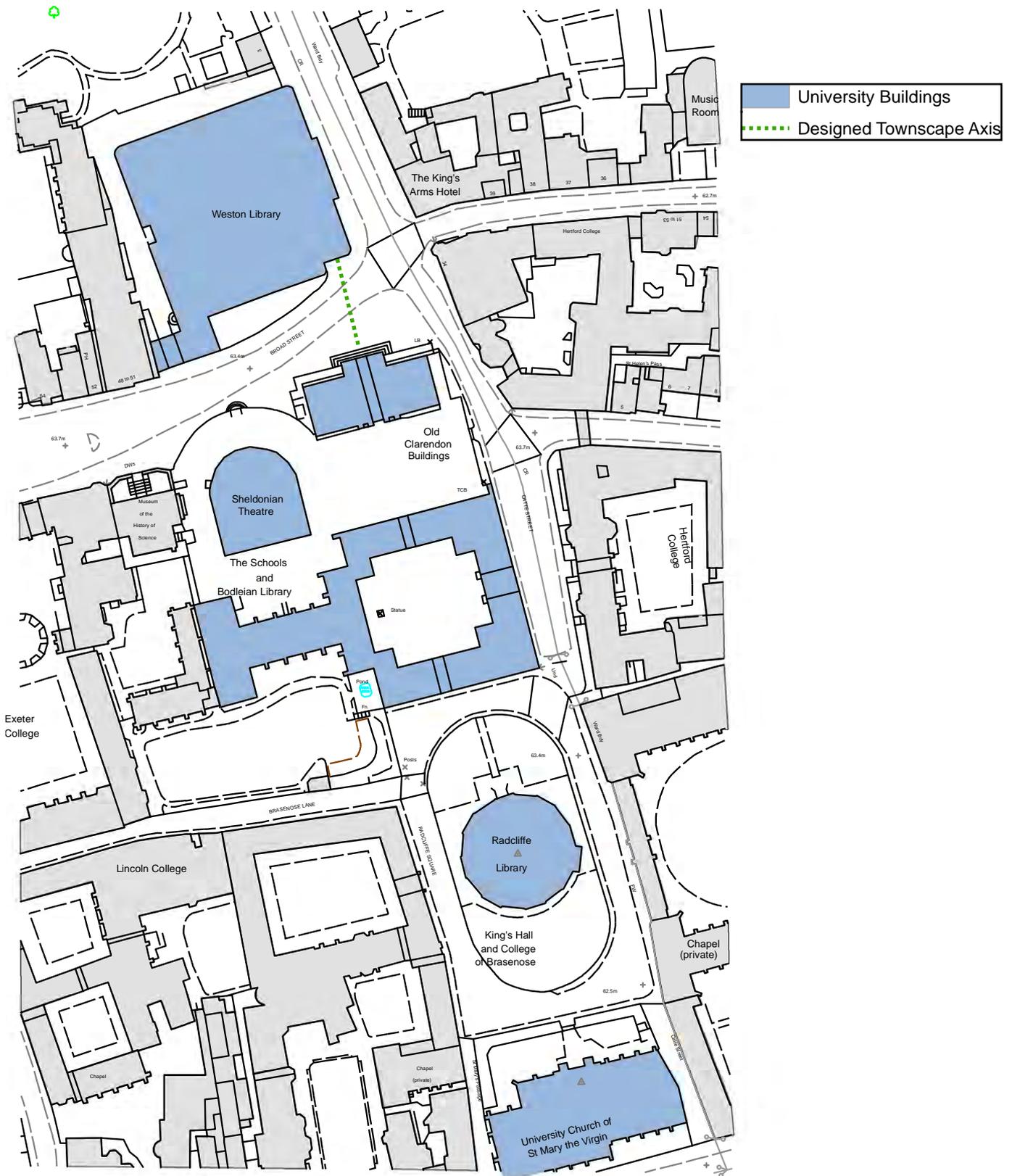


The new entrance off Broad Street



The Weston Library and Clarendon Building, looking east on Broad Street

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY



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Plan 2 Bodleian Group Arrangement

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY

3.2.3 Architectural Value

The architectural value of the Weston Library is closely linked to its association with Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and his status as a significant figure in 20th-century architecture. His was a style that transitioned from the classical tradition to the simplicity of modern design, as is demonstrated at the Weston Library. Although often criticised by his contemporaries for not adhering to one style or another, Scott's distinctive work is now highly valued and is illustrative of early 20th-century architectural shifts.

The concept of the totality of design is a key characteristic at the Weston Library and a notable contributor to its architectural value. Scott's attention to detail extended so far as the Library's fixtures and furnishings, including door handles, desks, chairs and bins. Although many of the moveable pieces have been lost, a notable proportion still survives and remains in use. Whilst these items are technically not subject to the listing, they are significant for how they continue to convey Scott's original design intent and their enhancement of the architectural character of the interiors. The high survival rate of original finishes, including floor linoleum, textured wall plaster, joinery and ironmongery, is very significant and contributes to the aesthetic of the building, tying together all its component interiors as one piece of design. This is an early precursor to the concept of *gesamtkunstwerk* (meaning 'complete work of art') which gained popularity in the 1950s and '60s; for example, Arne Jacobsen's work at St Catherine's College, where even the cutlery was designed to reflect the architecture of the college.

The configuration of the Weston with reading rooms and offices around a central bookstack was not original, but is illustrative of the ideas collated during benchmarking trips to North America and how international library design was shifting in the early 20th century, setting a precedent for later libraries such as the British Library. Although much of the bookstack was removed during the 2011-14 remodelling, its former presence can still

be felt in the spatial quality of the Blackwell Hall and the visibility of the book stores which have been incorporated into its reconfiguration.

The functionality of the Weston Library's design is also a critical component of its architectural value. Scott's design successfully met its brief of providing substantial bookstacks to accommodate the growing library collection. In response to the changing ways in which students now conduct their work, the Weston has been remodelled but still performs its essential role providing traditional study environments, including its original reading rooms which have retained their distinctive character. Sections of the original book delivery system still survive in the tunnel connecting the Weston to the Old Bodleian and are illustrative of how the library operated using what was then the latest technologies. However, this has become redundant following the removal of a large portion of the collection to off-site storage but is still significant for its historical and evidential values.



Mackerras Reading Room



Original Scott light fixtures and inlaid ceiling

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY

3.2.4 Communal Value

From its establishment, the Weston Library has always been highly valued by its community of students and researchers. Until the completion of the remodelling project, however, it had not been opened to the public, except for those eligible for readers' tickets. Since 2014, the Weston has become a very popular public attraction as a result of opening up the Blackwell Hall and encouraging engagement through exhibitions displaying items from the Bodleian collection. This is augmented further with the provision of retail and catering facilities, and the more obvious entrance that has been created on the Broad Street elevation. This has substantially raised public appreciation for the significance of the building and the important collection that it is associated with.

3.3 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The principal contributor to what makes the Weston Library significant is its association with the Bodleian Library and the role it plays in caring for the collection, providing the safe spaces in which it is stored and referenced. As a building, the significance of its design value and association with Scott is recognised in its Grade II listing.

As a library associated with a world-class university, the Weston has an intrinsically high educational value. It is also an important component part of the immensely significant Bodleian group, which illustrates the evolution of academia from the earliest period of the University's history through to the most recent response to modern research, and accommodates the valuable collection which has underpinned more than 500 years of learning.

The architectural value of the building is derived from Scott's combination of the classical tradition and modernism (particularly the integrity on his characteristic interiors), which has been sensitively enhanced through the recent remodelling. This has also substantially increased public engagement with the building, widening appreciation of the heritage asset beyond the University community.

SIGNIFICANT BUILT FEATURES AND DESIGN ELEMENTS

- Spatial hierarchy, with the reading rooms and associated circulation spaces maintaining much of their original decoration.
- Attention to detail in the design of the back-of-house office spaces.
- Scott's original furniture, both loose items and fixed pieces such as bookcases.
- Historic surface finishes, including linoleum and cork floors, textured wall plaster and Taynton stone veneer.
- Fenestration and natural light.
- Reading room interior design, particularly the inlaid ceilings and entrances.
- External stonework, including the carved detailing.
- Original fixtures and fittings, including lights and ironmongery.
- The stone archway on the east side of the Blackwell Hall is a significant historical artefact in its own right. However, as it is loaned from the V&A Museum and is not owned by the University, it has no connection with its setting, other than aesthetic contribution to the Blackwell Hall.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY

3.4 SIGNIFICANCE PLANS



GROUND FLOOR SIGNIFICANCE PLANS

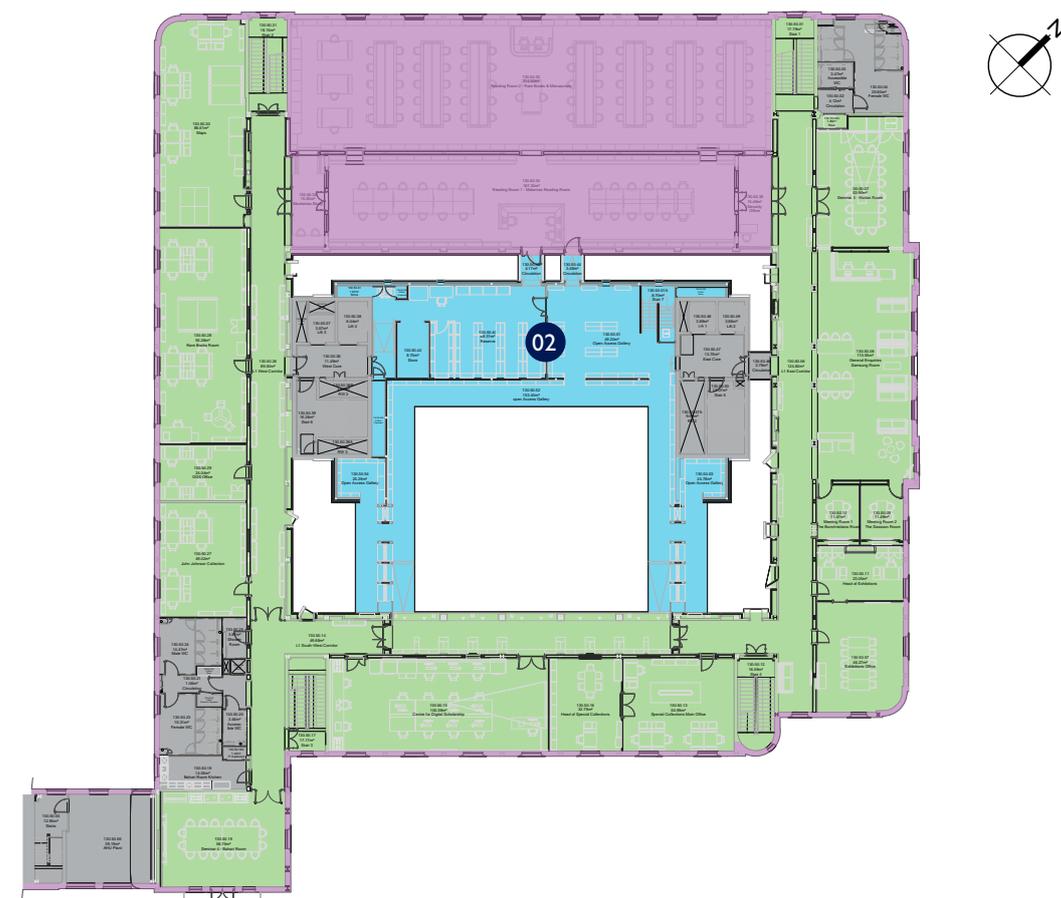
- The most significant spaces within the Weston Library which make a critical contribution to its overall significance (i.e. the original reading rooms with Scott's decorative scheme intact).
- Secondary significant spaces which make a moderate contribution to the overall significance of the Weston Library (typically original circulation routes and perimeter rooms where much of the original decorative scheme survives, together with pieces of Scott-designed furniture).
- Tertiary spaces which are significant by virtue of some historical features and/or the way in which they demonstrate a notable element of the library's history

(typically heavily altered perimeter spaces and new design which has been heavily influenced by the heritage of the building). These make a minor, but noteworthy, contribution to the overall significance of the Weston Library.

- Areas which are not significant, neither enhancing or detracting from the overall significance of the building (typically modern spaces and service areas).
- 01 The Blackwell Hall is a completely modern creation designed by WilkinsonEyre. However, it is significant for how it respects and alludes to the presence of Scott's bookstack which formerly filled the core of the building.

This plan is not to scale

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY



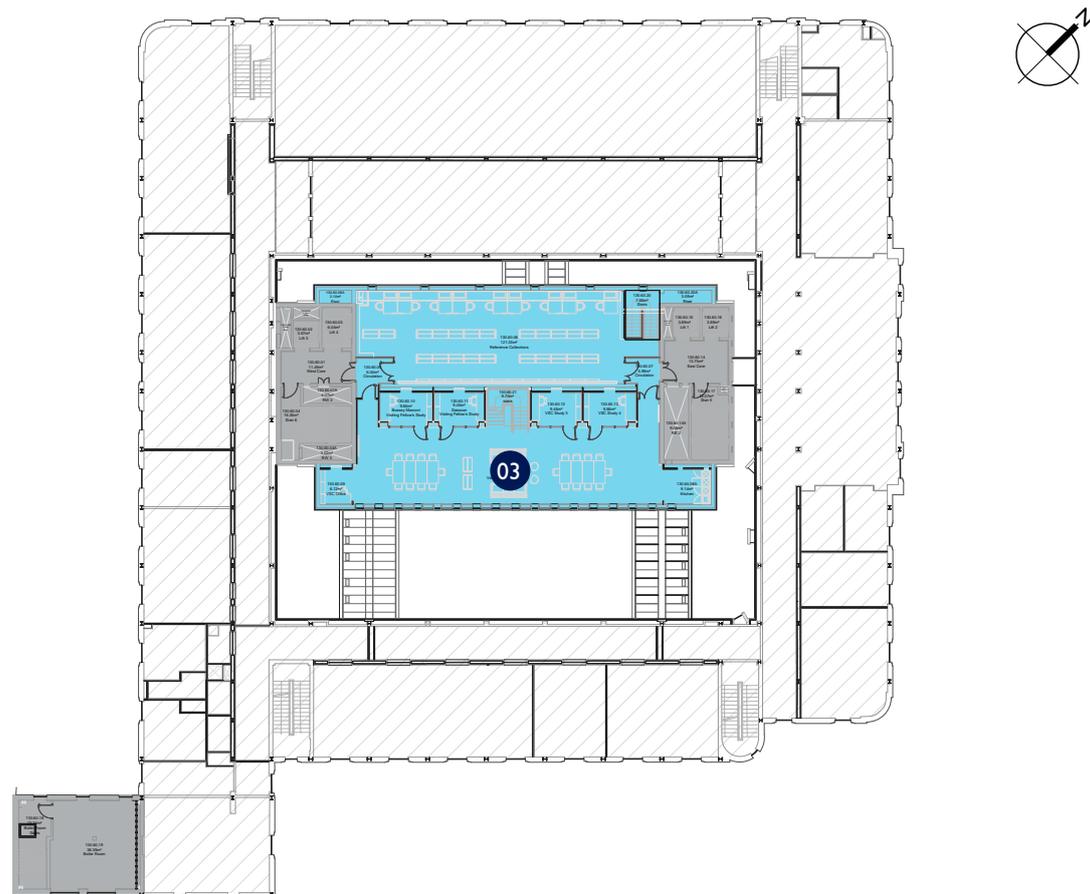
FIRST FLOOR SIGNIFICANCE PLANS

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- design which has been heavily influenced by the heritage of the building). These make a minor, but noteworthy, contribution to the overall significance of the Weston Library.
- Areas which are not significant, neither enhancing or detracting from the overall significance of the building (typically modern spaces and service areas).
- 02 The rooms and spaces which cut across the upper levels of the Blackwell Hall take inspiration from the bookstack which formerly occupied the core of the building. This association with a historical feature is significant. The visibility of the books is also an important link with this history.

This plan is not to scale

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY



INTERMEDIATE FLOOR SIGNIFICANCE PLANS

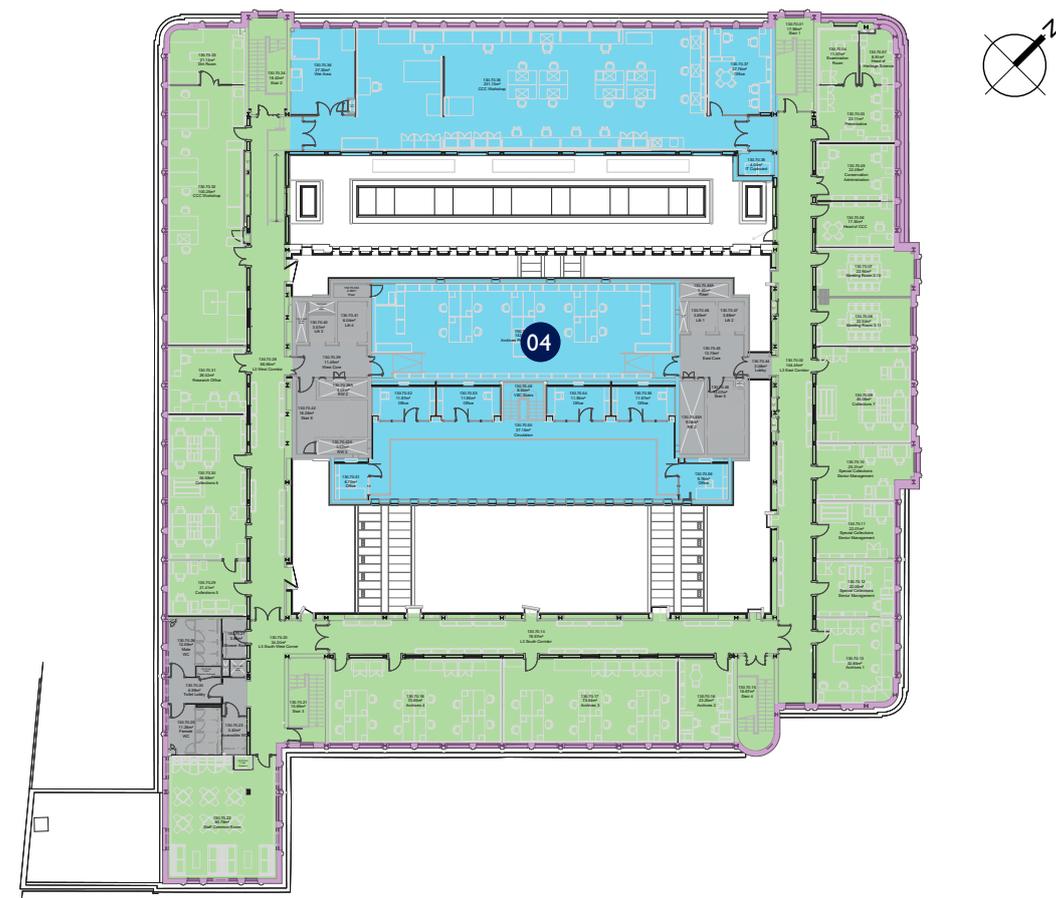
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- 03 The rooms and spaces which cut across the upper levels of the Blackwell Hall take inspiration from the bookstack which formerly occupied the core of the building. This association with a historical feature is significant.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY



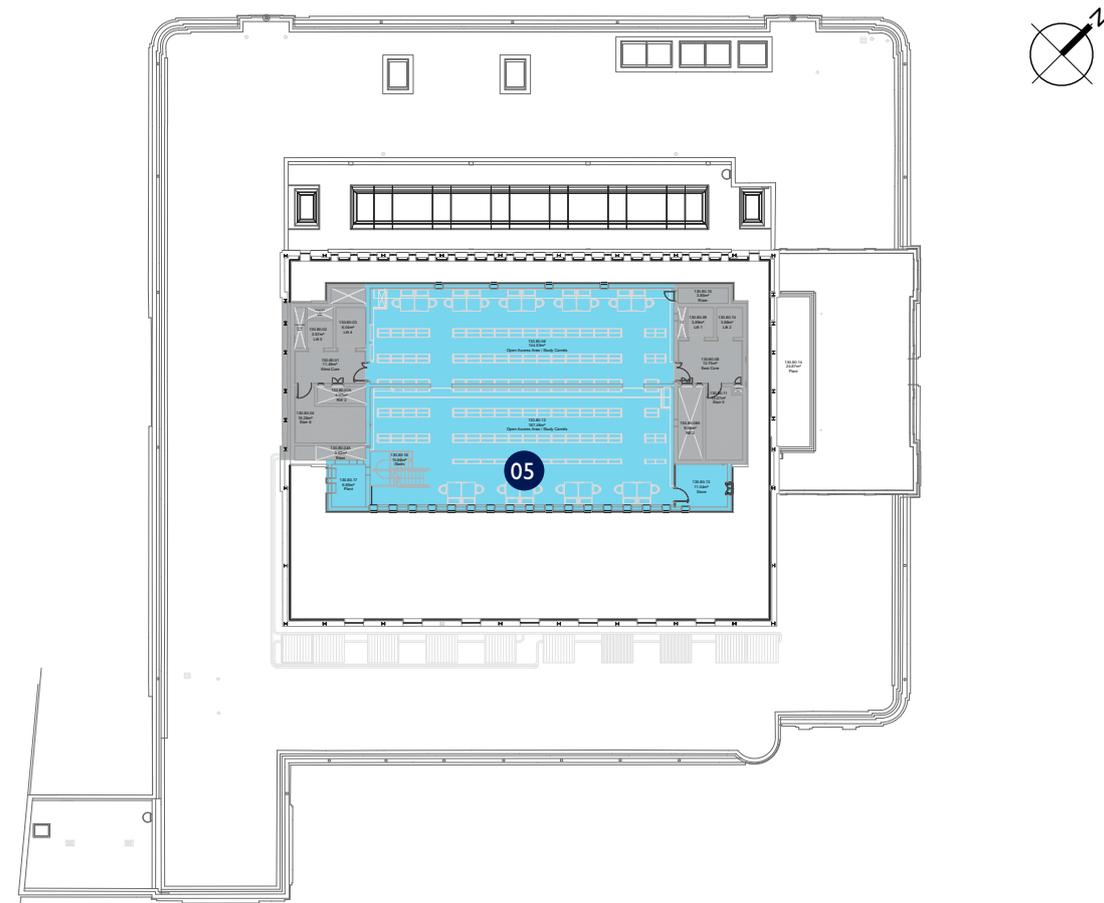
SECOND FLOOR SIGNIFICANCE PLANS

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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY



INTERMEDIATE FLOOR SIGNIFICANCE PLANS

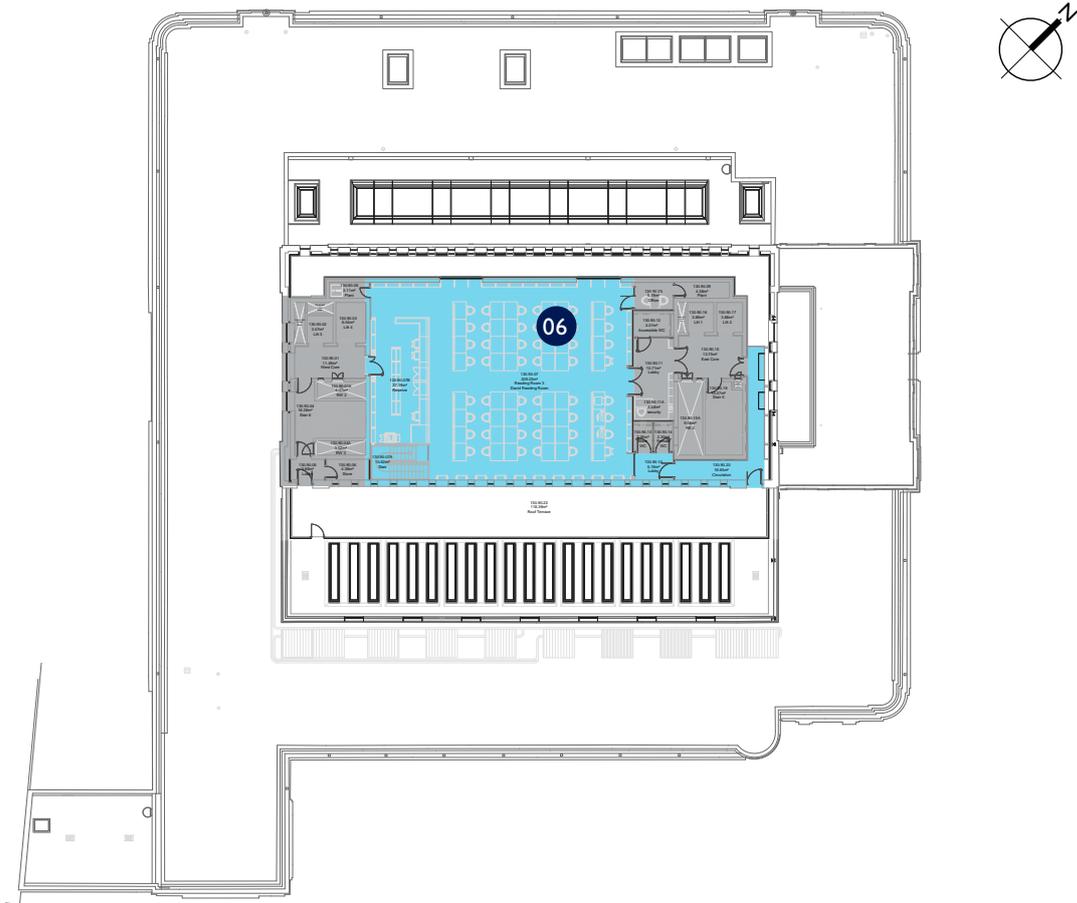
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This plan is not to scale

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTON LIBRARY



THIRD FLOOR SIGNIFICANCE PLANS

- The most significant spaces within the Weston Library which make a critical contribution to its overall significance (i.e. the original reading rooms with Scott's decorative scheme intact).
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- heritage of the building). These make a minor, but noteworthy, contribution to the overall significance of the Weston Library.
 - Areas which are not significant, neither enhancing or detracting from the overall significance of the building (typically modern spaces and service areas).
- 06** The rooms and spaces which cut across the upper levels of the Blackwell Hall take inspiration from the bookstack which formerly occupied the core of the building. This association with a historical feature is significant. Within the context of a library, reading rooms also have a higher status within the spatial hierarchy of the building, even though this is a modern interior.

This plan is not to scale

SECTION 4.0

VULNERABILITIES

The on-going use and care of the Weston Library needs to balance the requirements of three key areas: reader services, collection care and public engagement. The building has very specific operational needs, including environmental control, accessibility and commercial activity. This section of the CMP seeks to identify and assess where its significant may potentially be at risk, which will directly inform the conservation policies for the site.

SUMMARY OF VULNERABILITIES	POTENTIAL RISK
Changing role of libraries	Low
Difficulty maintaining mechanical services	Medium
Cyclical services repairs and upgrades	Low
Long-term cycle of maintenance	Low
Short-term cycle of maintenance	Medium
Water ingress as a result of blocked rainwater goods	Low
Potential for increased wear in heavy traffic areas	Medium
Commercial operations in the Blackwell Hall	Low
Increasing need to advertise exhibitions externally	Medium
Potential presence of asbestos	Low
Installation of the book handling system as a museum piece	Medium
Need for the Blackwell Hall to generate revenue	Medium

High – These issues should be resolved as soon as possible. (NB: following the recent refurbishment, there are no high risk issues at the Weston Library.)

Medium – Steps should be taken to address these issues in the short- to medium-term.

Low – These are potential issues to remain aware of but which do not pose a threat in the medium- to long-term.

4.1 LIBRARY PHILOSOPHY

The Weston Library is a component of the wider Bodleian Library network, which must continue to provide the world-class academic sources required by a university of Oxford's standing. However, the way in which research and learning is conducted is changing, increasingly shifting towards online platforms. The notion of 'a library' is consequently also changing: moving away from a literal definition of a building filled with reference books towards a more conceptual understanding of libraries becoming a place for thinking, creating and sharing knowledge. To this end, the distinctive character of the reading rooms, in particular, is potentially vulnerable should reader numbers fall in favour of more flexible working spaces.

The continued use of the building into the foreseeable future has been affirmed through the substantial and sensitive remodelling by WilkinsonEyre. It therefore already recognises the changing use of libraries and is equipped to handle this.

4.2 MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES

The services were completely replaced during the 2011-14 project. Access to mechanical plant for maintenance has been an issue and steps have been taken to re-position valves and other servicing controls into corridor ceiling voids. The Weston is a heavily serviced building and will need to undergo a constant years-long cycle of monitoring, maintenance and ultimately replacement in order to maintain the environmental conditions needed for the collection and also for its continued occupation and use.

VULNERABILITIES

4.3 MAINTENANCE

Following its extensive refurbishment, the Weston Library is in an excellent condition. Maintenance requirements generally consist of everyday cleaning and work to rectify outstanding defects. A number of bulb fittings have already become obsolete and will require replacement in the next 3-5 years. Otherwise, maintenance is generally reactive to issues as they arise in the short term, with long-term maintenance actions arising under the 30-year planned preventative maintenance cycle.

The Weston Library has known asbestos materials retained following the refurbishment and these are safely managed. A management survey undertaken in 2014/15 identified instances of asbestos pipe insulation, insulation board panels to fire doors and stair nosings. Any work to building fabric, especially around the perimeter walls, is likely to require some degree of asbestos remediation to enable it, including further surveys and management plans.

4.4 WATER INGRESS PROTECTION

Since the completion of the refurbishment project and re-occupation of the building, there have been three instances where the basement has leaked, putting at risk the collection items stored here. With two sinkholes opening in Broad Street in 2018, the potential for leaking waterpipes increases this risk.

The mitigation measures taken during the 2011-14 project to improve the cavity wall drainage and inject areas of potential water ingress has substantially reduced the risk of damage to the building and collection; however, it remains a present issue that will require constant monitoring.

The internal rainwater goods are a potential point of weakness if improperly maintained or a blockage goes unnoticed. External staining indicating a potential blockage was identified in the most recent condition survey. Incorporating the pipes behind the external elevation treatment enhances the architectural value of the building by hiding visual clutter; however, there is an increased risk that blockages will not be

identified until water has penetrated the building, creating damp patches and staining. This will be mitigated through regular monitoring (ideally through borescope surveys or similar) and annual clearing.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

The Bodleian Library collection contains historic and highly valuable items which require precise environmental conditions to preserve their condition and meet the international standard for conservation. This was achieved as part of the 2011-14 project but standards are likely to continue to improve as technologies advance and conservation requirements change over the coming decades.

4.6 MATERIALS

The integrity of the materials palette and the contribution this makes to the Weston's overall character is a highly significant element of the building. This is not immediately threatened but, as the building continues to age and its use evolves, the risk that this integrity becomes diluted is likely to increase.

Precedent was set by WilkinsonEyre during the 2011-14 project for retention, like-for-like replacement or closely-matching alternatives where the original materials and finishes were affected by the proposals. Heavy traffic areas will be the first to show signs of wear; for example, the timber grille detailing in the corner of the Blackwell Hall where the café is located is beginning to look worn. With other materials and surfaces, their limitations and vulnerability to damage may not be immediately clear; for example, the floor in the Blackwell Hall has a surprisingly low load capacity and requires careful planning if heavy machinery such as scissorlifts are needed.

Where new detailing has been introduced, care has been taken to echo the existing materials palette. To install standard 'off-the-shelf' features will cumulatively impact the design value and character of the Library; hence the established approach of detailed care and attention should continue.

VULNERABILITIES

4.7 PUBLIC OPERATIONS

Public access at the Weston is a new aspect of its operation, having been one of the main aims of the 2011-14 project. The new exhibition spaces, shop and café are proving popular but bring with them additional pressures on the building which it was not originally intended to accommodate.

The café is franchised and its layout is strictly confined to the corner of the Blackwell Hall. Adjacent to the shop and café, the ground floor WCs are the most intensively used in the building and will be one of the first areas to require upgrading in the future.

4.8 SECURITY

The security of the collection is a primary objective of the Library and is principally managed by controlling access into and around the building. Within the building, the main vulnerability associated with security is the incompatibility of heavy, historic doors with the magnetic lock systems and card reader needed to control access. Very tall and/or heavy doors tend to drop on their hinges, prohibiting the magnetic lock from securing the door. The potential for failure or damage caused by temporary but unsympathetic security measures can be mitigated through regular inspection and maintenance to keep the doors in best working order and ensure the security of the building.

4.9 HERITAGE DEFICIT

The Weston Library underwent a multi-million pound refurbishment but does not produce a commensurate income. Modest revenue is generated through the shop and cafe, as well as ticket sales for public exhibitions. The University and Bodleian Library has recognised the need for their buildings to be financially productive to support the cost of their upkeep and for reinvestment. Private event hire is consequently becoming increasingly common. The Blackwell Hall is an impressive space that lends itself well to hosting events. There is potential for this to inflate pressures on the building (such as requirements for better catering provisions and increased wear-and-tear).

Providing new and innovative opportunities for the building to be appreciated is beneficial in terms of highlighting its significance to a wider audience but this needs to be carefully considered and the necessary management protocols implemented. The University and Bodleian Library recognise that they are custodians of highly significant historic buildings and consequently already implement a series of regulations to protect them.

4.10 SIGNAGE

Although the new entrance into the Weston from Broad Street is architecturally attractive, it is not very obvious within the streetscape. This is exacerbated by the natural curve of Broad Street, meaning visitors moving from west to east do not see the Weston until they go around the corner. Modest fins have been added to the front of the building to advertise exhibitions and draw more attention to its entrance. However, these are still not particularly effective and there are still issues regarding signage and wayfinding which stem from the subtle entrance. New signage will also need to conform to a unified style that responds to the branding requirements of the University and Bodleian Library. Adhoc signs which do not follow a set style have the potential to detract from the aesthetic value of the Weston and its setting.

4.11 BOOK HANDLING SYSTEM

The original conveyor system for transporting books through the tunnel connecting the Old Bodleian with the Weston was decommissioned when the stack was remodelled and much of the infrequently-used material was moved to off-site storage. It had been maintained in a working condition until it became redundant and is intended to be preserved as a museum piece. This has the potential to broaden appreciation for how the Library historically operated, but consideration will be needed regarding where the display can best be located.

SECTION 5.0

CONSERVATION POLICY

Conservation is the process of managing change in a way that retains the significance and special character of a place whilst also ensuring its long-term future. This is recognised by the University of Oxford's Estates Services in their overarching conservation principles for managing an estate that comprises 20-25% listed buildings:

- Any repairs or alterations will be informed by an understanding of the significance of the heritage asset.
- Any alterations must be sympathetic to a building's significance as a heritage asset and respect its character and that of the surrounding area.
- Active consideration will be given to improving disabled access throughout the estate.
- Heritage assets and their original architectural features should be conserved and kept in use wherever possible, although change may be necessary to keep the building usable.
- Any alterations should incorporate low and zero carbon technologies where feasible.⁰¹

This section of the CMP provides a revised series of conservation policies for the on-going care and management of the Weston Library. The purpose of these policies is to inform future decision-making where change has the potential to affect the significance of the building. It is important that these policies are exercised at every level to ensure that the gradual erosion of character and significance does not occur over a prolonged period of time as a result of the cumulative impact of small, unchecked work.

5.1 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Any proposals concerning the Weston Library will adhere to national and local statutory planning policies, specifically:

- Obtaining listed building consent prior to the commencement of works which alter the character or built fabric of the building.
- Giving due consideration of the impact of change to other heritage assets within the setting of the library.
- Thoroughly investigating public benefits before continuing with a scheme that may harm the significance of the listed building and other relevant heritage assets.

Heritage assets and the historic environment, including listed buildings, are protected under national and local planning policy:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;
- The National Planning Policy Framework, 2012 (rev. 2018); and
- The forthcoming Oxford Local Plan, 2016-2036.

Listed buildings are designated and protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for their architectural or historic interest. Statutory listing does not equate to a '*preservation order, preventing change*'.⁰² However, alterations to a listed building which will affect its character will require listed building consent, which allows the local authority to make decisions that have been informed by an understanding of the building or site's history and significance.

01 <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/aboutus/managingtheestate/conservation/>

02 Historic England, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/listed-buildings/> (accessed February 2019).

CONSERVATION POLICY

The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) is maintained by Historic England, the government-appointed body for the management of the historic environment. The list entry for the Weston Library pre-dates the 2011-14 project and is consequently inaccurate in some parts of its description. As the list entry is one of the sources against which applications for listed building consent are measured, it would be sensible to seek a revised list entry in the near future so that the NHLE more accurately reflects the character and significance of the building.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in 2012 and revised in 2019, is the overarching planning policy document for English local authorities and provides guidance on how to implement the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Within section 16 of the NPPF ('Conserving and enhancing the historic environment') are the government's policies for protecting heritage. The policies emphasise the need for assessing the significance of a heritage asset and its setting to inform suitable proposals for change.

The NPPF also requires that the impact of proposals which affect a heritage asset is assessed. This includes the setting of neighbouring heritage assets. Under the NPPF, it is also possible for proposals which cause a degree of harm to the significance of a heritage asset to be permissible providing this harm is sufficiently outweighed by public benefit.

At a local government level, policies concerning the historic environment are presently undergoing the consultation process before being formally adopted under the Local Plan 2016-2036. Until then, the policies identified in section 1.5 of this CMP remain valid.

5.2 UNIVERSITY POLICY

Maintenance, repairs and proposals for change will observe the University's overarching estates management policies and protocols.

The Weston Library is a component of a much larger and highly significant estate, which must be managed cohesively to best meet the needs of the whole University community and be preserved for future generations of students. This includes a requirement for regular condition surveys and for the resulting schedule of work to be planned and logged centrally. An estate-wide ambition to improve inclusive access should also be taken into consideration at the Weston, although accessibility has already been greatly improved following the 2011-14 project.

5.3 CONSULTATION

The University will consult with relevant stakeholders prior to the commencement of works which may impact the significance of the built fabric and character of the building, or when change is required that has little precedent within the estate.

The challenges facing historic buildings are constantly changing and external stakeholders such as Historic England and the C20 Society are able to provide guidance and recommendations based on their experience and specialist knowledge so that issues can be resolved in the most appropriate manner. This will need to be factored into project programmes to avoid unexpected delays or rejected listed building consent applications. Pre-application consultation with Oxford City Council is also advisable, especially for external proposals which may affect the character of the conservation area.

CONSERVATION POLICY

5.4 UNDERSTANDING SIGNIFICANCE

Every decision concerning the management the built fabric at the Weston Library will be founded on an understanding of its significance and the capacity of the listed building to accommodate change as needs arise.

Historic buildings are an irreplaceable resource and must therefore be carefully managed to protect what makes them significant. As a general rule highly significant areas (such as the Scott-designed reading rooms) will have less flexibility for change, whereas those which are less significant (such as the completely remodelled stack space) will be able to accommodate a higher degree of change, providing that it is sympathetic to the overall significance of the wider building. Capacity for change will be unique to each area and how it can respond to specific challenges. There should always be an assumption that original features are retained.

The process of assessing heritage impact is an essential means of ensuring that any proposed change will not detract from the significance of a heritage asset and will be carried out in the most sensitive way. It is vital that a careful balance is found between meeting the operational needs of the library with the significance of its spaces and characteristic features. This is a requirement set out in national and local planning legislation and must be demonstrated in any application for listed building consent. The process for assessing heritage impact is detailed in Appendix C. Where external works are proposed at the Weston, consideration must also be given to the potential impact on the conservation area and neighbouring listed buildings.

5.5 MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

Acyclical programme of preventative maintenance will be carried out and works identified in the latest condition survey will be scheduled and conducted within the recommended period.

Repairs required as a result of unforeseen circumstances will be carried out as soon as possible and to the highest standard. A temporary repair may be necessary whilst the best long-term solution is sought.

The programme of required work to ensure the upkeep and condition of the building is centrally logged and scheduled by Estates Services, with life cycle works predicted up to 2056.

CONSERVATION POLICY

Extensive repairs and refurbishment was carried out as part of the 2011-14 project. Present maintenance requirements consequently generally focus on everyday wear and tear, and upkeep of the work carried out under WilkinsonEyre. A maintenance report detailing the work carried out to the significant features and finishes throughout the Library was prepared by WilkinsonEyre in January 2017 is included in Appendix D. These approaches to repair should be repeated as part of the long-term maintenance cycle. A summary of the key points is provided here:

FEATURE	WORK CARRIED OUT 2011-14
External Stonework	<p>Additional Clipsham stone sourced from original quarry.</p> <p>External stonework cleaned using a non-aggressive, water-based solution.</p>
Internal Stonework	<p>Oolithic limestone (Creeton) similar in character to the original, but no longer available, Taynton stone was sourced, and stained with tea and linseed oil to match.</p> <p>Wall protection where works could potentially damage the thin Taynton veneer (including vibration).</p>
Metalwork	<p>Non-abrasive, neutral cleaning for aluminium window frames to remove surface dirt and localised additional protective coating to damaged or vulnerably-positioned windows.</p> <p>Re-glazing to upper floor windows with new aluminium beading.</p> <p>Light-touch cleaning to staircase balustrades and Mackerras Reading Room entrances.</p> <p>New metals introduced that will patinate and with-stand general wear and tear.</p> <p>Door ironmongery was replaced on a like-for-like basis according to Scott's original designs.</p>
Plasterwork	<p>Specialist lime plaster cleaning and repairs following cleaning with sugar soap and warm water, and analysis of constituent ingredients of the original plaster.</p> <p>Application of a mild distemper wash.</p>
Joinery & Furniture	<p>Small quantities of sapele wood sustainably sourced to match existing.</p> <p>The inlaid wood ceiling was cleaned with sugar soap with mild bleach solution to remove water stains and polish.</p> <p>Materials and treatments which have the potential to damage the collection were prohibited.</p>

CONSERVATION POLICY

The short-term maintenance requirements of the building correspond with the latest version of the condition survey, most recently carried out in 2015. No defects or major concerns were logged at that time but the following recommendations were made:

- All rainwater goods should be cleaned out on at least an annual basis, more frequently if possible.
- Full periodic electrical testing and inspection should be carried out according to the relevant British Standard and/or the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- Mechanical systems should also be tested and inspected according to the relevant British Standard and/or the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Most elements of the built fabric have a life expectancy exceeding 10 years. Those which will require replacement before this time include floor cover (carpet and vinyl sheets) and decorations. There is potential to extend life expectancy through quality preventative maintenance such as regular light cleaning. Mechanical and electrical provisions are anticipated to last in excess of 10 years, accepting that there are still some snagging issues being addressed from the 2011-14 project where items have been poorly installed or found to not function as intended.

5.6 NEW DESIGN

Any new design should reflect the characteristic features and materials established by Scott and continued by WilkinsonEyre.

The Weston Library has a distinctive palette of original features and materials which has been enhanced through careful refurbishment and sympathetic additions by WilkinsonEyre. Scope for the introduction of major new design is therefore limited (and unlikely to be necessary). However, where relatively minor new features such as additional furniture, signage or security equipment are needed, due consideration should be given to how they can be designed in a manner that reflects and enhances the established design value of the building. Details regarding the original materials are included in Appendix B; information regarding WilkinsonEyre's approach to the refurbishment and remodelling project is included in Appendix D. Poor-quality design is unlikely to stand the test of time and will ultimately reflect badly on today's decision-makers.

CONSERVATION POLICY

5.7 SUSTAINABILITY

Opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of the building will be identified and acted upon.

The University is committed to reducing its environmental impact across the entirety of its estate and operations. Historic buildings, to an extent, offer innate benefits in that they do not require the same substantial energy and materials as new-build construction. However, they frequently do not operate as sustainably on a day-to-day basis due to features such as single-glazed windows and poor insulation.

It is critical that the performance of listed buildings is assessed with a degree of flexibility which accounts for the restraints that come with needing to respect and conserve its significance. Any assessment of environmental impact and energy efficiency should be balanced with the significance of the site. In particular, resolving any condensation issues caused by single glazing will require sensitive discussions around the benefits and harm of the various solutions available, particularly replacing the windows or introducing secondary glazing.

5.8 RESEARCH & RECORDING

The University will document all work carried out, as well as the decision-making process, and retain these records for future reference.

It is important that any change is recorded and archived as a means of understanding how today's decisions have been made and also as a record of un/successful intervention. To that end, it is also important that all work carried out that has not required listed building consent is still documented. It should include, but is not limited to:

- The work carried out;
- The reason why it was needed;
- What materials and methods were trialled, and why those discarded were unsuccessful;
- What materials and methods were ultimately used; and
- Any additional findings that were made during the course of work.

The University retains a detailed archive of information about the building before and after the 2011-14 refurbishment. All subsequent works are recorded on the property database. Key items are listed in the bibliography.

5.9 REVIEWING THE CMP

This CMP supersedes all previous versions and will be adopted by the University as a tool for managing and maintaining the Weston Library as a listed building.

Generally, CMPs should be reviewed approximately every 10 years or sooner if in response to major change (such as new legislation or after a large capital works project). The document should be made available for all staff, contractors and consultants engaged in the management of the Weston's built fabric.

Summary of Additional Recommendations:

- Request an updated list entry description on the National Heritage List for England.
- Seek specialist guidance through early consultation with external stakeholders whenever difficult issues need to be addressed.
- Request pre-application advice from Oxford City Council prior to submitting applications for planning permission and/or listed building consent.
- Make this CMP available for everyone engaged in the building's maintenance and management.

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*Prepared as part of planning application 10/00796/FUL (29 March 2010) and listed building consent 10/00797/LBD (29 March 2010). The full suite of application documents are available online.

Historical Sources

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Edmund Craster, *The Bodleian Library Extension Scheme*, (1941).

The Architect and Building News, (1936 & 1940).

Sir M. Sadler, *The Future of the Bodleian*, (1926).

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Websites

Bodleian Libraries, <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

Oxford City Council Planning, <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20000/planning>

National Heritage List for England, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search?clearresults=True>

APPENDIX A

LIST ENTRY

NEW BODLEIAN LIBRARY

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1390596

Date first listed: 01-Sep-2003

Statutory Address: NEW BODLEIAN LIBRARY,
PARKS ROAD

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford (District Authority)

National Grid Reference: SP 51513 06523

Details

612/0/10094	PARKS	ROAD	01-SEP-
03	New	Bodleian	Library
STREET	New	Bodleian	Library

II Library and book stack, with porter's lodge. 1935-46, by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, with roof-level addition of 1968 by Robert Potter. Steel frame clad in Bladon rubble stone with Clipsham stone dressings and aluminium alloy windows. 3-storey outer block, one room deep, encasing central rectangular 11-storey book stack, 3 storeys of which are below ground and extend to the edges of the surrounding service driveway. Flat roofs. EXTERIOR: Broad Street front has 8-bay central block set back from road frontage, the left-hand (westernmost) bay narrower and lighting a staircase. Ground floor articulated with blind arcade of plain ashlar pilasters supporting entablature and cartouches with heraldic devices, enclosing recesses with wide multi-paned windows and top-opening lights. First floor has tall multi-paned windows with top-opening lights, each with plain stone lintels and stepped jambs, linked by raised cill band. Rubble soldier course below slender projecting parapet coping. Second floor, recessed, has 14 closely-set multi-paned windows, and single staircase window to left, divided by raised ashlar panels with moulded drops and with soldier course above plain stone

lintels. Ashlar cornice. To the left, a two-bay projection to the street line continues the ground floor arcade detail. The left-hand bay of this projection has an open vehicular entrance below two low storeys, each with two low but wide multi-paned casement windows. The right-hand bay has three multi-paned ground floor windows, a tripartite multi-paned first-floor window with metal-railed balcony carried on moulded brackets and a similar but smaller tripartite window to the recessed second-floor. The return maintains the articulation of the central block, has two windows to the ground and first floors, and three to the second floor. To the right of the central block, a curved corner with a single tall thin multi-paned staircase window leads to the recessed entrance bay, the stout moulded wooden doors framed by pilasters similar to those of the central block arcade, but here carrying an elaborate Artisan Mannerist broken pediment containing a bust of Sir Thomas Bodley (inspired by his monument in Merton College) below a secondary decorative curved pediment. Two first and two second-floor windows similar to those in the central block. A second curved corner leads in turn to the Parks Road front. Only the balustraded parapet of the central book stack, and the tops of the plain windows and horizontal roof-line of the 1968 Indian Institute Library addition in front of it, are readily visible from the street. The 21 tall slender windows of the book stack can be seen only from a higher level. The Parks Road front, 11 bays wide, continues the architectural detail of the Broad Street front but is symmetrically arranged about a central entrance framed by pilasters and with an open pediment containing a heraldic cartouche. The central 5 bays project slightly, and the second floor in this section is brought out flush and crowned with a balustraded parapet, echoed by the similar parapet of the book stack set back above. The second floor windows to either end of this central section have aprons. The secondary elevations to the north and west have details similar in character and quality to the main fronts but slightly less elaborately decorated. Broad service entrance to west front. Discreet fire doors have been

LIST ENTRY

added recently at the base of the staircases at either end of the north front. INTERIOR: The outer block, one room deep is divided from the book stack by a continuous corridor, with staircases with decorative metal rails at the four corners. Most corridor and staircase walls retain a dado of Taynton stone with rough plaster above, originally unpainted. Some remains of the original decorative rubber floors survive, notably at second-floor level, and there remains one area of fragments of the original cork facing to the treads and risers of the stairs. The tiny oval vestibule within the ceremonial Broad Street entrance retains carved decoration but the doorway opposite the entrance has been blocked. The main entrance hall and the eastern corridor, from which it is divided by blocky piers, also retain a carved frieze. The internal layout of the outer block was designed to be flexible: it was originally anticipated that more space might be required for book stacks - in practice, more space has been required for reading rooms. This has been achieved with minimal structural intervention. The chief public rooms are on the first floor. The main reading room to the north retains its jazzy inlaid wooden ceiling, its mahogany bookcases, its reading desks, light fittings and clock. The issue desk has been slightly modified and extended. The reading room has been extended into the adjacent former gallery, where the flat multi-paned roof lights have been blocked. The former map room to the east has been subdivided. Throughout the building much of the original joinery remains, and is of a high standard throughout, even in less public areas. The central book stack has a frame of T-plan vertical and double C-plan horizontal structural steels, visible at the lowest levels, with concrete floors and six internal staircases, clad in steel panels (and now encased in breeze blocks for fire protection reasons). Original steel fittings, including map presses and several carrels, the latter included at the insistence of a minority group on the original design committee.

Ingenious paternoster book conveyor, running continuously through the 11 vertical storeys of the book stack and then turning and running horizontally along a subterranean tunnel leading to the main Bodleian Library. HISTORY: the building was a response to the shortage of book storage space felt by the Bodleian Library: designing a new block, capable of housing 5 million volumes but within close reach of the centrally located reading rooms, opposite the very heart of historic Oxford, posed a major challenge for the architect. Scott's response was to design a part-sunken library in his characteristic 'middle line' idiom which fused modern and traditional elements. As 'The Builder' remarked in August 1940, 'the building will appeal as a nice blend of traditional Oxford with modern tendencies, in which the choice of local Bladon stone with Clipsham dressings considerably assists'. Scott had previously designed the University Library for Cambridge (1931-34). The New Bodleian's builders were Benfield & Loxley of Oxford. The Indian Institute Library on the top floor was added in 1966-68 to the designs of Robert Potter.

SOURCES: Architect & Building News, 15 May 1936, 179-186 and 30 August 1940, 143-50; The Architects' Journal, 22 August 1940, 149-153; Architecture Illustrated, August 1947, 98-112; The Builder, 15 May 1936, 982-3; 23 August 1940, 180-189; and 17 January 1947, 75-82.

Legal

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

APPENDIX B

SCHEDULE OF HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES

NB: the following information was put together by WilkinsonEyre for their refurbishment and remodelling project.

	Notes
Exterior	
Bladon rubble stone walls	Squared, hammer-dressed and coursed
Clipsham stone wall dressings	Limestone, cream/silver-grey, shell texture
Aluminium windows	
Aluminium loading bay doors	
Roof Build-Up	
Concrete slab substrate	5" over corridor; 7" over perimeter accommodation
Insulation	
Screed laid to falls	Min. ¾"
Asphalt roof finish	¾" thick
Lead damp proof course	Parapet and gutter junctions
Internal Floors	
Rubber flooring on screed	Located in Parks Road entrance hall and east corridor, reading rooms, 2nd floor corridor
Linoleum	Broad Street vestibule, perimeter corridors and rooms, stacks, cupboards
Cork tiles	Perimeter stairs
Granolithic screed	Plantrooms
Quarry tiles	Cleaners' cupboards, WCs
Oak wood block	Ground floor west corridor, canteen, porters' lodge
Brown York stone	Loading bay platform

SCHEDULE OF HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES

Internal Walls

Lime plaster felt float finish	Corridor walls above dado height, perimeter stairwells
Xelite plaster distempered	Porters' lodge
Tayton stone block veneer	Parks Road entrance hall and east corridor, Broad Street vestibule, corridor dados
Brickwork fair faced distempered	Basement plantrooms
Brickwork cement glazed	Upper stacks
Blockwork skimmed or cement glazed	Cleaners' cupboards
Concrete fair-faced	Basement stacks
Metal panels	Internal stack stairs 5-10
Aluminium frame windows	Walls between corridors and perimeter rooms

Internal Ceilings

Lime plaster felt float finish	Parks Road entrance hall and east corridor, boxed-out beams in perimeter rooms, perimeter corridors, perimeter stairs 1-4, reading room 1
Xelite plaster distempered	Kitchen, porters' lodge entrance and stair
Cement glaze on screed	Lockers, WCs, lobbies
Concrete limewashed	Stack soffits, cleaners' cupboards, stores
Concrete distempered	Internal stack stairs 1-5, basement plant rooms
Special wood ceiling	Reading room 2
Aluminium framed glazed rooflights	Reading room 1

Internal Doors

Metal (?steel) doors	Perimeter stairs 1-4, perimeter corridors
Timber veneer doors	All doors in situ pre-2011

Fixtures

Bronze	Ironmongery throughout, especially high-status areas
Brass	Ironmongery throughout

The Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford

Maintenance Section of Conservation Management Plan



January 2017

The following has been prepared by WilkinsonEyre to contribute towards the Conservation Management Plan.

Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford Conservation Management Plan

1.0 Maintenance

1.1 Introduction

The Weston Library, formerly known as the New Bodleian Library, is a Grade II listed building which has just undertaken major refurbishment and re-modelling building works, and as such all repairs, cleaning and maintenance should be cognisant of both the materials, finishes and detailing for both the original fabric and new works throughout the building, and also the importance of the principal rooms and spaces.

2.0 Materials, Finishes and Detailing

2.1 Introduction - Totality of Design

One of the most striking features of the original New Bodleian Library building is the totality of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's design, which he envisioned as a *gesamtkunstwerk*, or complete work of art. His attention to detail meant that he not only managed the selection of quality materials such as stone, aluminium, bronze, steel, plaster and timber, but also designed door knobs and handles, furniture and light fittings, reading tables and chairs. As part of the refurbishment of the renewed building, there was a responsibility for retaining the coherence of Scott's vision, extending his palette of materials to ensure that the contemporary detailing would sit comfortably alongside, and complement, the old.

2.2 Stonework

Scott used three types of limestone throughout the building: Bladon and Clipsham externally and Taynton for the internal finishes. Bladon is a local Oxfordshire stone, with varying sized blocks (known as 'rubble') laid in loose courses and the surface roughly finished by hammer (or 'hammer dressed') for the broad expanses of external walling. The Clipsham ashlar, used on many buildings in Oxford, was sourced from a little further afield in Rutland, and at the New Bodleian was used for both the detailed mouldings and carvings, and for the stone dressings with a 'bush-hammered', textured finish.

All of the original stone removed from the south facade was salvaged, and either reused during the reconstruction of the upper stack facade, or reworked to form the ground floor columns. Where needed, new Clipsham stone was sourced from the same quarry as the original. The original external stones were cleaned with a non-aggressive water-based solution and repaired where necessary. Particular attention was paid to the two angels which hold the university's coat of arms on the east facade, the bust of Sir Thomas Bodley above the King George VI door at the south-east corner, and each of the unique cartouches above the bays on the south facade.

Taynton stone was used by Scott throughout the interior of the building: as a dado to all corridors and stairs; for the columns, capitals and frieze in the original Catalogue Room; and for the cladding and detailing to the whole of the Parks Road entrance lobby and corridor. Taynton is a coarse-grained oolitic limestone from Oxfordshire, which is naturally buff to white in colour, and has abundant shell fragments and veined stripes. Taynton can be seen in many Oxford buildings, including some of the detailing in the Divinity School, and gives a warm, rich effect, full of interest.

At the New Bodleian, Scott typically used the Taynton as a 20-millimetre-thick stone veneer, which was then 'tea-stained' to give it a richer buff colour. As much as possible of the Taynton was salvaged and reused, but this was not quite enough for the new dressings and architraves around the perimeter of the entrance hall. Unfortunately the original Taynton quarry is now closed, and therefore another oolitic limestone was sourced, Creeton, with similar visual and geological characteristics, from Lincolnshire. Just as in the 1930s, the stonemasons stained the Creeton to get a good match to the buff colour of the Taynton stone – this time using both tea and linseed oil to achieve the desired shade.

Great care had to be taken working with the Taynton stone due to the slim profile of the veneer and its attachment to the wall behind – a combination of plaster dab adhesion with wire fixings. This was especially the case during the demolition phase of the central stack, when the stack floor slabs were cut to separate them from the adjacent walls to minimize vibration through to the perimeter accommodation. All of the internal stone walls had to be carefully protected during such construction phases.

For the large expanse of flooring to the new Blackwell Hall on the ground floor of the building, Jura Beige limestone was selected, laid in three coursed widths and with varied lengths between 300 and 900 millimetres. The stone was chosen for its light golden colour with plenty of variation, and its high shell content, which gives it a textured, fossil-like quality that sits well within the wider palette of Taynton stone, lime plaster and timber

Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford Conservation Management Plan

joinery. It is also a dense, hard stone, durable and hard-wearing in this heavily trafficked entrance hall and event space.

2.3 Metalwork

Scott was always keen to embrace and pioneer modern building techniques, and this is evidenced at the New Bodleian in the windows, which represent the first large-scale use of aluminium in the UK. Several windows, which were not required for reuse, were used for a series of trials to determine the best cleaning and refurbishment technique. A basic, non-abrasive and neutral clean was carried out to remove surface dirt and grease. Elcometer readings identified that the existing anodized aluminium was generally in good condition, with the micron thickness only degrading locally in damaged or extremely weathered areas. In fact, the quality of the aluminium was so good that the micron thicknesses recorded on the seventy-year-old aluminium were very similar to what you would expect to find on new anodized aluminium. Extensive research into possible protective finishes was carried out, but due to the quality of the existing aluminium, and the unknown effect a new coating might have on it over the long term, a protective finish was applied to only those areas of aluminium that were particularly damaged, such as those windows adjacent to an exhaust flue.

The ground and first floor windows were internally beaded and had therefore survived well, but the windows to the second floor and above were internally putted and this had degraded badly. Where reglazing was necessary to these upper-level windows, the putty was removed and new glass installed – either 4-millimetre clear sheet glass, 9-millimetre Sliमितe gas-filled double glazing units, or 7-millimetre UV barrier glass, depending upon the location of the window. A new aluminium glazing bead was set back from the internal leading edge of the original T-section profile of the mullion and transom to create a coherent reinterpretation of the original Scott design aesthetic.

Other Scott-designed metalwork elements within the building, such as the bronze screen and doors and lower roof-light frame to the former Catalogue Room, perimeter fanlights, and the painted steel-and-glass doors to each of the four perimeter stairs, follow a similar architectural language of detailing: that of a series of twin metal flats, or recesses with back-to-back metal angles. This arrangement is very similar to the metal angle glazing bead detail seen on Scott's classic K2 red telephone box.

The original ornate balustrades to the four perimeter stairs are metal painted with gilt-bronze paint. The metal and glazed screens and doors to either end of the Mackerras Reading Room are bronze but are treated with the same original gilt-bronze paint to create a patina of age. Both these elements have had a light-touch clean as part of the refurbishment.

It is within the context of Scott's distinctive architectural language that all the new-build metalwork elements were designed, both inside and outside the building. Recessed metal detailing, twin flats and back-to-back angles have been incorporated into all new internal metal and glazed screens, partitions and doors, the exposed structural steelwork, the external colonnade glazed screen, the exposed mullions of the new roof-lights, wayfinding signage elements and desk counters.

Throughout the building, either a bronze or bronze-effect metal finish has been used on the metalwork to coordinate with the rest of the material palette. For those elements in public and reader access areas, which will come into regular contact with visitors, we have used either burnished brass (for framing elements) or a gilded metal with an antique bronzed and waxed finish (for furniture elements). Over time these materials will cope with wear and tear, scratches and dents, and the material will improve with age as the patina develops. We also used a dark, bronze-effect polyester powder-coated metallic finish to other internal metalwork elements.

2.4 Plasterwork

The original lime plasterwork throughout the building is a natural buff colour with a rough-cast felt float finish. Unfortunately, in many locations the original finish had been painted over, but there were still several corridors and stairwells where the natural colour was visible. A specialist lime plaster subcontractor was appointed to carry out all the cleaning and repairs to the heritage plaster, and also for the application of new lime plaster. The first tasks were to analyse a sample of the existing lime plaster to determine the exact constituent ingredients, and to wash down the original plasterwork using clean warm water and sugar soap.

The analysis helped us to formulate a recipe for the new lime plaster which was a close match to the original for repairs and chases. However, due to the breathability of the plaster, joints between new and old will always be slightly visible, and the more you try to work it in, the smoother the plaster becomes and more visibly different from the rougher felt float finish. After trialling several samples of both limewash and bound distemper at varying dilutions and pigments, it was agreed that a mild distemper would be used. This is a traditional approach which allowed the lime plaster to breathe, and has the visual effect that the new and old appear to be unpainted but are seamlessly blended by the distemper wash across both.

Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford Conservation Management Plan

To the three-storey walls around the perimeter of the entrance hall, new lime plaster was applied with a similarly textured felt float finish to the original walls. Several samples of plaster using different pigments were tested, and a warm, creamy buff tone, which is lighter than the original, was selected. This complements the tones of the adjacent timber and stone without dominating within the space.

2.5 Joinery and furniture

Throughout the building most of the joinery is sapele wood. Original doors have a grained timber veneer of figured or fiddle-back sapele framed with an exposed sapele lipping on all sides. The reveals, architraves and skirtings are also of sapele but with a solid, straight grain.

The tour de force of original joinery is the first floor main Rare Books and Manuscripts Reading Room, which has sapele bookcases and reading desks, an invigilation desk with double-curved timber fronts, geometric wood chandeliers, sunburst-style clocks, and an inlaid wood ceiling which mimics Native American or African designs in a stylized art deco manner. It is understood that the various types of wood in the ceiling were gathered from different parts of the British Commonwealth at the time of construction. Scott's 'total design' was carried through into other joinery elements such as office furniture, office tables, readers' tables and readers' chairs.

It was only possible to sustainably source small quantities of sapele timber to match the original and these were used primarily for replacements and repairs to the original sapele.

Samples of varnish coatings were removed from a stairwell handrail, timber doors, library desks, bookcases and door architraves, and were analysed using Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) to determine the precise nature of the original varnish and any subsequent applications.

All of the samples examined displayed an identical chronology of varnish application, starting with the original varnish, a polyurethane coating first patented in 1937. Scott was always interested in new techniques and this would seem to fit in with the construction chronology as the building was completed in 1939. The next layer of varnish, a cellulose, acetate-based coating, was applied at an unknown later date.

The heritage joinery elements were refurbished using traditional materials and finishing techniques so, for example, the inlaid timber ceiling to the first-floor north reading room was cleaned using a sugar soap solution. Water damage was made good with a mild bleaching agent solution which removed stains without affecting the colours of the timber, and then a de-waxed shellac polish was applied before a final coat of satin polish.

Scott's original joinery was carefully designed and crafted to create a pleasing and harmonious whole, and similar care and attention was taken over the design, specification and detailing of new wooden elements to ensure that they sat appropriately alongside the originals. This was particularly important in the case of the elements that readers come into contact with on a daily basis, as these make a considerable difference to the overall user experience of the library. These include the new timber shelving in the reading rooms and seminar rooms, reading room tables, study carrels, storage walls, lecterns, and information, enquiries and reserve desks.

Modern-day academic research using rare books and manuscripts typically requires sufficient desk space for a foam cradle, the book or manuscript itself, associated books and materials, task lighting, a laptop and power source, and a note pad. In dialogue with the Bodleian, the approximate size of table needed was calculated and then layouts tested in each of the reading rooms based on research materials likely to be consulted, and the size and orientation of the room. A detailed design for the desks was developed which consisted of timber end panels, a solid timber edge to the top (with a scallop to coordinate with bespoke chairs), an inlay of desktop linoleum with a brass strip separating each reader's seat, a central band of gilding metal with flaps hiding power sources, and a linear light bar. Material samples for the timber, linoleum, gilding metal and lighting bar were reviewed and approved, and then the physical sizes of the tables mocked up in MDF. Detailed consultations with library staff helped to finalize the actual size, and ensure that the tables were not so big that the power flap was inaccessible. A similar level of consultation, design, model-making, sample review, mocking-up and prototyping took place prior to the manufacture of all the joinery elements that users touch and feel, including the commissioning of a new readers' chair, which is described elsewhere in this book.

Sustainably sourced European oak was used for face veneers and solid lippings to the new timber elements, with the grain directions quarter-cut slip-matched or crown-cut book-matched depending on their location and the purpose of the joinery. Three types of lacquer staining were applied to the timber finishes: a natural, light tone for new-build standalone areas such as the entrance hall; a mid-tone for those areas where the new European oak sits alongside original sapele; and a dark tone for those areas where we were particularly keen to ensure a strong visual contrast between the colour of the timber shelving and the spines of the books.

Coordination with the library's preventive conservators took place to agree a list of prohibited materials (such as those with volatile organic compounds) in book-sensitive areas. This was primarily for the secure bookstack

**Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford
Conservation Management Plan**

areas, but also extended to the species of wood and varnish used in the reading rooms and seminar rooms. Although wood has the potential to emit acidity, it was agreed that in these rooms the ratio between the surface area of the timber finishes and the overall volume of the rooms was sufficiently low that the use of wood stains and lacquers was deemed acceptable. It was also agreed that these should be applied to the timber finishes well in advance of handover so that the finishes would be fully cured prior to the shelves coming into contact with books.

Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford Conservation Management Plan

3.0 The Principal Architectural Spaces

3.1 South entrance and colonnade

The most significant change to the Weston Library from the outside is the opening up of the colonnade on the south facade, and the creation of a new landscaped setting for the building. Each of Scott's original elevations is classically arranged: the north, west and east facades are symmetrical about the centre, while on the south facade, a formal entrance to the east and a projecting annexe to the south are placed to either side of a central elevation divided into seven bays. The creation of this new colonnade has strengthened this arrangement, and these adaptations have been followed classical principles of design.

Starting from ground level, where the original plinth was removed, stepped access with an integrated, diagonally inclined ramp provides uncluttered access to the colonnade. Like the hard landscape between the Wren and Hawksmoor buildings across the road, York sandstones have been used for the entrance – beige Peakmoor and grey Weststone. To the east, the steps curve into the tangent with the existing curved stair tower at the corner of the building, reflecting the way that Scott delineated the original curved steps to entrances around the building – echoing the steps of the Sheldonian Theatre across the street.

The existing windows, spandrel panels and plinth were removed, and the pilasters modified to form columns. The front faces of the columns retain the existing Clipsham ashlar stone profile, and on their rear side new Clipsham dressings form a three-dimensional profile to create an oblique view into the colonnade.

Bi-folding security gates, operate like concertina doors, to the rear of the columns. These gates look as if they had always been there, and their design relates to the proportions of the building itself – they have a strong verticality with a dense base, a more open mid-section and a series of extended verticals to the top. A new glazed entrance screen, which relates to the seven bays of the colonnade, have recessed burnished brass perimeter framing to each bay, and two sliding doors to either side of the central axis. The steel frame behind the stone is working structurally, classical proportions have been achieved to the columns such that they are neither too heavy nor too light visually.

3.2 Blackwell Hall

Once through the glazed arcade, visitors enter the new ground floor entrance hall – the Blackwell Hall. This is enclosed by three-storey lime-plastered walls to east, west and south, and a five-storey wall with narrow slot windows on the north side. The original masonry substrate of these walls was exposed externally for the first time in their seventy-year history during the demolition phase of the build, so, as demolition progressed floor by floor, a new cavity wall was constructed to protect the stone and plaster finishes on the corridor side of this wall from the cold and damp.

The entrance hall is dominated by the upper bookstack – a 'floating' concrete structure with inclined walls which help to filter light down through the space, and create a tension between new and old. The stack is clad with natural European oak timber slats, which taper and vary in width locally at the corners to address the two-degree incline. The timber cladding also has an acoustic lining behind the slats which, working with the other harder materials, modulates the acoustics within the space.

The soaring, twenty-metre void between upper stack and north wall introduces striated natural light from the original narrow slot windows and new roof-light into the deepest section of the plan. The south roof-lights pick up on Scott's vertical slot windows, but places them in the horizontal plane, in doing so creating a sense of calm with filtered light. Even on a bright sunny day, the solar control glass, narrow slots and plasterboard reveals combine to temper the natural light, and create a diagonal barcode of shadows onto the stone floor.

The first floor link bridges and open access gallery of books creates an unobstructed view of the books on the shelves from the ground floor. The shelving joinery is dark and with focussed subdued lighting onto the books, maximises the contrast between their spines.

The entrance hall is environmentally controlled by underfloor heating/cooling combined with perimeter wall ventilation diffusers. Due to the restricted headroom in the basement bookstack below the ground floor, underfloor heating and the Jura Beige stone floor finishes are accommodated within an overall build-up of 100mm. A screed replacement tile system rather than a traditional sand/cement bed which has a thicker build-up was used. This system uses a terracotta tile on top of the underfloor heating insulation and pipework. The stone floor is laid onto the terracotta tile with an adhesive bond. A historic archway, which dates from around 1590 and once stood as the garden gate to Ascott Park in Oxfordshire, is now located to the east side of the entrance hall.

Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford Conservation Management Plan

3.3 North wing

A new suite of exhibition and lecture theatre rooms in the library's north wing, provides improved public access to the libraries collections, its treasures and research activity of its users. To the west, the ST Lee Gallery for temporary exhibitions has been constructed, and to the east, the Bodleian Treasury, both served by an exhibitions preparation area where the curatorial team can develop ideas for display content and layout.

Both exhibition galleries are conditioned for temperature and humidity control to ensure compliance with exhibition standards, in turn allowing the display of rare and fragile items from the Bodleian collections. While the Treasury has been designed with specific content in mind, the cases in the temporary gallery have been developed to create a broad range of display possibilities, enabling them to bring the collections to life for the public. The two galleries and preparation area are all individually compartmentalized to ensure fire protection and also the necessary levels of security.

To the north-east corner of the north wing is a new 112-seat lecture theatre, fitted with tiered and flat seating to gain optimum sightlines within the constraints of the existing volume. Each seat has integrated power and a writing tablet, and the audio-visual infrastructure and equipment is fully integrated into the room. Acoustic finishes have been applied to the ceiling bulkheads, walls, floors and furniture. The control desk, lectern and high table are of bespoke joinery to be consistent with other elements within the room and elsewhere in the building.

Also in the north wing, and at second floor level, are the new conservation workshops. Here the north wall of the existing perimeter corridor has been removed to create an airy open-plan workshop. The blocked-up roof-lights in this area have been reinstated and refurbished, and several new ones formed, to give the correct amount of daylight for the highly skilled work of the Conservation and Collections Care Team.

3.4 East wing

The east wing of the building – particularly at ground floor level – is one of the most important areas in terms of architectural heritage. An entrance hall from Parks Road links to the east corridor, and in turn to the curved vestibule area in the south-eastern corner of the building where the King George VI door is located. The primary refurbishment works here was to strip-out the non-original works, conserve the existing finishes, and to introduce effective yet understated security lines and improving the natural daylighting throughout.

A Taynton stone veneer was used by Scott throughout for the walls, carved cornices, classical mouldings, friezes, door surrounds and counter, and this has been carefully cleaned and repaired. Where new openings have been introduced into the east corridor wall, these have been given stone reveals and architraves to reflect the style of the Scott originals. Facilities for staff and readers are also located here – to the south of the entrance hall, locker storage, and to the northern end of the corridor, a new Staff and Readers café.

3.5 Visiting Scholars' Centre

The Visiting Scholars' Centre is a research facility at the heart of the library which aims to nurture an interdisciplinary research community, where visiting fellows can work on their own projects, making use of the Bodleian's special collections and contributing to intellectual exchange within the wider university. Here, two levels of cellular offices are arranged around a central double-height communal space. Inclined glazed strip windows, echoing Scott's original windows, provide the space with views down into, and borrowed light from, the south side of the Blackwell Hall.

All of the individual offices are lined in bespoke joinery, with metal and glazed partitions which are divided up by timber shelving. The mezzanine floor (where the upper level of offices is located) is partly suspended from the floor above, to help minimize the floor depth required – and in so doing maximises headroom.

3.6 The Mackerras Reading Room

This room is one of two Scott-designed rooms located on the north side of the building at first floor level, and was previously the PPE Catalogue Room.

The original readers' entrance sequence into the east end of this room, via the bronzed metal and glass screens and doors off the general enquiries space, has been reinstated, and acoustic glazed screens and doors inserted to form a new security lobby and consultation room at either end.

The original roof-lights were blocked up during World War II and never reopened. As part of the refurbishment works they have been opened up once more, and a new roof-light installed with bulkheads which follow the profile of the chamfered ceiling inside the room. The triple glazing was specified to respond to the needs of both

Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford Conservation Management Plan

readers and books, the glass providing even and natural diffused daylight into the room, and preventing ultra-violet and direct sunlight from harming the books. The original metal framing to the lower section of roof-light has been reinstated and refurbished, and helps to provide a linear order to the room.

Two new openings have been formed between the Mackerras Reading Room and the Rare Books and Manuscript Reading Room, enabling these two rooms to be served by a single reserve desk.

One of the most challenging aspects of design coordination in this room, and indeed across the whole project, was the integration of the heating and ventilation systems into the fabric of the building so that the original architecture was displayed to its full effect. Air-conditioning units located in the lobby ceilings at either end of the room supply horizontal ducts which run in the triangular void of the chamfered ceiling. The cooled air then passes through vertical ducts hidden in the south wall and feeds into the room through grilles in the skirtings of the shelf units. Stale air is removed through a slot which runs around the perimeter of the chamfered part of the ceiling.

The east–west longitudinal perspective of the room has been strengthened by the bespoke design of the perimeter shelving and readers' tables, and the reinstated perimeter flooring pattern. The shelving has been designed with a chamfered reading surface, and the Taynton square columns, carved cornice and perimeter frieze and ornate bronze screens have all been refurbished.

3.7 Rare Books and Manuscript Reading Room

This room, formerly the PPE Reading Room, has a number of original features which were specifically designed for the space. All of them – the inlaid wood ceiling, stylized wood chandeliers, large north-facing aluminium windows, perimeter sapele mahogany book shelves, timber clock, enquiries desk, and readers' tables and chairs – have been refurbished and, where necessary, modified.

The integration of new services into the heritage fabric and furniture to meet modern library standards of access, environment and security in an architecturally sensitive way. The most prominent visual changes are the amendments to the desk and readers' tables, which have significantly improved the operational and security functionality of the room.

The former issue desk has been carefully modified and refurbished, and relocated to a central position within the room to act as an invigilation desk. The corners of the desk – one of which is original and one newly crafted – display beautiful joinery, with a concave double curve in a fiddle-back veneer pattern. The original Scott-designed readers' tables have been modified to simplify sight lines across the room, and to increase the available space per reader. This has been achieved by removing the vertical hood and replacing it with slim-profile task lights, increasing the depth of the table top by 200 millimetres per reader, and adding a central band of gilding metal which incorporates a flap for power.

Similarly the Scott-designed bucket chairs and easy back chairs have been refurbished and reupholstered with matching leather to that of the new Bodleian chair.

The original wooden chandeliers have been refurbished and new bespoke ones made to match for the opposite end of the room. These were made by specialist heritage lighting subcontractors, who have worked on a number of original fittings throughout the building. Around the perimeter of the room uplighters are concealed on top of shelves to wash the walls and timber ceiling with light. Downlighting has also been provided to illuminate the book spines on the shelves. The heating and cooling ventilation strategy is similar to Scott's original: along the north wall, fan coil units have been integrated into existing niches beneath each window and between the shelves.

Outside these two main reading rooms are the general enquiries area and seminar rooms. The enquiries area has been created by removing five sections of the east corridor's partition wall.

With its high soffit and large windows, this open-plan area has a relaxed, informal feel compared to the quiet focus of the reading rooms. Two new seminar rooms are located at either end of the corridor, offering space for visiting groups of students and researchers to view and discuss aspects of the library's work, while two smaller meeting rooms open directly off the central general enquiries space.

3.8 The David Reading Room

The David Reading Room is at the very top of the building in the space formerly occupied by the top of the original central bookstack, and therefore affords wonderful views of Oxford's 'dreaming spires' to the south, and the greenery of Trinity College gardens to the north. The room is structured as a steel frame perched on top of the newly constructed concrete upper stack.

Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford Conservation Management Plan

The proportions of the perimeter shelving and panelling to the room have been carefully designed to respond to the privileged views out, and to make the most of the available space and volume.

The vertical strips of linear glazing arranged in rows on both the north and south sides of the building are signature Scott features, and key to the building's mid-twentieth-century architectural character. On the south side the shelving is full height to either side of each window, but it chamfers in plan to allow more natural light in and increased oblique views out. On the north side, the module of the shelving and panelling is also narrow, but is broken up by two large windows which relate directly to the north glazing strips. These narrower modules on the north and south sides create an increased sense of height within the room, while a wider module to the east and west ends helps to increase perceived width and volume. All of the joinery is of European oak with a dark stain to contrast with the varied colours of the book spines.

Three new triple-glazed roof-lights provide diffused natural light onto the working plane, and prevent ultra-violet and direct sunlight from harming the books. The ceiling is composed of three module widths of natural European oak slats, which align with a 'bronzed' pelmet detail around the perimeter of the roof-lights. New readers' tables have been arranged symmetrically either side of the east-west axis, with the reserve desk located at the west end of this axis. Through this careful attention to proportions, materiality and light in the design of this room, we achieved a richness of spatial and acoustic quality, and an atmosphere of quiet scholarly gravitas.

The east core on this level also provides managed access to a new roof terrace via a glazed link bridge within the high-level void on the east side of Blackwell Hall. This roof terrace has unique views across to the Sheldonian Theatre and Clarendon Building, and the older buildings of the Bodleian complex beyond.

APPENDIX D

2006 - 08 STUDIES

A series of studies were carried out to inform Wilkinson Eyre's design for the Weston Library refurbishment. This includes a detailed record of the interiors, fixtures and fittings prior to any work. The two gazetteers (interiors and furniture) are reproduced in Annexe A of this Conservation Management Plan. This is a separate document which can be referred to when more detailed information is needed regarding a specific area.

Room numbers have changed since 2006 and the following list cross-references the numbers used in the 2006 report with the present room numbers to aid future searches using the CMP Annex.

2006		
Floor	Number	Name
Ground Floor	2	Staircase
	124	Bindery
		Loading Bay
	121	Janitorial Section
		GF Staff Toilets
		Staff Entrance & Kitchen
		Duke Humfrey's Canteen
	3	Staircase
	113	Mail Room
	112	Oriental Reading Room
	109	
	108	
	4	Staircase
		Broad Street Vestibule
	105	Oriental Workroom Annexe
	106	Oriental Workroom
	104	Oriental Workroom
	101	Security/Cloak Room
	103	Oriental Workroom
		Main Entrance
	135	John Johnson Collection
	136	
		Female Reader Toilet
	1	
	125	Sewing Room
	127	Keeper of Oriental Collections
	128	Orb Recording Studio
	129	Modern Papers Workroom
131	Modern Papers Reading Room	
132		

2019	
Number	Name
130.30.39	Stair 2
130.30.38	Exhibition Prep
130.30.37	Security Meeting Room
130.30.36	Security Operations Room
130.30.71	Loading Bay
130.30.33	WC
130.30.32	Cold Room
130.30.31A	Dry Store
130.30.30	Kitchen
130.30.28	Public WCs
130.30.24A	Cleaners' Cupboards
130.30.26	
130.30.24	
130.30.23	
130.30.25	
130.30.21	Staff Entrance
130.30.22	Shower Room
130.30.20	Shop
130.30.19	Stair 3
130.30.12	Part of Blackwell Hall
130.30.13	
130.30.14	
130.30.11	Stair 4
130.30.09	King George VI Vestibule
130.30.08	King George VI Room
130.30.07	Admissions Waiting Area
130.30.06	Admissions
130.30.04	Reader Bag Store
130.30.01	Parks Road Lobby
130.30.02	Parks Road Entrance
130.30.52	Staff & Readers' Café
130.30.48	Public WCs
130.30.49	Cleaners' Cupboard
130.30.50	
130.30.51	
130.30.47	Stair 1
130.30.45	IT Room
130.30.70	Lecture Theatre
130.30.44	Pop-up Shop
130.30.42	ST Lee Gallery
130.30.40	

2006 - 08 STUDIES

2006		
Floor	Number	Name
First Floor	2	
	216	Technical Services
	215	Head of Catalogue Management
	213	English Cataloguing
	213 (Part)	
	212 (Part)	
	212 (Part)	Janitor's Closet & Women's Rest Room
	211	Head of Slavonic & East European Collections
	210	Slavonic & East European Collections
	209	Staff Common Room
	3	
	206	Rare Books & Printed Ephemera
	205	Head of Technical Services
	203 (Part)	Copyright Receipt Office
	203 (Part)	Copyright Receipt Office
	203 (Part)	Incunables Project
	202	
	4	
	224	Technical Services, Departmental Secretary, Catalogue Support
	223	Map Work Room
	222	Map Work Room
	219	Map Reading Room
	218	Map Reading Room
	217	Male Reader Toilets
	1	
	225	PPE Reading Room
225	PPE Gallery	

2019	
Number	Name
130.50.31	Stair 2
130.50.30	Maps
130.50.28	Rare Books Room
130.50.27	John Johnson Collection
130.50.24	WCs
130.50.25	Shower Room
130.50.21	Bahari Room Kitchen
130.50.22	
130.50.23	
130.50.20	
130.50.18	
130.50.19	Seminar 4 - Bahari Room
130.50.17	Stair 3
130.50.15	Centre for Digital Scholarship
130.50.16	Head of Special Collections
130.50.13	Special Collections Main Office
130.50.12	Stair 4
130.50.57	Exhibitions Office
130.50.11	Head of Exhibitions
130.50.10	Meeting Room 1 - The Bonchristiano Room
130.50.09	Meeting Room 2 - The Sassoon Room
130.50.08	General Enquiries Samsung Room
130.50.07	Seminar 3 - Horton Room
130.50.03	WCs
130.50.04	Shower Room
130.50.02	Bahari Room Kitchen
130.50.01	Staircase 1
130.50.33	Reading Room 2 - Rare Books and Manuscripts
130.50.34	Reading Room 1 - Mackerras Reading Room

2006 - 08 STUDIES

		2006	
Floor	Number	Name	
Second Floor	311 (Part)	Head of Acquisitions Services	
	311 (Part)	Head of Acquisitions Services	
	318	Self-Mediated Photocopying (Reader Services)	
	316	English Periodical Cataloguing	
	316 (Part)	English Periodical Cataloguing	
	315	Micro Support (Computer Section)	
	314		
	313	Deputy Head of Reader Services & Collections Department	
	312	Periodical Registration	
	311 (Part)	Head of Collection Management	
	309 (Part)	Head of Acquisitions Services	
	308	Collection Management	
	3		
	305	Acquisitions Services	
	303	Preservation Services General Administration	
	302 (Part)	Head of Conservation & Collections Care Exhibitions	
	302 (Part)	Exhibitions	
	4		
	335	Map Conservation & Fasciculing Programme	
	334	SCWMSS Projects Room	
	333	Oriental Collections	
	332	Music Reading Room	
	329 (Part)	Music Reading Room	
	329 (Part)	Music Reading Room	
	328 (Part)	Music Reading Room	
	328 (Part)	Music Reading Room	
	326 (Part)		
	326 (Part)	Bindery	
	325 (Part)		
	325 (Part)	Bindery	
	1		
	323 (Part)		
323 (Part)	Imaging Services Studio		
322			
321 (Part)			
321 (Part)			
2			

		2019	
Number	Name		
130.70.33	Dirt Room		
130.70.32	CCC Workshop		
130.70.31	Research Office		
130.70.30	Collections 6		
130.70.29	Collections 5		
130.70.26	WCs		
130.70.26	Shower Room		
130.70.24			
130.70.25			
130.70.23			
130.70.22	Staff Common Room		
130.70.21	Stair 3		
130.70.18	Archives 4		
130.70.17	Archives 3		
130.70.16	Archives 2		
130.70.15	Stair 4		
130.70.13	Archives 1		
130.70.12	Special Collections Senior Management		
130.70.11	Special Collections Senior Management		
130.70.10	Special Collections Senior Management		
130.70.09	Collections 7		
130.70.08	Meeting Room 3.11		
130.70.07	Meeting Room 3.10		
130.70.06	Head of CCC		
130.70.05	Conservation Administration		
130.70.03	Preventative		
130.70.57	Head of Heritage Science		
130.70.04	Examination Room		
130.70.01	Stair 1		
130.70.37	Office		
130.70.35	CCC Workshop		
130.70.36	Wet Area		
130.70.34	Stair 2		

