



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



**Museum Lodge
Conservation Plan**

Building No. 253
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Oxford University

Estates Services

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This draft May 2012

THE MUSEUM LODGE, OXFORD
CONSERVATION PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Museum Lodge was constructed in 1888 to a design by either Thomas Newenham Deane or his son Thomas Manly Deane. It was constructed in a gothic revival style, designed to complement the adjacent Clarendon Laboratory which has since become encased in the Robert Hooke (Old Earth Sciences) building. It continues to serve its original purpose as a porter's lodge, though since 1959 serving the University Museum rather than the Clarendon Laboratory.

1.1 Purpose of the Conservation Plan

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

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

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

This designation clearly applies to the Museum Lodge.

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

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

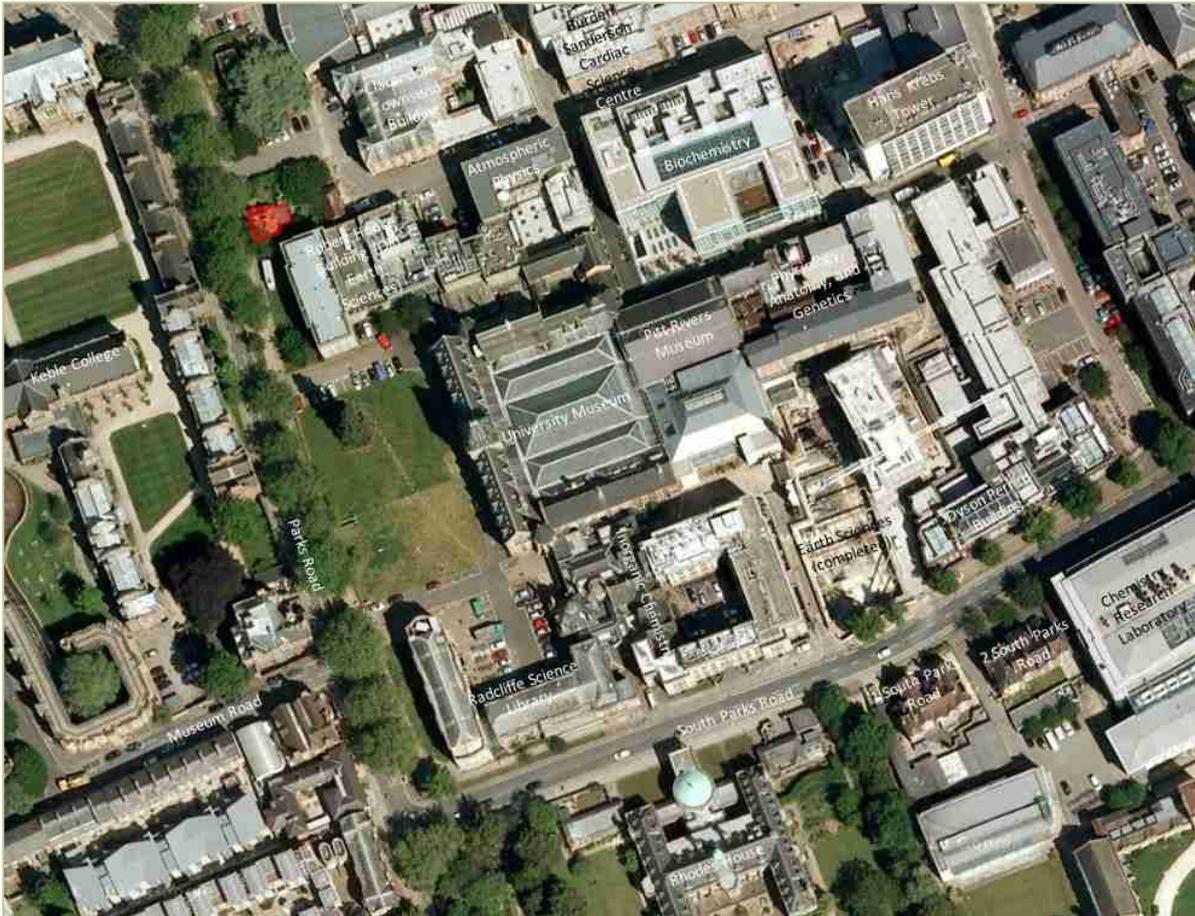


Figure 1. Map showing the Museum Lodge (highlighted in red) and the surrounding area, orientated with North at the top of the image

1.2 Scope of the Conservation Plan

This Conservation Plan will cover the interior and exterior of the Museum Lodge, a grade-II-listed building in the Science Area on the north-eastern edge of central Oxford.

This plan is not a catalogue and to facilitate its practical use will concentrate only on the most vulnerable aspects of significance, suggesting how they should be approached and conserved in the future. A brief list of the most significant architectural features can be found in **Appendix 3** and should be referred to when planning any repair or alteration work.

1.3 Existing Information

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

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

Some planning applications have been made during the building's history, providing a limited indication of the changes that have occurred over time.

There are several books and articles that examine the development of Gothic architecture in Oxford, the work of Deane and Woodward, and the history of the city and University. These publications provide an important resource for the building and works of this period in Oxford.

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

1.4 Methodology

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

1.5 Constraints

The Museum Lodge and its environs are subject to various constraints imposed by Oxford City Council:

- CP.3 – Limiting the Need to Travel: New development will be limited to accessible locations on previously developed sites.
- HE.9 – High Building Areas: Planning permission will not be granted for any development within a 1,200 metre radius of Carfax which exceeds 18.2m in height, except for minor elements of no bulk.
- TR.3, TR.11, TR.12 – Car Parking Standards: The City Council will not allow any significant increase in the overall number of car-parking spaces in the Transport Central Area or development that provides an inappropriate level of car-parking spaces. It will attempt to reduce the level of non-residential parking.
- The City of Oxford Smoke Control Order No.2: It is an offence to emit smoke from the chimney of a building, from a furnace, or from any fixed boiler if located in a designated smoke control area.

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UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

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2 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.1 History of the Site and University¹

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

The site upon which the Museum Lodge now stands is situated in the northeast of the city of Oxford. This area was developed in the 19th Century, notably with the construction of the University Museum in 1855-60 and Keble College on the western side of Parks Road in 1868-70.

The 91-acre site now occupied by Museum Lodge, the University Museum, the Science Area, and the University Parks was purchased by the University from Merton College in stages between 1853 and 1864. The first plans for the University Parks were presented to the University in June 1863, but these were rejected, and it was not until 1865 that £500 was allocated for the purchase of trees and shrubberies. Even before this point the space allocated to the Parks was diminished by the allocation in 1853 of 4 acres in its southern portion (followed by another 4 acres in 1854) for the University Museum (1855-60), and this southern expanse underwent near-continuous development throughout the second half of the 19th Century.

Soon after its construction the University Museum (with its attached Inorganic Chemistry and Comparative Anatomy laboratories) was extended by: the construction of the original Clarendon Physics Laboratory (now embedded within the Robert Hooke (Old Earth Sciences) Building) on its northwest side in 1867-69 (extended in 1946-58), to which the Museum Lodge was added in 1888; the construction of T.N. Deane's Pitt Rivers Museum on the east in 1885-86; the addition of Jackson's Radcliffe Science Library to the south in 1898-1900 (extended in 1933-34); and the extension of the Department of Zoology (now housing Atmospheric Physics) and Stevenson and Redfern's Morphology Laboratory to the north in 1898-1901.

Further science buildings were constructed in this location from the last quarter of the 19th Century. Many of these were originally free-standing, but continued development has created an increasingly interconnected science precinct in the area. The near-continuous history of development in the area has created a crowded space at the south of the Park precinct. It is the main centre for the study of sciences within the University, and is now known as the University Science Area.

¹ A short chronology of the Museum Lodge can be found in **Appendix 2**.

2.2 History of the Museum Lodge

The mid-19th Century was a period of flux and expansion for the city and University, as highlighted by the 1852 Royal Commission on the State, Discipline, Study, and Revenues of the University and Colleges of Oxford. A manifestation of this *zeitgeist* was the hosting of the 1847 Conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Oxford and the subsequent 1849 decision of Convocation to establish a School of Natural Sciences and the related formation of the Museum Committee. Henry Acland, Reader in Anatomy (later Regius Professor of Medicine), was the main proponent of a natural history museum for the exhibition of ‘all the materials explanatory of the structure of the earth, and of the organic beings placed upon it.’² The construction of the University Museum was a substantial victory for the Sciences, involving the conspicuous recognition of Science as a distinct and respectable discipline.

The University Museum was built in 1855-60 to a design by T.N. Deane and Benjamin Woodward. The expansion of science-related buildings across this area was rapid and in 1867-69 the Clarendon Laboratory (subsequently Earth Sciences, and now the Robert Hooke Building) was constructed as an annexe to the University Museum to a design by T.N. Deane (Woodward, the creative force behind the firm and the University Museum design, had died from consumption in 1861, aged just 44). The University Museum and Parks were served by a number of lodges and the Museum Lodge was constructed to serve the Clarendon Laboratory (and was originally known as the Clarendon Lodge, differentiating it from Woodward’s (now demolished) Museum Lodge on South Parks Road) in 1888. It had been proposed by Robert Clifton, Professor of Experimental Philosophy (1865-1915), in 1887 as part of a wider extension to the Clarendon Laboratory, which included an electrical laboratory. £4,800 was requested but Convocation voted to pay only for the lodge.³

The Museum Lodge was designed in a gothic style intended to complement T.N. Deane’s Clarendon Laboratory, which has since been encased by later construction. There is some question as to the authorship of the design for the Museum Lodge. It is traditionally ascribed to T.N. Deane (e.g. the 1972 list description or Pevsner in 1974, no doubt following the list description);⁴ however, O’Dwyer has suggested that it may have been designed by his son, T.M. Deane. This is on the grounds that from March 1875 T.N. Deane was employed part-time as the Superintendent of National Monuments for Ireland (a position requiring frequent travel) and as such may have delegated much of his work to T.M. Deane, who became a partner in the firm in 1878.⁵ Whether the demands of T.N. Deane’s rôle meant that such small projects were beneath his attention, or whether an addition to one of his previous works

² Tyack, G., *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (Oxford, 1998) 217.

³ Fox, R., and Gooday, G., (eds.), *Physics in Oxford, 1839-1939: Laboratories, learning, and college life* (Oxford, 2005) 107.

⁴ **Appendix 1**; Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *Buildings of England: Oxfordshire* (Harmondsworth, 1974) 278.

⁵ O’Dwyer, F., *The Architecture of Deane and Woodward* (Cork, 1997) 391. Howell even lists H.W. Moore as the architect, but this seems highly unlikely (perhaps conflating it with the 1862 North Lodge, generally attributed to Moore, though he was only 12 in 1862): ‘Moore’s happiest work for the University was the smallest – the Museum Lodge in Parks Road (1888)’; Howell, P., ‘Oxford Architecture, 1800-1914’ in Brock, M.G., and Curthoys, M.C., (eds.), *The History of the University of Oxford*, Vol. VII (Oxford, 2000) 772.

within the environs of his most celebrated building may have warranted his personal attention, it is unclear. It is apparent that T.N. Deane did design the (now demolished) Museum gate lodge of 1865, which could explain some confusion regarding the authorship of the 1888 lodge. It remains uncertain which Deane designed the building but it was certainly conceived by their firm; a firm the University was obviously comfortable with using following their successes over the preceding 30 years. The Museum Lodge served (as the Clarendon Lodge) as the residence of the caretaker of the Clarendon Laboratory for the following seven decades.

The Clarendon-Townsend Building was constructed (as the Electrical Laboratory) immediately to the northeast of the lodge in 1908-10 to a design by T.G. Jackson. The Museum Lodge delineated the south-western boundary of the approach to Jackson's stunning façade. Proposed redevelopment was linked to the construction of the new Clarendon Laboratory (now the Lindemann Building of the Clarendon Laboratory) to the north in 1939. This would have involved demolishing the Museum Lodge to facilitate the extension of the original Clarendon Laboratory (which was to be occupied by Earth Sciences) and building two lodges in front of the new Clarendon Laboratory; however, ultimately only a single new lodge was constructed and the Museum Lodge was retained.

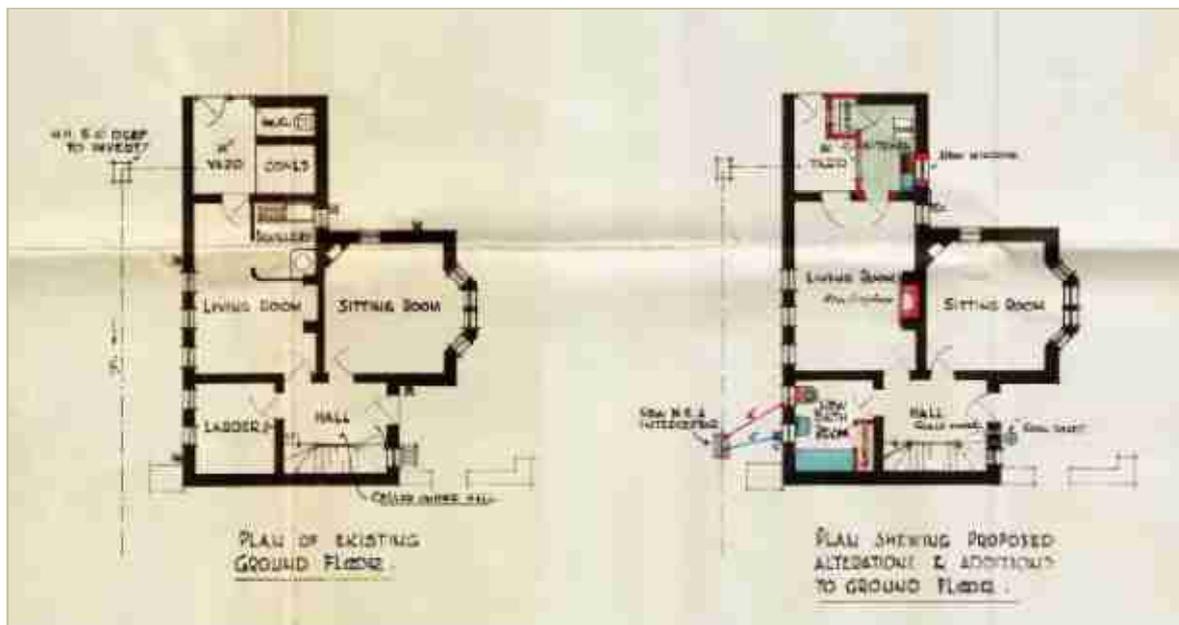


Figure 2. 1950 planning applications. Left, (probably original) layout in 1950. Right, proposed layout following alterations

In 1950 planning permission was granted to modernise the ground floor of the interior. This involved altering the larder to serve as a bathroom. The partition that separated the scullery from the living room was removed, creating a larger living room with a newly-installed fireplace. The southern portion of the yard, which had housed a coal cellar (which was moved to the cellar under the main stairwell, with a new coal shoot fitted by the main entrance) and external lavatory, was converted into a kitchen and larder opening into the living room through a new portal (**Figure 2**). Alterations in May-September 1959 extended the kitchen to

cover the entirety of the former yard, including blocking up the original entrance to the yard, as well as fitting a small lavatory upstairs (diminishing the third bedroom), and redecorating in general. The floor in the northern reception room was broken up and replaced with a new concrete subfloor. These alterations brought the building to its extant layout.

The 1959 alterations were undertaken as a result of the demolition of the original Museum Lodge on South Parks Road (due to the extension of Pharmacology), which necessitated the rehousing of the Museum's porter. In May 1959 the lodge was transferred from the management of the Physics Department to that of the University Museum. Its name was altered from Clarendon Lodge to Museum Lodge in order to avoid confusion with the 1939 lodge outside the new Clarendon Laboratory (Lindemann Building). In September 1959, with the necessary alterations completed, the Museum's porter moved into the lodge.

The tiled roof was overhauled in 1973 and 1984. The current external paint scheme is from 1984. In 1985 planning permission was granted for the construction of a single-storey building to provide a garage for the porter and accommodation for new telephone equipment. This is located to the east of the building. The lodge itself is structurally unaltered since 1959, though it has been redecorated since, and is not dissimilar to its design as built. It continues to serve its original function as onsite accommodation for a porter.



Figure 3. Location of Museum Lodge (outlined in red; building obscured by tree cover) and surrounding area, orientated with North at the left of the image



3

SIGNIFICANCE

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3 SIGNIFICANCE

NPPF paragraph 128 specifies that in assessing planning applications:

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

The significance of the Museum Lodge has been publically recognised by its designation as a Grade-II-listed building in 1972 (see **Appendix 1**).

3.1 Significance as part of Parks Road, Holywell Ward, and the setting of the Clarendon-Townsend Building

The Museum Lodge contributes to the character of the north of Carfax Ward, Parks Road, and the University Science Area. Barely away from the splendour of Broad Street, the northern expanse of Parks Road forms a pleasant, tree-shadowed precinct, marred only by its often-busy motor traffic. The austere majesty of its grand 19th and early 20th-century buildings creates a character of serious academic rigour, venerable rather than pompous.

The defining buildings in the character of this area are the University Museum and Keble College. Their grade-I-listed façades face one another obliquely across Parks Road, dominating the length of the road north of the junction with South Parks Road.

When travelling northwards along Parks Road, one’s first glimpse of the Museum Lodge comes at the junction of South Parks Road and Parks Road where the exaggerated point of the turret, distinctively tiled in red, and chimney catch the eye as they rise through the overhanging limbs of the adjacent tree cover. As one moves further north and the road angles to the northwest, the lodge is slowly revealed (**Figure 4**), seeming to extend from beyond the projecting wing of the Robert Hooke Building (Old Earth Sciences). From the southern corner of the Robert Hooke Building the entirety of the original southern façade of the Museum Lodge can be seen (though the tree cover is more concealing in the summer months), obscured only by a tree directly opposite the front door and a waist-high overlapped-timber fence. The area obscured to the east is the original walled yard which was converted into a single-storey kitchen in the 1950s.

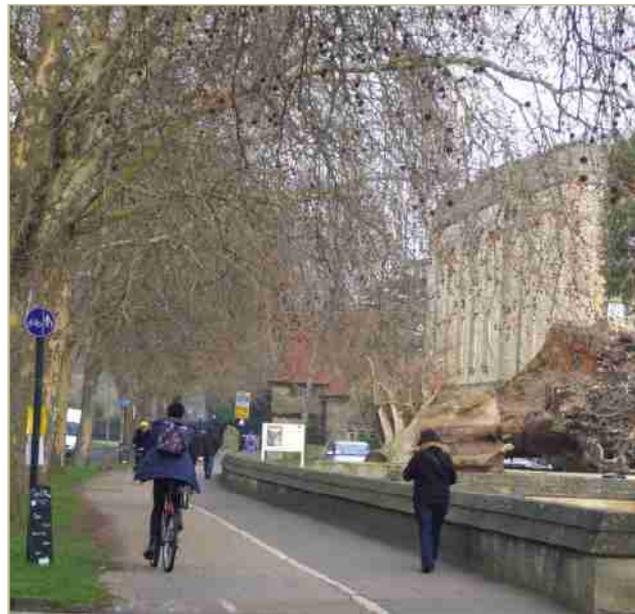


Figure 4. The view of the lodge from outside the Radcliffe Science Library

The southern façade remains the most striking image of the building. The honesty of Gothic Revivalist design dictated that interior distinction of rooms should be discernable externally through the composition of the roofline. This results in the clear distinction between the turret and the protrusion of the sitting room with its bay window at the front of the building. Originally this elevation framed the primary elevation of the Clarendon Laboratory, its turret referencing the round corner turret of the laboratory (**Figure 8**). The long, narrow lawn outside the Robert Hooke Building acts as an approach to the lodge from this angle (**Figure 5**). As one moves along the eastern side of the road at this point, the Museum Lodge becomes, for a short distance, the dominant feature on the road, its ashlar elevations drawing the eye as much as the polychromatic walls of Keble to the west and certainly more so than the larger but plain façade of the Robert Hooke Building to the east. The turret is the dominant feature of the building, but from directly in front of the southern elevation it is balanced by the projection of the sitting room and principal bedroom; the two elements complementing each other well rather than competing.

The western façade of the lodge, facing onto Parks Road, is the plainest of the visible elevations, presenting a blank face of ivy-covered, scored ashlar (**Figure 6**). The turret is punctuated by an original two-light, mullioned window and a small 1959 single-light window at first-floor level.



Figure 5. View northwards across lawn of Robert Hooke Building

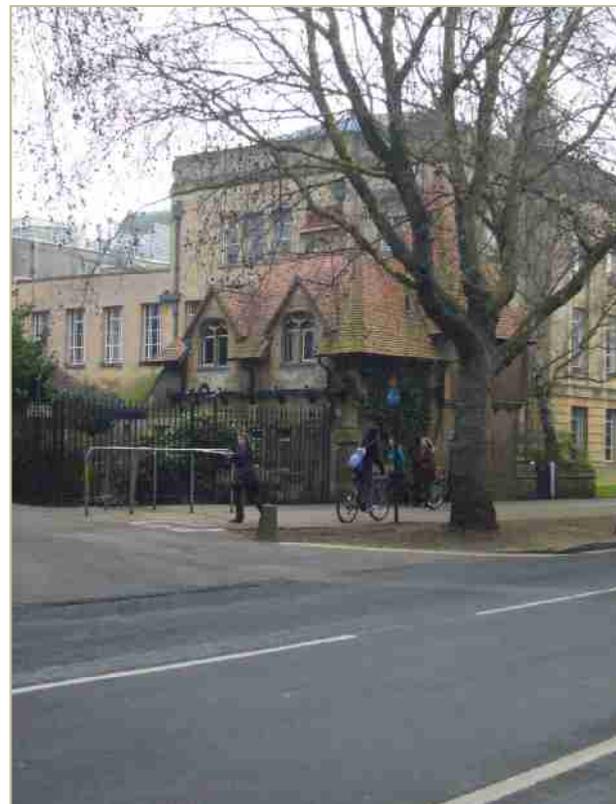


Figure 6. The western and southern elevations viewed from the northwest

The northern elevation of the lodge is obscured by black iron railings and abundant foliage. The visible portion of the elevation is distinguished by the cast-iron gutter at first-floor level, which separates the disparate window designs at the ground- (ogee arch supported on a pair of half-ogees with carved medallions) and first-floor levels (pairs of ogee arches within a roman arch). The gutter is supported by decorative brackets which lighten its appearance and seem to reference the bracketed cornicing around the turret at first-floor level. Originally the yard was on the eastern side of the building (where the kitchen is now located) and the northern elevation was exposed, forming the northern boundary of the Science Area and being visible from across the Parks; hence such embellishment on what is now a relatively-obscured elevation. The windows on this elevation are simpler than on the southern elevation, being rectangular windows set within decorative moulding as opposed to the tracery of the southern windows.

At this point the domestic scale of the Museum Lodge provides an interesting contrast to the surrounding faculty building and the utilitarian design of the Clarendon Lodge.

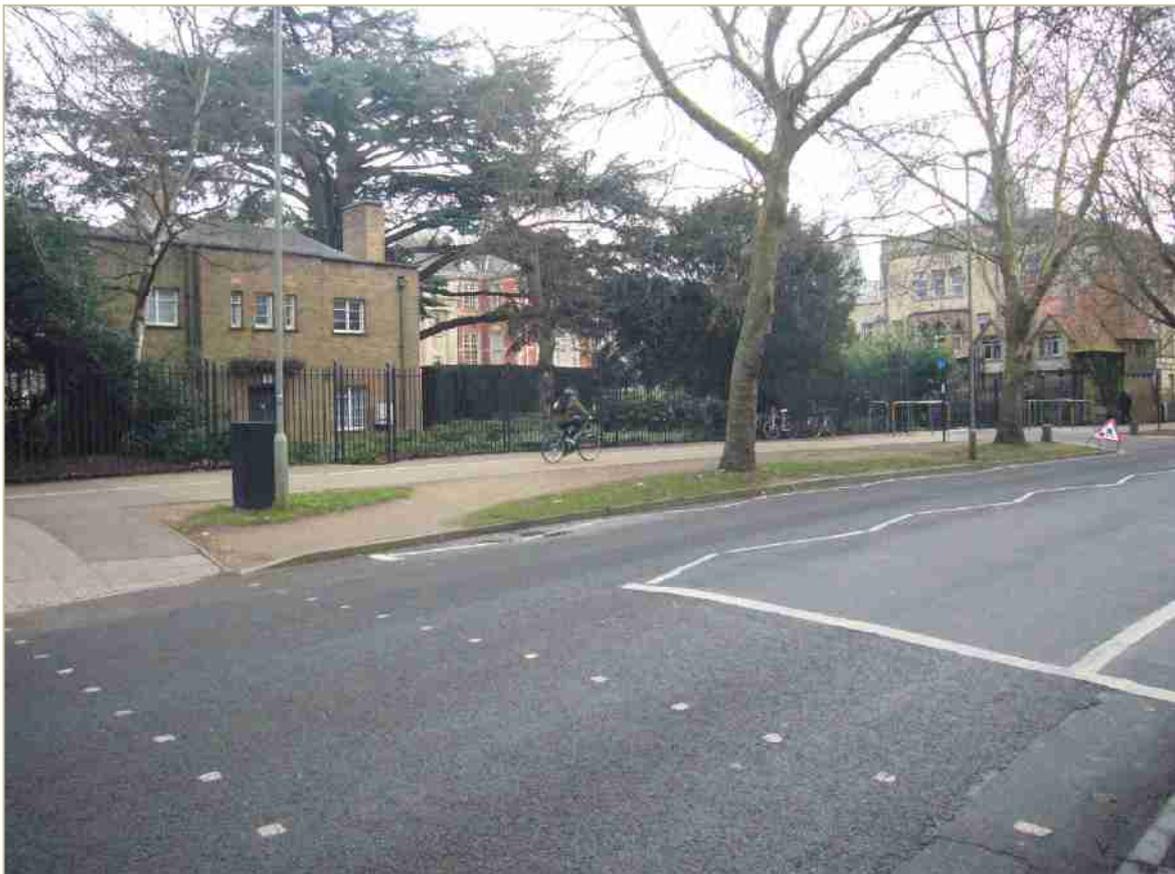


Figure 7. The utilitarian 1939 Clarendon Lodge (left) and the Museum Lodge (right) flanking the approach to the Clarendon-Townsend Building (whose red-brick and ashlar façade can be seen through the tree cover towards the centre of the image). Viewed from the northwest

The Museum Lodge forms the south-western boundary of the approach to the grade-II-listed Clarendon-Townsend Building. T.G. Jackson's Clarendon-Townsend Building (Electrical

Laboratory) has a stunning façade, ‘...William and Mary to Queen Anne in style.’⁶ With its protruding wings bridged by a central range fitted with an elaborate Doric entablature, the Clarendon-Townsend Building has the character of nothing so much as a country manor, with a long, monumental approach. The approach to the Townsend Building is framed by the Museum Lodge in the southwest and by black metal railings and abundant foliage along the western perimeter. The lodge acts as a boundary to the setting, with the fencing and foliage acting to hide the larger building until one is directly before it; at this point one is confronted by a long narrow drive leading to the grand Doric centrepiece of the laboratory’s western elevation. There is an interesting contrast between the classical, orthogonal-ordered design of the Clarendon-Townsend Building and the asymmetry of the gothic lodge, which must have been even more striking when the gothic façade of the original Clarendon Laboratory was in place.

It is the angle of the plain western elevation and the more-elaborate northern elevation that forms the boundary to the approach to the Clarendon-Townsend Laboratory. Visually, the lodge’s relationship with the Clarendon-Townsend Building is much as it was with the original Clarendon Laboratory, that being the subservient relationship of lodge to house on a country estate. The lodge obscures surrounding construction, narrowing the view to the approach and splendid façade of Jackson’s building (**Figure 7**).

3.2 Architectural Significance

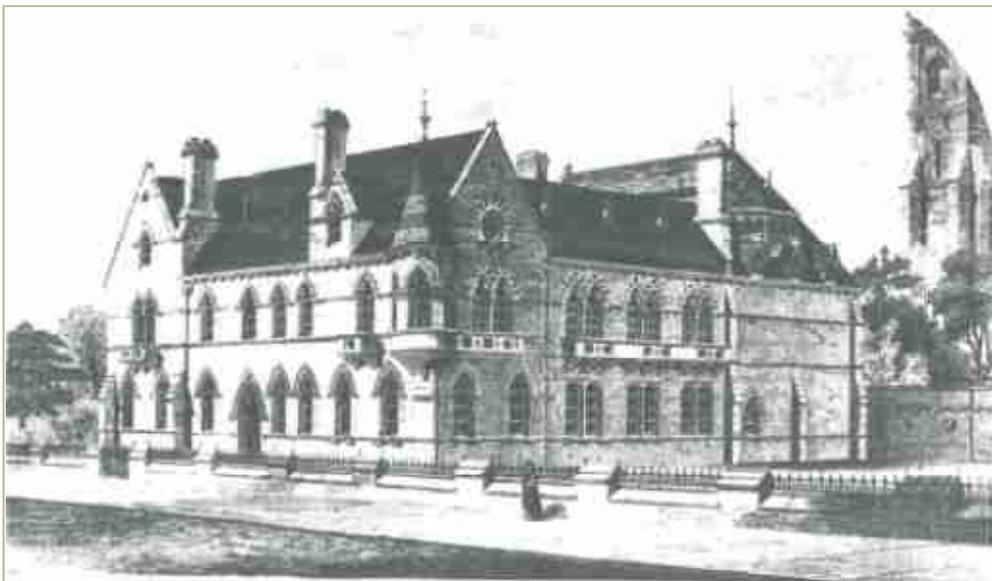


Figure 8. T.N. Deane’s Clarendon Laboratory from *The Builder* 8th May 1869

The aesthetic value of the building is substantial and it contributes effectively to its setting, interacting well with the structures around it (**Section 3.1**). The heritage asset also possesses some illustrative value, being an archetypal specimen of Gothic Revival from the Deane practice, produced at a point when the style was going out of fashion. It is essentially two wings set at a right angle with a projecting stair turret (**Figure 2**). The separate wings and

⁶ Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *Building of England: Oxfordshire* (Harmondsworth, 1974) 278.

turret are defined at roof level, creating the distinctive roof line. The ashlar façades are embellished by vertical scoring on the blocks and elaborate window mouldings and arches throughout. The disparity between the sophisticated ashlar exterior and the functional interior is indicative of the nature of the design: the setting demanded an attractive structure that would act as an embellishment to its surroundings and complement the western elevation of the (then) Clarendon Laboratory (**Figure 8**), whereas the interior, as the private home of the porter, was not deemed in need of elaborate design, remaining very much subservient to the requirements of the exterior. In this way it retains some indication of the status of the original lodges (T.N. Deane's Museum gate lodge of 1865 and Woodward's original Museum Lodge) around the Science Area that have since been demolished (North Lodge (1862 by H.W. Moore), Clarendon Lodge (1939), and South Parks Lodge (1890s) also remain), as well as being a clear example of how the Gothic Revival was interpreted in small structures. Furthermore, if it could be shown to be the work of T.M. Deane, rather than his father, it would be an interesting example of the architect's early work and a rare example of Gothic from an architect who trained in Gothic (under William Burges) but tended to work in Queen Anne.

The Museum Lodge is a building of local significance which interacts visually with buildings of international significance (University Museum and Keble College). It has aesthetic value as well as illustrative value as an example of the mature Gothic Revival and the later work of the Deane practice in Oxford.

3.3 Archaeological Significance

The University Parks and the Science Area have a rich and relatively-continuous history of occupation as indicated by: Bronze Age barrows (late third millennium BC), with evidence for Iron Age infilling of the double-ditch barrow in the Science Area; ring ditches suggesting Iron Age settlement; Roman earthworks; a Roman burial and several ditches near the Lindemann Building; mediaeval (post-1066) ridge and furrow, suggesting an intensive agricultural use in this period; Civil War earthworks; and post-mediaeval field boundaries. The Lindemann Building's foundation trenches occupy some 4 m-deep trenches which formed part of Oxford's Civil War defences.

Considering the wealth of nearby archaeological material, it is likely that there is some significant material, with potential evidential value, preserved on the site.

3.4 Historical Significance

The Museum Lodge has illustrative value regarding the functioning of early purpose-built laboratories. The technical nature of the equipment housed within the laboratories meant that for operational and safety reasons an onsite porter was required at all times. Historically the lodges were primarily viewed as functional buildings and as the need for a 24-hour presence on site diminished they were summarily demolished. The retention of the Museum Lodge is indicative of the consistent need for an onsite porter associated with the University Museum and the reduced need for one associated with the laboratory buildings.

3.5 Significance as a porter's lodge and home

The Museum Lodge still functions in much the same manner as it was originally intended to: as an onsite home for a porter associated with the buildings of the Science Area (the only difference being that it is now the home of the porter of the University Museum rather than the Clarendon Laboratory). This continuity of use has some inherent significance as well as the corollary of facilitating the maintenance and operation of the adjacent grade-I-listed University Museum.



VULNERABILITIES

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4 VULNERABILITIES

The Museum Lodge continues to fulfil much the same function as it was originally designed to, that of a working lodge intended to house an onsite porter associated with the adjacent Science Area buildings. The lodge was created for this function and is well suited to it, though it would be equally suitable as private housing without any alteration. The continued use of the lodge in a contemporary function is important to its ongoing maintenance and conservation. The listed building has retained its significant character because the building has remained in use and has been maintained and cared for.

The current usage funds the upkeep and conservation of the heritage asset and ensures its continued existence and significance. The usage does not threaten the significant features and the heritage asset's Grade II listing ensures that any future alterations operate within the constraints of an accepted understanding of the building's significance as a heritage asset. Whilst some limited change may be required in the future to maintain the active use of the heritage asset (for instance, the interior fittings are relatively dated), the unique character of the building should be respected in any future plans.

4.1 Maintenance

4.1.1 External Elevations and Setting

The exterior elevations, notably the southern elevation, are the most significant elements of the Museum Lodge as a heritage asset. The southern elevation has particular aesthetic value and contributes notably to the character of the area. The red-tiled turret is of particular value, contributing substantially to pleasant views along Parks Road. The northern elevation is attractive, notably its cast iron guttering and decorative brackets, and contributes to the character of the approach to the Clarendon-Townsend Building. The western elevation is less significant in its plainness, as originally this would have faced (as now) onto the splendid façade of Keble College, whereas the northern and southern elevations were open and visible for some distance. The eastern elevation has always been the most sheltered (being fitted with a walled yard which has since been incorporated into a kitchen) and remains obscured; objectively, it is the least significant elevation.

The southern elevation is the most significant elevation and contributes effectively to its setting. It is a high-quality, ashlar façade and the window surrounds and the moulding around the



Figure 9. Weathering to moulding on first floor of southern elevation

doorway are particularly attractive. For the most part it has aged well but it is open to weathering, erosion, potential vandalism, and pollution; damage which could detract from the significance of the heritage asset. The southern elevation is currently in an attractive state; however, the decorative moulding around the windows has suffered from weathering (**Figure 9**). Equally, consideration could be given to sympathetic cleaning on all of the elevations due to blackening, no doubt related to air pollution from the busy motor traffic on Parks Road.

The roofline, notably the exaggerated point of the turret, is of some significance. The red-tiled roof is the most recognisable feature of the building and the most striking from a distance. The points of the roof are topped with elaborate finials. The distinctive tiling initially matched and referenced the tiling of the adjacent Clarendon Laboratory. The chimney is an attractive piece and has decorative moulding that references that around the windows.

The landscape setting of the heritage asset has changed substantially since its construction. Its initial setting was at the north-western point of a developed area, framing the Clarendon Laboratory and the emerging precinct around the University Museum. To the north there was open parkland until the construction of the Clarendon-Townsend Building in 1908-10.

The approach to the southern elevation has been altered by the extension of the Clarendon Laboratory (now encased within the Robert Hooke Building) to an extent that the extant building bears no relation to the original structure. The lodge was a building designed with its relationship to the adjacent Clarendon Laboratory at the forefront of the architect's mind. The loss of this relationship would render the lodge somewhat incongruous if it were not for the gothic splendour of Keble College (Keble's Chapel was completed a decade earlier, in 1876) and the University Museum to either side; a formation which leaves the rusticated façade of the Robert Hooke Building feeling more out of place.

The approach from the north has altered in character substantially since the construction of the Museum Lodge and is now defined by the buildings of the Science Area rather than by open parkland. This has created an interesting relationship with the Clarendon-Townsend Building, with the Museum Lodge acting visually as a frame to its approach (**Section 3.2** and **Figure 7**). The approach to the Clarendon-Townsend Building itself has diminished since its construction in 1908-10, with the monumental approach being disrupted by a tarmacked car park running right up to the primary façade. Consideration could be given to the configuration of this area in order to allow full advantage to be taken of the attractive arrangement of: the two lodges; the Clarendon-Townsend Building's primary elevation; and the open space between.

4.1.2 Interior Spaces

The interior of the Museum Lodge was designed as a functional domestic space. The care given to its exterior appearance is a product of its prestigious location rather than its function. The interior layout has not altered greatly since the building's construction and the original floor plan is discernable (**Section 2.2**). The layout has not been altered at all since 1959. There are some attractive spaces, notably the hall and stairwell, but otherwise the interior

features are of no particular significance to the building as a heritage asset; however, as a Grade-II-listed building any alteration, or repairs made with non-original materials, may require listed building consent.

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CONSERVATION
POLICY

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5 CONSERVATION POLICY

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

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

5.1 **The Museum Lodge's continued use in a contemporary function is important to its continued significance. Permit, in line with NPPF paragraphs 131, 132, 133, and 134, alterations intended to facilitate its continued use in this way**

The continued use of the Museum Lodge in a contemporary function represents an important aspect of its significance. Its use as a domestic space associated with the management of the adjacent buildings has some historical significance, but any use that allows the building to be used and enjoyed, rather than serving as a static monument, could be permitted. Limited alterations will inevitably be required to allow it to retain its significance in line with modern standards and requirements. If alteration is required in the future it should be permitted with the following provisos:

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

5.2 **Note that the Museum Lodge is a Grade-II-listed building and ensure that appropriate consents are obtained for works to the interior or exterior of the building**

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

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

It is important to guarantee that the best advice is obtained at an early stage of any proposal to alter any part of the building in order to ensure that the significance of the building is respected.

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

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

5.5 Any redevelopment needs to respect the character of the surrounding area and the Museum Lodge's setting adjacent to listed buildings (notably the Clarendon-Townsend Building, the University Museum, and Keble College)

The Museum Lodge is significant to the character of Parks Road and is of particular importance to the setting of the Clarendon-Townsend Building (**Sections 3.1 and 4.1.1**). Any future alteration should be sympathetic to this fact, and should not diminish its rôle in the character of the area.

5.6 Items of particular concern

5.6.1 Landscape Setting

The setting of the Museum Lodge has been diminished by the development of the Science Area, the loss of its parkland setting, and the encasement of the original Clarendon Laboratory. Particular consideration should be given to the improvement of the areas adjacent to the northern and eastern façades, forming the approach to the Clarendon-Townsend Building.

5.7 Conservation of specific factors contributing to overall significance

The exterior of the Museum Lodge is of some significance. An effort should be made to identify and conserve the original architectural features and keep these in use where possible, in line with **Section 5.1**; however, it is accepted that all materials have a natural lifespan and some degree of change must be permitted to keep the building safe, usable, and generally fit for function. Some materials, such as the non-decorative elements of the external stonework, will have a very long expectancy if given routine maintenance; others are impermanent and may need periodic replacement. Within the framework of understanding and valuing what is present in the building a degree of ongoing change is inevitable.

5.7.1 Any alterations made to the exterior elevations or roof will respect their significant and contribution to the character of the surrounding area

The exterior elevations are the most significant aspects of the Museum Lodge. The decorative elements of the windows, as well as the cast iron guttering, and the projecting turret, are of particular significance. The northern and southern elevations are more significant, though the western elevation has some value. Any alterations to the elevations could significantly affect the character of the building and its impact on the surrounding area. Any alterations that do affect the elevations will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance and character in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

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

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

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

There is the potential for significant material across the site (**Section 3.3**), and should any excavation work be carried out, an assessment of the archaeological potential should be made. This should include at least a desk-based assessment, but possibly geophysics and trial trenching. A watching brief will almost certainly be required for any excavation.

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

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

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

5.10.2 A detailed routine maintenance programme will be prepared for the building

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

5.10.3 The Conservation Plan will be circulated to inhabitants of the Museum Lodge and to all other members of the University who have responsibility for the building

The value of the heritage asset needs to be appreciated by all senior staff responsible for the building, as well as by its inhabitants. Only in this way will the heritage asset be properly treated, repaired, and maintained.

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

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

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

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



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6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Oxford City Council, *The Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016* (November 2005).
- *Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*.
- *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*.

6.2 Planning Applications and Supporting Documents

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6.3 Books and Articles

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- O'Dwyer, F., *The Architecture of Deane and Woodward* (Cork, 1997).
- Pevsner, N., and Sherwood, J., *Buildings of England: Oxfordshire* (Harmondsworth, 1974).
- Tyack, G., *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (Oxford, 1998).

6.4 Other Documents

- Archive documents from Estates Services archives.
- Listed building description courtesy of English Heritage (see **Section 6.5**).
- *Museum Lodge, Parks Road, Oxford* (student project by James Robert Harrison, May 2011).

6.5 Websites

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- Google Maps:
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- Heritage Gateway (HER Records):
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6.6 Image Credits

- Cover and chapter covers: Estates Services photographs.
- Figure 1: Adapted from Google Maps (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figure 2: From *Application 50/01231/A_H Internal Alterations* (May 1950) (see **Section 6.2**).
- Figure 3: Adapted from Bing Maps (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figures 4-7: Estates Services photographs.
- Figure 8: From *The Builder* 8th May 1869.
- Figure 9: Estates Services photograph.



APPENDICES

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7 Appendices

Appendix 1 Listed Building Description

List Entry Summary

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

Name: MUSEUM LODGE

List Entry Number: 1047178

Location

MUSEUM LODGE, PARKS ROAD

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

County: Oxfordshire

District: Oxford

District Type: District Authority

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 28-Jun-1972

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

Legacy System Information

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

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 245726

Asset Groupings

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

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

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

Reasons for Designation

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

History

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

Details

PARKS ROAD

1.

1485 (East Side)

Museum Lodge

SP 5106 NW 5/798

II

2.

1888. By T N Deane. Ashlar. 2 storeys. The North front has 5 windows below, 2 paired ones above in the gables. Cast-iron gutter at 1st floor level. 2, 3 and 4 light windows, some with shaped and carved drip moulds. Bay window. Entrance on South side. Red tile roof with gables and turret, all with finials.

Listing NGR: SP5139106981

Selected Sources

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

Map

National Grid Reference: SP 51391 06981

The below map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - [1047178.pdf](#)



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Appendix 2 Chronology of the Museum Lodge

1847	Conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science is held in Oxford and the first moves to form a scientific centre are made
1849	Convocation decides to establish a School of Natural Sciences and the Oxford Museum Committee is formed
1850	It is estimated that £50,000 will be required for the construction of the Museum. An appeal for funds from the University Chest is denied
1851-53	Ruskin's <i>Stones of Venice</i> is released in three volumes
1852	The University Commissioners recommend the building of a museum
1855-60	The University Museum is constructed by Lucas Brothers of London to a design by Deane and Woodward
1867-69	The Clarendon Laboratory is constructed to design by T.N. Deane.
1878	The firm of Deane and Woodward becomes T.N. Deane and Son, as T.M. Deane is made a partner
1887	Robert Clifton proposes the construction of a lodge to serve the Clarendon Laboratory
1888	The Museum Lodge is constructed (as the Clarendon Lodge) to a design by either T.N. Deane or T.M. Deane.
1908-10	The Clarendon-Townsend Building is constructed (as the new Electrical Laboratory) to the northeast of the lodge to a design by T.G. Jackson
1939	The Lindemann Building is constructed (as the new Clarendon Laboratory), along with its brick-built lodge, to the northeast of the Museum Lodge
1946-58	The original Clarendon Laboratory (Robert Hooke Building) is extended
1950	Planning permission is granted to modernise the ground-floor interior, including extending the kitchen into the yard and fitting an internal bathroom in place of the larder
1959	The South Parks Lodge on South Parks Road (which had housed the Museum porter since the demolition of the original Museum lodge in 1932) is demolished and the porter is moved to the current Museum Lodge, which is removed from the under the auspices of the Physics Department
1959	Alterations are undertaken involving extending the kitchen across the entirety of the original yard and fitting an upstairs lavatory
1973	Tiled roof overhauled
1984	Roof retiled again
1984	Current external paint scheme (black, white, and University Blue on the doors) is imposed
1985	Planning permission granted for the construction of a single-storey garage

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Appendix 3 Checklist of Significant Features

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

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

The Museum Lodge, Building # 253		
SIGNIFICANT FEATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Further Information
General:		
External elevations		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
Historic stonework including decorative elements		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
Roofs		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
Windows throughout		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
Specific Features:		
External Elevations		
-Scored ashlar blocks		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
-Bracketed cornice on turret		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
-Moulding on windows and door		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
-Bay window from sitting room		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
-Windows in general, notably leaded panels on turret		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
-Chimney and moulding on chimney stack		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
-Red tiles roofs and associated finials		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35
-Cast-iron guttering and brackets on northern elevation		p.19-23, 27-28, 34-35