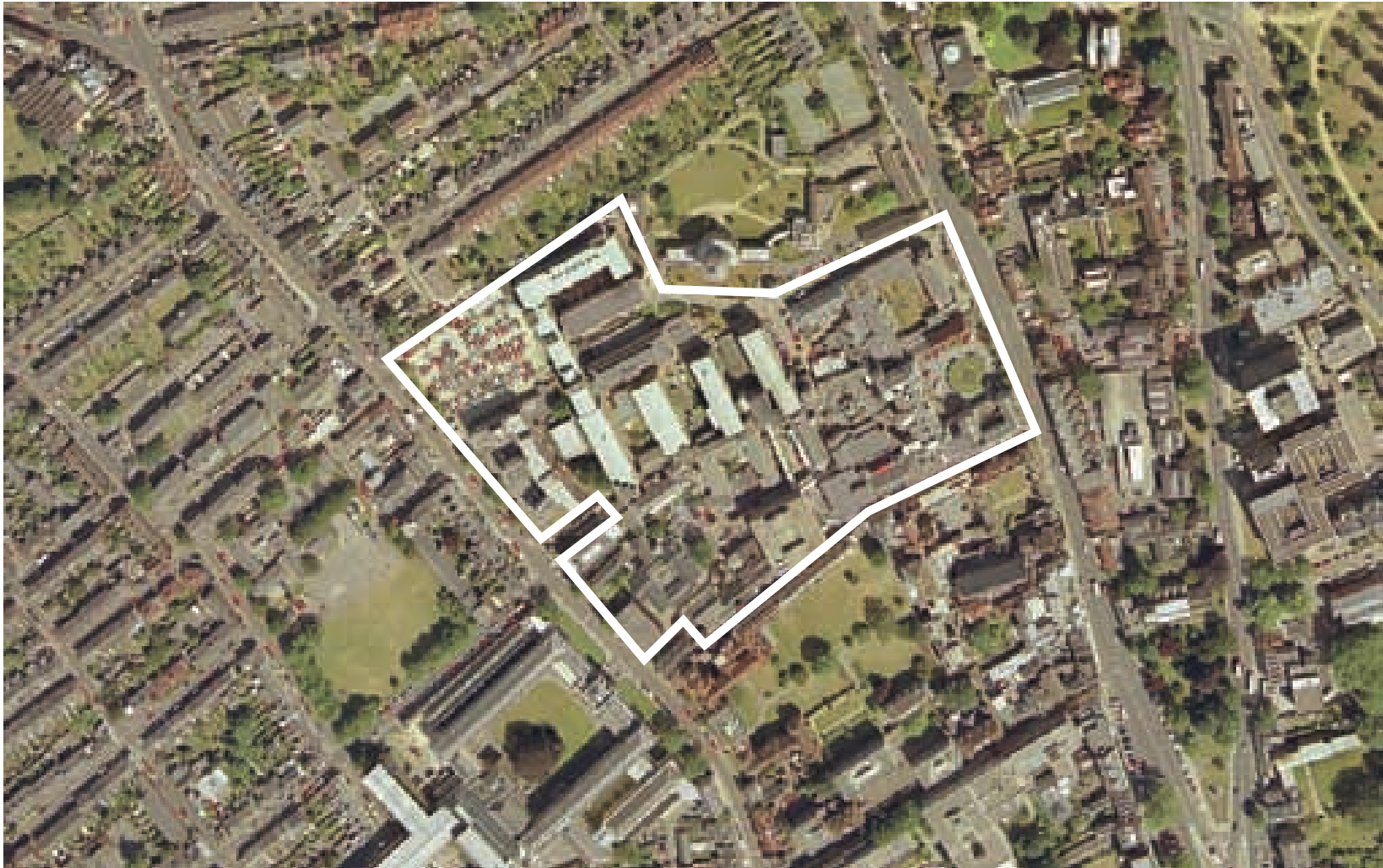


Welcome

Thank you for coming to our exhibition and taking the time to view the proposals for the second phase of the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ) ahead of the submission of planning applications to Oxford City Council.



Right: The Site

The University of Oxford is one of the best known universities in the world, with an enviable reputation for teaching, learning and research, within a renowned, historic setting. The University must continue to attract and maintain the highest calibre of staff and students if it is to maintain its position and, to achieve this, it must continue to provide appropriate high quality facilities.

The aim of this exhibition is to show you the University's plans for the second phase of development at the ROQ site in accordance with the wider Masterplan which was presented to Oxford City Council on the 30 November 2008 and adopted by the University in December 2008 following a four year consultation process.

The second phase of implementation of the Masterplan will provide new accommodation for the Mathematical Institute and the Humanities Division.

The first phase schemes comprised the refurbishment of the Radcliffe Infirmary (RI), St Luke's Chapel and Outpatients' buildings; the creation of a new pedestrian route linking Walton Street and Woodstock Road; and, the extension of Somerville College to form new student accommodation and teaching and library archive facilities. These proposals were recently approved by Oxford City Council.

Right: University Estate
Below: The Radcliffe Infirmary



The Exhibition

This exhibition aims to provide some more background to the project and explain the detailed proposals before the University applies to Oxford City Council for planning permission.

Following an analysis of the history of the site and a review of the ROQ Masterplan, the exhibition is divided into three sections: the Mathematical Institute; the Humanities Buildings and Library, and; the key strategies that will link them together, namely public realm and landscape, movement, and sustainability.

We welcome your views on the plans that are presented here. Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to discuss them with a member of our team or alternatively, fill out one of the feedback forms provided.



New Mathematical Institute

The Mathematical Institute has been at the heart of the University's work since its foundation. It was one of two original honour schools created at the beginning of the 19th Century and today, it is one of the largest departments in the University.

The mathematics community of the University of Oxford is currently dispersed across the colleges and three departmental sites. The new Mathematical Institute will be the main workplace for faculty, research staff, graduate students, visitors, and support staff, and should also be the centre for the intellectual life for undergraduates and a diverse community of college research fellows and lecturers.



New Humanities Buildings & Library

New challenges and opportunities are opening up in the humanities as changing patterns of research offer new possibilities for interdisciplinary and collaborative work. The University seeks to create an environment that will facilitate and enhance its academic vision for the humanities in the twenty-first century and beyond.

The new Humanities library at the ROQ site, which will integrate the faculty holdings with some stock from the main Bodleian Library, will offer superb facilities for undergraduate students, graduates and scholars alike. The Library is being planned as a key part of the Oxford University Library Services (OULS) Estates Strategy and will constitute one of OULS' major facilities, bringing together and consolidating up to 15 separate faculty libraries and related collections.



Masterplan Coordination

Linking both schemes together will be a series of strategies which will underpin and coordinate all future phases of the Masterplan. The unifying strategies have emerged from the technical studies that have been developed to support the implementation of the Masterplan.

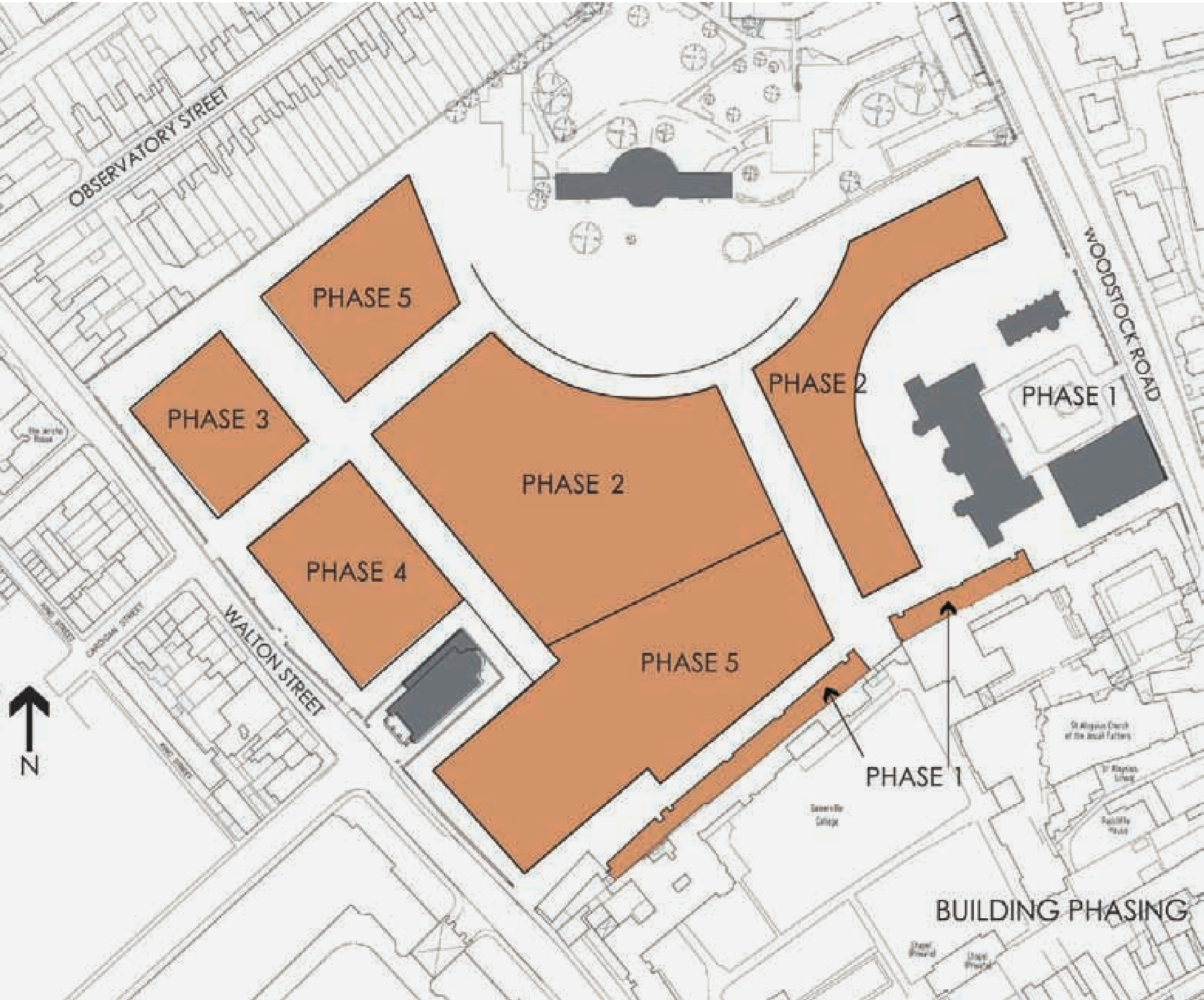
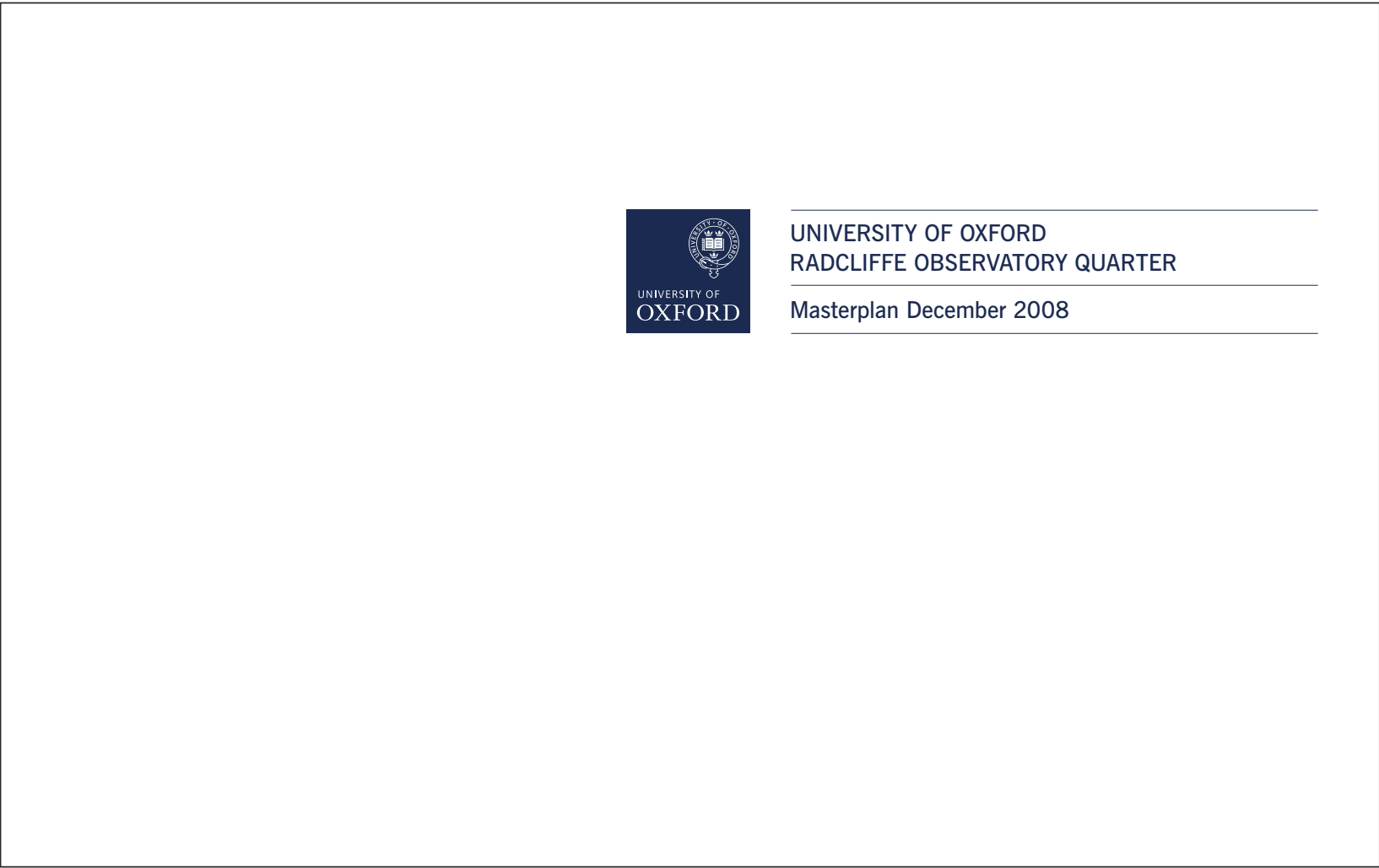
These strategies include Movement, Sustainability and crucially, Landscape & Public Realm. The latter will detail how a series of new streets and spaces will be created, including a new garden in front of the Observatory, creating a new informal setting for this building.

Thank you once again for your attendance. We hope you will find this exhibition of interest.

Above: The Radcliffe Observatory Quarter and Heritage Assets

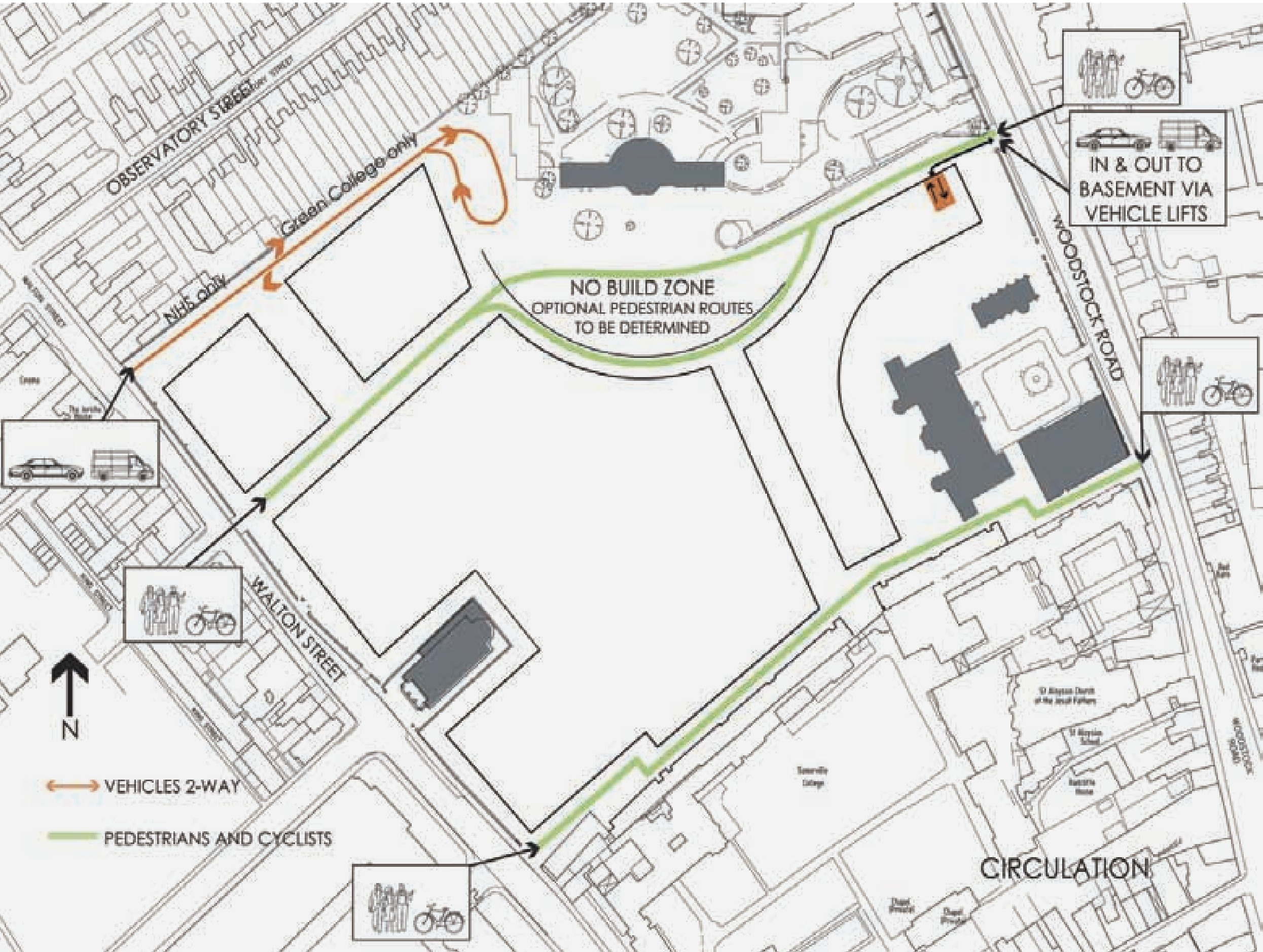
The Radcliffe Observatory Quarter Masterplan

The Radcliffe Infirmary site was purchased by the University in 2003 to accommodate new teaching and learning space over the next twenty years. The University has prepared and submitted to Oxford City Council a Masterplan to guide development across the site, now known as the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ).



Above: Phasing diagram

Below: Circulation



The University’s academic vision for the site was defined in the Masterplan brief and stated that:

‘The site must work as a whole, providing not a series of individual independent facilities, but rather an integrated campus capable of phased development, to provide the flexible and sustainable estate the University requires to maintain and improve upon its current status.’

The development of a large site over a long time frame, entailing a variety of buildings, services, infrastructure, open spaces, access routes and other components, is a complex process. If no initial thought is given to the complete picture, development would occur on an ad hoc basis, serving the needs of the present only.

The resulting Masterplan provides a framework for the entire site within which detailed development proposals can be brought forward, setting out a long-term vision that can be developed in phases as the need for space arises. Through the delivery of this vision over the next 20+ years, the University seeks to provide facilities befitting its international reputation as an institution of learning that will positively reflect upon the historic city of Oxford.

The overall approach assumes that no laboratory buildings will be built at the ROQ. These will continue to be provided, where required in the centre of the city, in the Science Area and Keble Triangle. The ROQ is therefore intended for what is known as “dry” research and teaching, meaning research and teaching which takes place in lecture rooms, seminar rooms and libraries, rather than laboratories.

The Masterplan evolved in response to extensive consultation both within and outside the University prior to it being formally submitted to Oxford City Council.

As a result of comments made during the consultation process, the Masterplan was amended further before being formally presented to the Council during November 2008 for consideration by its North and Central Area Committees and the Strategic Development Control Committee. Oxford City Council resolved to:

1. Note the Masterplan and the analysis of it, and the suggested approach to be adopted as a precursor to future development proposals being brought forward, as set out in the report of the Head of City Development.
2. Note that the Committee would not be fettered in its consideration of future planning applications for development at the Radcliffe Infirmary site, taking into account the prevailing policy and guidance and any other material considerations.

The Masterplan will endure for the life of the development of the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. Rather than seek to confirm a precise design, the Masterplan sets out the policies to which a detailed design for any element of the plan should adhere.

Implementing the Masterplan

The high level policies within the Masterplan are a unifying force in respect of the various plots that comprise the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. Clearly however, these policies will not always impact uniformly across the site, just as individual architects and project teams tasked with a specific project will interpret the Masterplan differently.

Overlaying this factor is that each plot will be dependent upon a site-wide approach on a range of issues such as streets and spaces, parking, cycling, and sustainability.

To ensure the successful implementation of a unified urban quarter in accordance with the Masterplan Vision, the University is formulating a strategic and technical framework that enables the key design decisions made by individual design teams for each plot to be integrated with high-level strategies.

Progress towards implementation of the Masterplan moved forward recently when the ROQ Phase 1 schemes, comprising the refurbishment of the Radcliffe Infirmary, St Luke’s Chapel and Outpatients’ buildings; the creation of a pedestrian route between Walton Street and Woodstock Road; and, the extension of Somerville College received the approval of Oxford City Council.