

The South Jericho Residents Association July 9th 2013

- This new residents association was constituted on July 7th 2013.
- It covers the area: Worcester Place to Richmond Road including Walton Street (west side) and Walton Lane.
- Chair: Chris Johnson
- Secretary: Mary Keen
- Treasurer: Nicky Schlatter

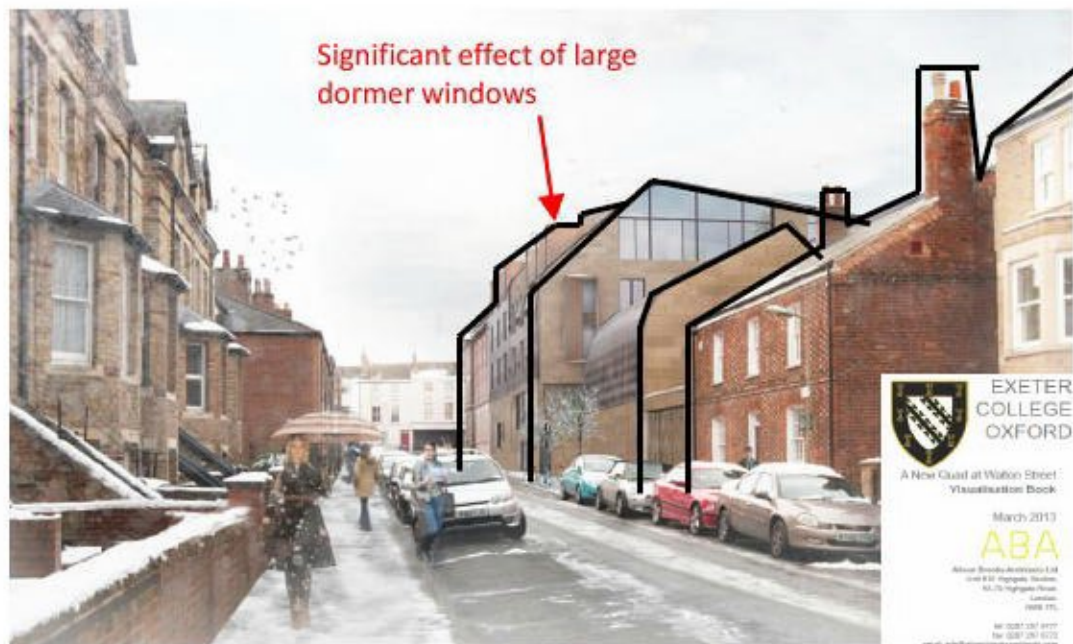
Our **three key points of objection** to the proposed new Exeter College building, on the former Ruskin College site, are:

- 1) The Ruskin building is extremely high and our homes are already short of light. The buildings in the proposal should be scaled back so there is no increase in height.
- 2) The poor quality of information presented to us means we have had no option but to pay for our own independent lighting consultants
 - the angles presented to us on June 10th did not include the effect of the large dormer windows
 - the shadowing diagrams received on July 3rd are not clear to us
 - Exeter College have refused to release the data used in their lighting analysis
- 3) We object to the use of highway for the use of (20 +) bicycle stands on the grounds of safety because they are placed towards the top end of Worcester Place (which is a one-way street)

This document summarises the key issues and includes copies of documents and emails dating since May 30th 2013.

The initial meeting and presentation took place on February 11th 2013 . We have been following up on our increasingly serious concerns continuously since then with Exeter College, their Consultants and their Architects. This has proved to be a very challenging and time consuming process.

We want to welcome Exeter College, and wish to be good neighbours to them, but the proposed building is far higher than the already large existing building. It is simply too overbearing and is not suitable for a residential street in its current form.



Visualisation

http://public.oxford.gov.uk/online-applications/files/C7712F75AFC3F916244D7D179FB393B4/pdf/13_00832_RUL-VISUALISATION_BOOKLET_1358099.pdf



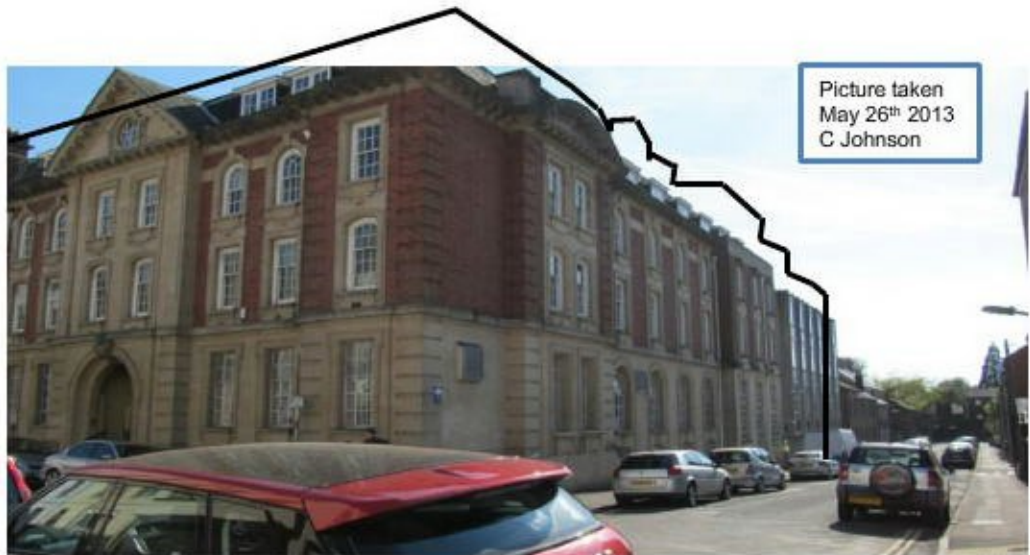
Comparison

The view facing east along Worcester Place



Visualisation

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Comparison

The view facing west from the junction of
Worcester Place and Walton Street



A New Quad at Walton Street
Visualisation Book

March 2013

ABA

Robert Brinkley Architects Ltd
100-104 Highgate Road,
London, NW6 7JG

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04 5207 200 0112
email: info@brinkleyarchitects.co.uk
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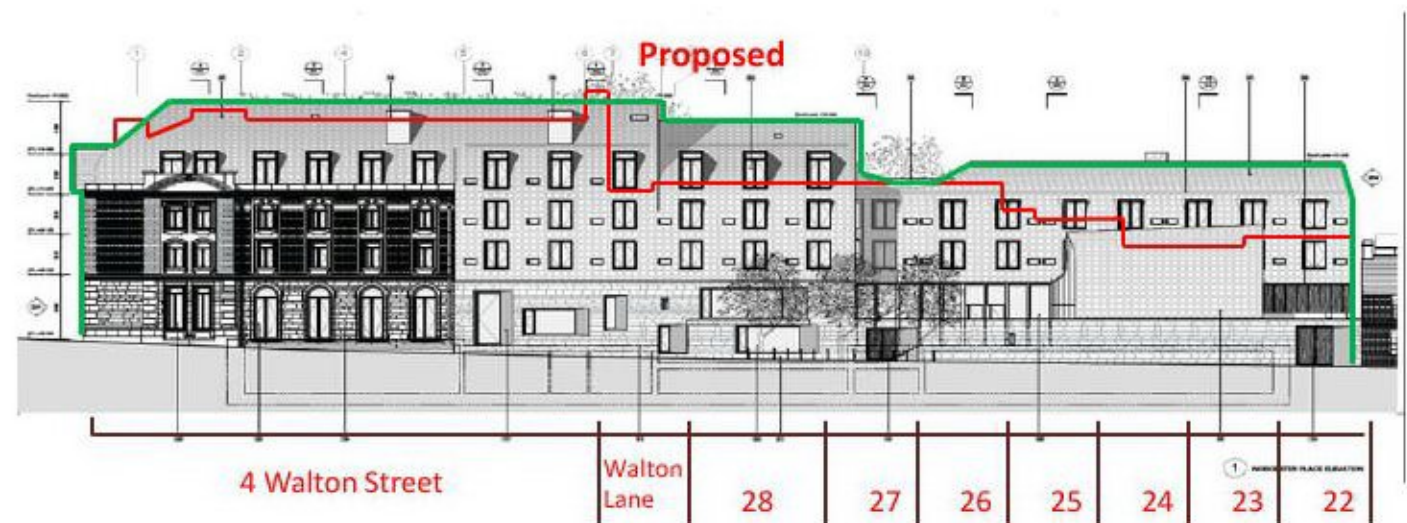
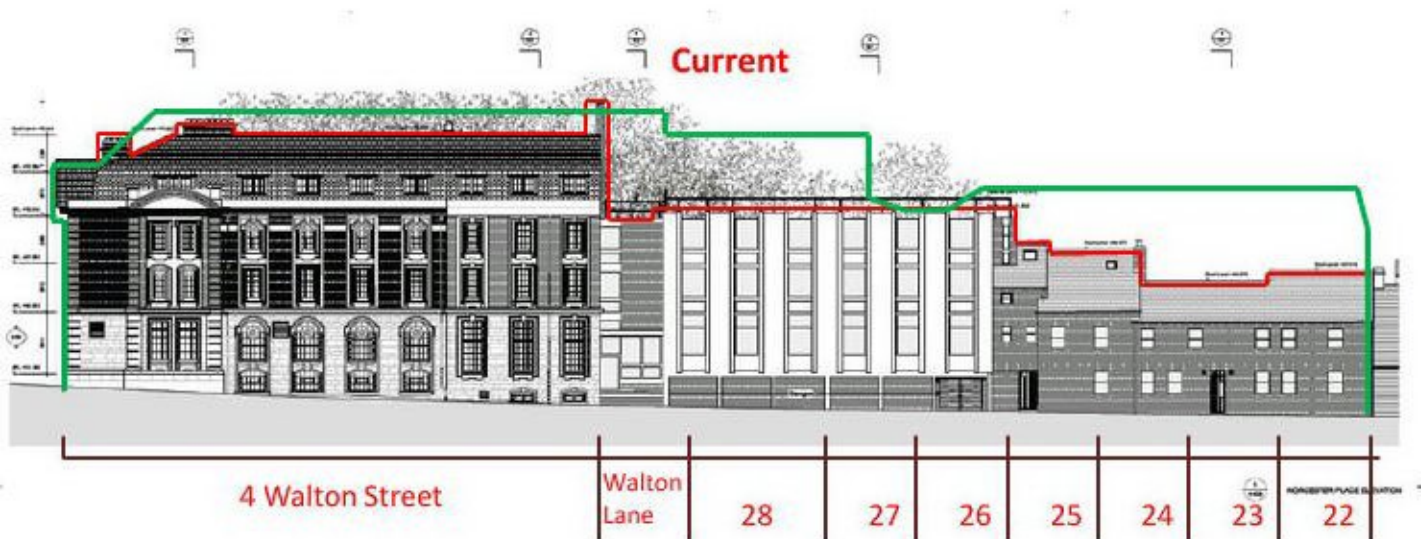
Visualisation

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Picture taken
May 26th 2013
C Johnson

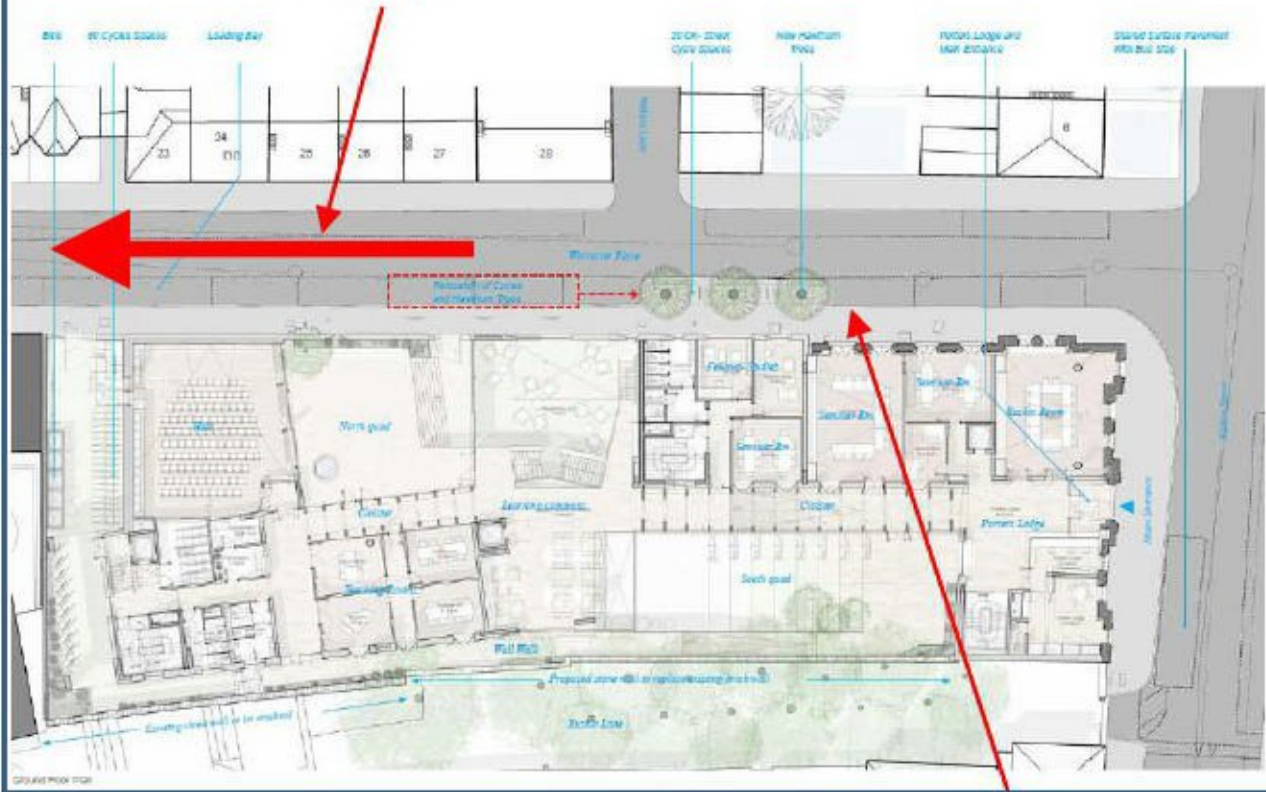


The view facing south from the junction of
Richmond Road and Walton Street



The elevation height opposite 22-28 Worcester Place would be increased significantly

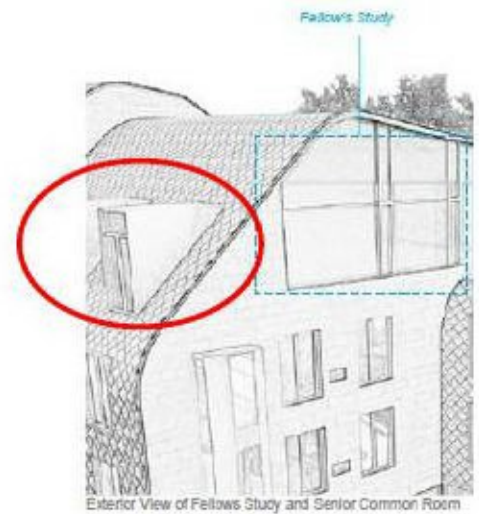
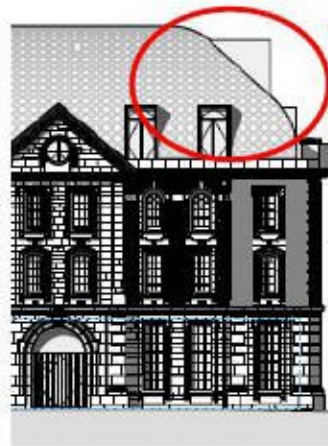
One-way system



Worcester Place is a one-way street with frequent traffic turning in from Walton Street.

There is danger for cyclists emerging into Walton Street

Cyclists using these **new cycle stands** (which would replace existing highway) are unlikely to follow the lengthy one-way system



The large dormer windows were not included in light angles that were presented to us. Yet the incremental effect on sunlight reduction (in a street that has poor light already) would be significant

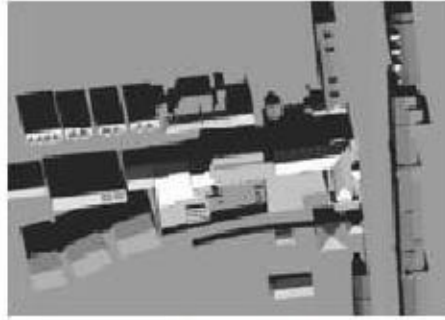
Source: Supplementary Planning Document issued July 3rd 2014 and Oxford City Council planning website

Figure A.5a: Shadow Plots – Spring Equinox, Existing

Overshadowing - Existing, Spring



21st March 9.00 (GMT)



21st March 11.30



21st March 13.30



21st March 16.00

CAPITA SYMONDS

After a three week delay these shadowing diagrams were produced.

The quality is poor and it is extremely difficult to assess the detrimental impact of extra height

Exeter College have refused to release the data used to perform their daylight sunlight calculations

Figure A.5b: Shadow Plots – Spring Equinox, Proposed

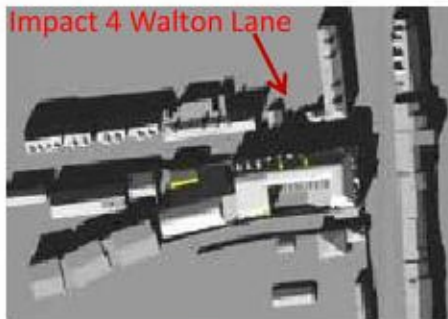
Overshadowing - Proposed, Spring



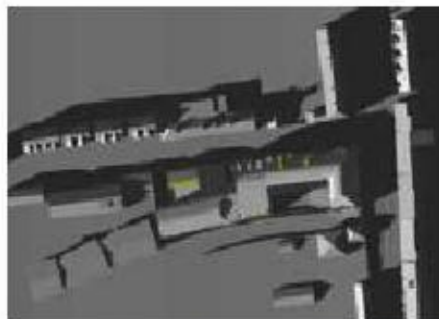
21st March 9.00 (GMT)



21st March 11.30



21st March 13.30



21st March 16.00

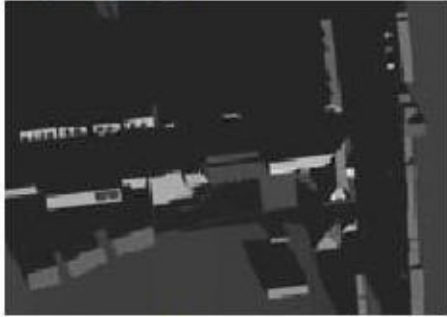
CAPITA SYMONDS

The comments (in red) were added by South Jericho Residents Association.

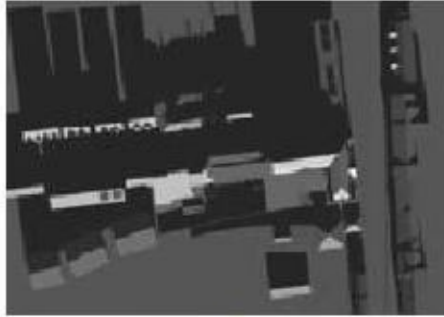
It was extremely difficult to interpret the diagrams

Figure A.5e: Shadow Plots – Winter Solstice, Existing

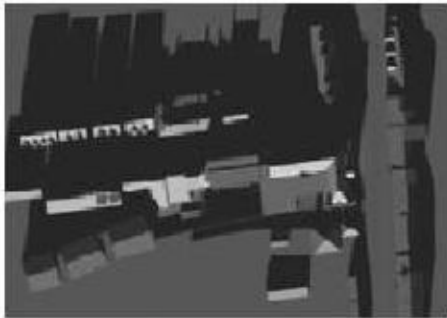
Overshadowing - Existing, Winter



21st Dec 10.00 (GMT)



21st Dec 11.30



21st Dec 12.30



21st Dec 14.00

CAPITA SYMONDS

These diagrams have been enlarged from the original (see examples on page 10)

Figure A.5f: Shadow Plots – Winter Solstice, Proposed

Overshadowing - Proposed, Winter



21st Dec 10.00 (GMT)



21st Dec 11.30



21st Dec 12.30



21st Dec 14.00

CAPITA SYMONDS

Impact on Daylight (VSC) and Sunlight (APSH) to Surrounding Buildings

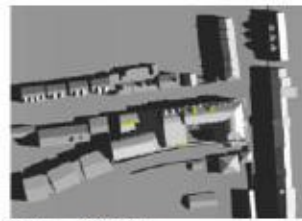
48	26.9%	26.4%	0.88	54.3%	56.1%	0.90	10.4%	10.2%	0.97
49	22.9%	22.2%	0.95	63.2%	64.9%	0.90	15.7%	15.0%	0.98
50	45.1%	44.8%	0.98	74.1%	74.2%	0.99	19.7%	19.8%	0.98
51	25.1%	24.8%	0.96	77.4%	77.2%	0.94	24.3%	24.2%	0.97
52	28.8%	27.2%	0.97	82.2%	79.2%	0.95	28.8%	26.2%	0.91
53	28.9%	28.7%	0.99	92.0%	92.0%	1.00	10.7%	9.8%	0.98
54	30.3%	29.2%	0.94	65.5%	63.2%	0.97	16.4%	15.4%	0.91
55	22.4%	22.2%	0.95	76.7%	72.5%	0.94	25.2%	23.7%	0.97
56	49.4%	48.7%	0.98	76.9%	75.8%	0.98	18.9%	17.8%	0.98
57	28.3%	26.4%	0.95	80.8%	77.4%	0.95	28.7%	25.8%	0.91
58	26.1%	25.8%	0.97	49.3%	49.2%	0.97	10.4%	10.2%	0.98
59	43.1%	42.8%	0.99	82.8%	84.9%	0.99	17.2%	16.2%	0.98
60	35.3%	33.4%	0.95	75.5%	70.4%	0.94	23.4%	20.8%	0.98
61	25.9%	24.4%	0.95	74.7%	70.4%	0.94	23.6%	20.8%	0.97
62	44.4%	44.1%	0.94	80.0%	77.2%	0.97	17.5%	15.4%	0.92

23 - 26 Westover Place

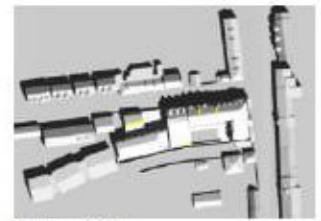


Window	VSC			APSH _{min}			APSH _{max}		
	Existing	Proposed	Ratio	Existing	Proposed	Ratio	Existing	Proposed	Ratio
48	25.1%	22.5%	0.89	48.0%	48.0%	1.00	8.8%	8.0%	0.96
49	22.9%	21.0%	0.88	42.3%	41.2%	0.98	13.2%	12.4%	0.94
50	27.0%	27.1%	1.00	97.2%	98.0%	1.01	13.4%	13.2%	1.01
51	42.7%	41.8%	0.98	64.5%	64.0%	0.97	23.2%	19.0%	0.82
52	30.9%	29.6%	0.96	64.9%	64.2%	0.96	18.7%	16.5%	0.88
53	22.1%	21.4%	0.97	48.0%	48.0%	1.00	8.0%	7.7%	0.96
54	28.9%	28.8%	1.00	94.7%	94.9%	1.00	10.1%	11.8%	1.18
55	29.9%	29.4%	0.98	64.5%	63.1%	0.96	17.4%	15.9%	0.92
56	30.3%	29.6%	0.98	47.3%	47.3%	1.00	5.8%	5.2%	0.88
57	26.7%	25.1%	0.94	58.9%	56.9%	0.96	8.5%	8.4%	1.01
58	23.8%	24.5%	1.03	53.0%	52.5%	0.99	8.3%	8.8%	1.05
59	29.4%	28.8%	0.97	64.1%	61.7%	0.96	16.7%	15.0%	0.90
60	28.9%	28.5%	0.98	63.4%	61.7%	0.97	15.4%	14.9%	0.97
61	30.9%	29.6%	0.96	45.9%	46.7%	1.02	4.3%	5.3%	1.28
62	22.9%	24.8%	1.08	51.2%	51.5%	1.01	7.0%	8.8%	1.25
63	25.9%	26.7%	1.03	55.9%	57.2%	1.02	12.7%	13.5%	1.07
64	20.1%	22.2%	1.10	47.9%	49.0%	1.02	3.7%	3.5%	0.95
65	24.9%	24.9%	1.00	54.9%	54.9%	1.00	8.0%	10.2%	1.28
66	31.8%	31.3%	0.98	28.7%	26.7%	0.93	0.0%	0.0%	-
67	31.8%	31.3%	0.98	28.7%	27.0%	0.94	0.0%	0.0%	-
68	28.4%	28.7%	1.01	44.7%	45.9%	1.03	4.5%	4.9%	1.08
69	17.7%	17.7%	0.97	41.7%	44.5%	1.07	2.5%	4.3%	1.76
70	23.8%	22.9%	0.96	53.0%	52.8%	1.00	7.4%	8.4%	1.13
71	24.4%	21.8%	0.90	53.9%	50.9%	0.95	7.4%	6.7%	0.91
72	25.2%	23.7%	0.94	52.5%	49.2%	0.94	6.5%	5.2%	0.80

Shadow Plots - Summer Solstice



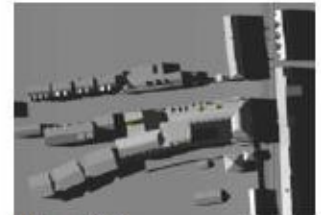
21st June 9.00 (BST)



21st June 12.00



21st June 15.00



21st June 18.00

On June 10th 2013 the presentation to us by Exeter College's consultants was based on sunlight/daylight assessed as of June 21st and September 21st. We pointed out that the results for these two equinoxes are meaningless. December 21st and March 21st are when the light is already very poor and the extra height will cause further deterioration.

On July 3rd the additional slides were finally published (for December 21st and March 21st) but these are of poor quality (see previous two pages). The underlying data used to create these pictures has not been released despite three requests (see pages 11-13 for details).

July 2nd

>>> Erica Sheppard <[REDACTED]> 02/07/2013 16:33 >>>

Dear Mr Johnson-Watts

The Rector has been away from College since last week and is not due back for at least another week. In her absence I have spoken with the College's planning consultant in relation to your request. I can confirm that the substantial additional information in support of the College's planning application which has been discussed with the residents of Worcester Place is imminently due for release to the planning officers and will be copied directly to the residents. This will include the detailed sunlight and daylight studies commissioned by the College from independent consultants and will allow the residents' own consultant to advise them on its contents.

Of course if after you have received this additional information you still have questions, do feel free to direct them to me in the Rector's absence, and I will ensure that they are passed on to whoever is able to deal with them.

Yours sincerely

Erica Sheppard

Erica Sheppard
PA to Frances Cairncross, Rector
Exeter College, Oxford OX1 3DP
Exeter College is a registered charity (no 1141333)

From: Mark Johnson-Watts [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 June 2013 14:42
To: Frances Cairncross; Exeter College Rector's Office

[REDACTED]
Subject: Ruskin College Planning Application

Dear Mrs Cairncross

In view of the conflicting statements made by your consultants Turnberry in relation to the proposal for on-street cycle stands, and the fact that the likely impact on sunlight and daylight is the most important issue for the local residents, we have decided to have the data (increased angles, shadowing and reduction of daylight) reviewed afresh by our own independent consultants.

Our Consultants have already been instructed and they will visit the site early next week. They state that they require the data files, ideally in CAD format (DWG or DXF), to enable them to model the proposal accurately.

We are very disappointed that Exeter College has so far refused to release this information. We ask you to reconsider and authorise the release of this data as soon as possible.

Regards

Mark Johnson-Watts

This email was our third attempt to request the data files that is needed by our independent sunlight daylight consultants.

This has hindered our ability to produce an independent analysis.

The 82 page document that followed on July 3rd included diagrams that were not at all easy to follow (see examples on pages 8-10 of this document)

----- Original Message -----

From: [Frances Cairncross](#)

To: [Chris and Charmian Johnson](#)

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 3:46 PM

Subject: RE: Exeter College. Daylight sunlight assessment. Request for 3D DWG files

Dear Mr Johnson,

Thank you for your e-mail: we too are looking forward to becoming a member of the local community.

Our Design Team is now in the process of preparing an addendum planning report with a supporting technical report, which will directly address the concerns you raised at our meeting and summarised in your e-mail. As the Team indicated when you and your neighbours came to see us, it will be available to you soon, and we very much believe that it will probably be more cost-effective for you to send this material on to your appointed consultant and for them to review that before you (and they) decide whether to undertake any further and competing work.

I trust this is helpful.

With good wishes to you all,

Frances Cairncross

From: Chris and Charmian Johnson

Sent: 21 June 2013 16:49

To: Exeter College Rector's Office; Frances Cairncross

Subject: Fw: Exeter College. Daylight sunlight assessment. Request for 3D DWG files

Dear Ms Cairncross,

As mentioned in our letter dated June 16th, to the Planning Officer, we have decided to commission our own daylight and sunlight analysis for Worcester Place. Naturally we are disappointed to hear that Turnberry Planning Limited, as consultants for the proposal from Exeter College, are not prepared to release the data files that were used to create the proposal.

The reason for performing our own analysis is because the presentation on Monday June 10th was incomplete in the following crucial areas:

- 1) the increase in light angles owing to extra height, including the large dormer windows
- 2) the missing shadowing analysis for December 21st and March 21st
- 3) the overall reduction of light to our homes

The refusal to share the data files will mean that our consultants will need to create their analysis from first principles causing more expense and delay - and inevitably it will be very difficult for them to replicate the necessary depth of analysis.

We do genuinely look forward to Exeter College becoming neighbours and to the benefits you will bring to the local area. However I hope you appreciate the necessity for us to be fully aware of the scale of negative effects of the very large building that has been proposed.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Johnson

Also on behalf of, and with copies to:

Professor Victor Flynn

Mark Johnson-Watts

Mary Keen

Marya Lewis

Nicky Schlatter

On June 24th Exeter College confirmed that they will not provide permission to their consultants to release the data used to perform their daylight sunlight calculations

----- Original Message -----

June 20th

From: [Chris Pattison](#)

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2013 6:06 PM

Subject: FW: Exeter College. Daylight sunlight assessment. Request for 3D DWG files

Dear Chris,

My colleague is away at present, but Tom forwarded your e-mail on.

I am afraid we are not in a position to release the requested files, but our report will be available soon for your full review. It would probably be more cost effective for you to send our Report on to your appointed consultant and for them to review that before determining if any further and competing work is necessary.

On other matters I am hopeful that we have found a better location for the bicycles, moving them closer to Walton Street - I will circulate a plan as soon as we are able to.

I trust this is helpful.

Kind regards

Chris

Chris Pattison

TurnberryPlanning Limited

www.turnberryuk.com

41-43 Maddox Street

London W1S 2PD

From: [Chris and Charmian Johnson](#)

To: [Suzanne White](#)

Cc: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2013 5:36 PM

Subject: Re: Exeter College. Daylight sunlight assessment. Request for 3D DWG files

Dear Suzanne,

Would you please let me know whether Exeter's architects can provide the 3D DWG files?

We have raised our potential concerns about the impact on lighting with the Planning Officer and so I think it is important that we are able to move quickly.

Kind regards

Chris

----- Original Message ----- From: [Chris and Charmian Johnson](#)

To: [Suzanne White](#)

Cc: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 10:21 PM

Subject: Re: Exeter College. Daylight sunlight assessment. Request for 3D DWG files

Dear Suzanne,

We have decided to commission our own daylight sunlight assessment.

Therefore it would be a great help, and would be very much appreciated, if you could please arrange to send me the 3D DWG files.

Kind regards

Chris

Professor Victor Flynn

Chris Johnson

Mark Johnson-Watts

Nicky Schlatter

Following the unsatisfactory presentation on June 10th we decided it was necessary to commission our own independent sunlight daylight analysis.

This requires access to the detailed data "3D DWG files" used by Exeter's consultants to produce their proposal.

As evidenced by this email dated June 20th Exeter College's Consultants have insisted that our independent consultant must work from their diagrams (eventually provided July 3rd) only and may not see the underlying data.

From: [Chris and Charmian Johnson](#)

June 16th

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2013 10:45 PM

Subject: Planning Application No.13/00832/FUL Former Ruskin College Site, Walton Street, Oxford

Here follows the text of a letter, a hard copy of which will be sent to you.

For the attention of: Angela Fettiplace, Planning Officer

Oxfordshire County Council

Dear Ms Fettiplace,

On Friday 14th June I spoke to Andrew Cooper, Planning Case Officer, to request whether the proposed cycle stands in Worcester Place could be moved to the end of the street (in the corner where Worcester Place turns to the right, where there are no private residents). I explained to Andrew that as local residents myself and several neighbours are concerned about the safety of the proposed placement of the stands.

My telephone call to Andrew was prompted by information obtained at a meeting hosted by Exeter's Architects and Consultants, Turnberry Planning Ltd, on Monday June 10th. That meeting was attended by myself, six other local residents, Councillor Susanna Pressell, and the Rector and Bursar of Exeter. At that meeting, amongst other concerns with the application, we specifically pressed Turnberry's representatives to consider moving the location of the cycle stands to the corner at the far end of Worcester Place. Chris Pattison of Turnberry stated that the cycle racks in Worcester Place were *not* part of the proposal put forward by Exeter: instead he stated that the cycle racks and their position were a requirement of Oxfordshire County/Oxford City Council and supported by the Oxford Civic Society.

My subsequent conversation with Andrew Cooper contradicts this: Andrew explained to me that Turnberry on behalf of Exeter had requested these cycle stands to be placed on the highway itself, and had specified the location, because there is not enough provision within the site to fit sufficient parking stands for the number of students. Andrew explained to me that the decision rests with the Highways Authority who will consider any issues relating to safety and public nuisance. Andrew concluded that there could be some scope for moving the racks and that he will follow up to see if Exeter's proposal can be revised - we would appreciate your support in effecting this change.

At the same meeting there was a presentation of the results of a sunlight/daylight analysis performed by a third party firm on behalf of Exeter College/Turnberry. We expressed concerns that the presentation excluded those periods of the year when sunlight is already very scarce in Worcester Place in the mornings (between December and March). Instead they presented shadowing only for the months of June and September when morning sunlight is largely unobstructed at present. They also presented light angles that do not take account of the very large and imposing front-facing dormer windows that are proposed.

During the meeting it was stated that the sunlight reduction would be 18% which is under the 20% threshold (although this discussion was curtailed by the lead consultant owing to the absence of an expert representative). The Residents' position is that the existing buildings obstruct sunlight significantly, particularly between December and April each year, and so any further reduction will be unacceptable to us.

To conclude, we are very concerned that two significant aspects of the proposed development - the bike stands and the impact on daylight - have been presented to us inaccurately or selectively. Therefore we have decided to commission our own independent daylight and sunlight assessment. We will share the results with you once they are available.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Johnson

Also on behalf of, and with copies to:

Professor Victor Flynn
Mark Johnson-Watts
Mary Keen
Marya Lewis
Nicky Schlatter

Copies to:

Ms Frances Cairncross, The Rector, Exeter College
Councillor Susanna Pressell, Jericho & Osney Ward, Oxford City Council
Andrew Cooper, Case Officer, Transport Development Control, Oxfordshire County Council
Nicholas Worledge, Head of Conservation, Oxford City Council
West Area Planning Committee:
Councillor Elise Benjamin
Councillor Anne-Marie Canning
Councillor Bev Clack
Councillor Colin Cook
Councillor Michael Gotch
Councillor Graham Jones
Councillor Bob Price
Councillor John Tanner
Councillor Oscar Van Nooijen

Two significant aspects of the proposed development - the bike stands and the impact on daylight - were presented to us inaccurately, or selectively, at a meeting on June 10th.

Streets ahead

The announcement that the celebrated architects Glenn Howells have been appointed to design the John Lewis store will advance the growing conviction, "a new Westgate, it really is going to happen". And it now looks equally certain that the redevelopment will realise another long hoped for ambition for the city centre, the pedestrianisation of Queen Street.

Many still wonder how shoppers in Oxford's busiest shopping street tolerated for so long the shopping nightmare that was Queen Street — being crammed on narrow edges of pavement to make way for the endless stream of buses and passenger queues.

There can be no doubting the removal of bus stops from Queen Street in 2009 significantly eased the disquiet — but as the county council's grand Transform Oxford project fell victim to spending cuts, there remains a feeling of unfinished business.

Westgate clearly provides the opportunity to pedestrianise the street, creating the marvellous prospect of a fully pedestrianised shopping area stretching right from Thames Street to Beaumont Street (well, apart from George Street, which should surely follow).

County council leader Ian Hudspeth is right to insist the bus firms must be involved, while the companies remind us the devil will be in the detail. It certainly is, with St Aldates already jam packed with bus stops and the quest for a bus turning point still to be resolved.

Major projects at Frideswide Square, with new roundabouts, and at Oxford Railway Station offer the opportunity to improve bus routes through the city centre. But they present danger too of further delay, if Queen Street's pedestrianisation becomes dependent on even more costly and complex schemes to the west.

Peace together

News that the number of complaints about the behaviour of Oxford Brookes University students has fallen is welcome.

The introduction of student community wardens to act as intermediaries between residents and students has clearly made a difference.

Some young people, often away from home for the first time, will, unfortunately, be less aware than they ought to be of the annoyance they can cause to others with noise, litter and antisocial behaviour.

But it seems that a simple, stern reminder that their high spirits are not always appreciated by professionals and families living nearby is often all that is needed to calm potentially poisonous neighbourhood divisions.

It would, perhaps, be cynical to suggest that a fall in the number of students has had anything to do with the reduction in complaints.

Oxford Brookes has invested thousands of pounds in its community warden scheme and must be congratulated for that.

Figures show that complaints fell from 205 last year to 145 this year, which, while demonstrating a clear improvement, show there is still plenty of work to be done.

Council careless over protecting city views

Sir — You have published letters suggesting that it is no great loss if Oxford University's oversized blocks of graduate flats obscure the view from Port Meadow of the tower of St Barnabas Church in Jericho.

But its tower, Italianate in contrast to Gothic, makes a distinctive and historically important contribution to the Oxford skyline.

St Barnabas was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield and built in 1869-72 at the expense of Thomas Combe, Printer to the University. Sir John Betjeman, in his 1938 book on the city, says that it "stands out as by far the best Victorian church in Oxford".

When I came back to live in Oxford in 1961, there was still criticism of the impact on the view north from Port Meadow of the huge post-war extension to the Wolvercote paper mill which had been reluctantly permitted because it was said to be essential to keep the mill in business. It is ironic, now that the paper mill has ceased to exist, that the university should do similar violence to the view south from Port Meadow with far less excuse.

The city council has become culpably careless about the protection of such views. The university, like any developer, wants to get as much as it can on a site. The high buildings policy was deliberately framed to allow filigree additions to the skyline like the zigurat on the Said Business School, but not long unbroken runs of roof.

Mark Barrington-Ward
Oxford

Case for a tunnel

Sir — A forgotten aspect of the Roger Dudman development is that it has closed the very useful cycle path that led from west of the railway station to Port Meadow, Walton Well Road and North Oxford.

Cyclists who used to use this route are now forced to brave the dangerous roads under the railway bridge, across Frideswide Square and beyond. Hundreds of inhabitants of the new flats will be added to their number.

There is a case for demolishing the northern-most block of flats or making a tunnel through it.

P. Stewart
Oxford

Scale back proposal

Sir — The article (May 23), about Exeter's proposed development plans for the former Ruskin site in Walton Street states "...the plans have been broadly welcomed by the Jericho community" and an earlier article on April 25 about the same proposal included a quote attributed to Paul Hornby of the Jericho Community Association "...we have no objections to the size and context..."

As residents of Worcester Place, Walton Street and Walton Lane, our houses fall directly under the extra shadow that would be imposed by the much greater height and extended roofline of the proposed building.

We would spend half of the year in the shadows and the other dazzled by the enormous shiny new roof and large glazed areas.

We know that Exeter will want good relations with their new neighbours but to do this they must scale back the height of the proposal.

The positive comments attributed to Mr Hornby were based on a Jericho Community Centre meeting on Monday, February 11, that he did not attend in person.

If he had, he would have heard several of us making clear our significant concerns about height, noise and glare.

The Oxford council website includes 75 public comments of which only two are positive. That feedback reveals the true story.

The council has recently approved, against the strong opinion of local residents, very tall University buildings on Port Meadow and Walton Street; the Exeter plans for the former Ruskin site would similarly create new buildings far higher than those they are replacing, dominating the housing in the surrounding conservation area.

This should be of concern not only to those who will live in the shadow of these buildings but also those who do not wish the character of Jericho to be overwhelmed by oversized University buildings.

Professor Victor Flynn
Chris Johnson
Mark Johnson-Watts
Mary Keen
Nicky Schlatter
Oxford

Lorries pose dangers

Sir — With the rebuilding of the Clarendon Shopping Centre coming on apace, and Hansons being the contractor delivering concrete along New Inn Hall Street on UK National Cycle Route 57, now is a critical reminder to all cyclists, especially women, of the danger.

Stay well back behind the truck and in the vision of the driver's mirrors, so that you can see the driver's eyes. If you take your hands off the handlebars, the driver knows you are stationary and can make a manoeuvre safely and quickly.

Why do I specifically target women cyclists? Unfortunately the authorities are



Warning: Cyclists must be on their guard

unwilling to release the vital statistics, erroneously citing data protection laws, but it appears to me, with more than 30 years of following cycle safety in the UK, that of all the cyclist fatalities, 80 per cent involve heavy goods vehicles, and of all the different types of HGV, 80 per cent are what are regarded as 'tipper-style' trucks of three specific types: skip lorries, concrete mixers and refuse trucks.

About 20 per cent of cyclists are female, but they seem to be involved in 80 per cent of cyclist fatalities, usually with the vehicles described above.

I don't know why this appears as it does — and the authorities don't really seem to be interested.

I urge readers to discuss the contents of this letter with family, friends, neighbours and loved ones. And do please comment on the 80 per cent ratios.

Readers' letters from previous weeks are archived online...

oxfordtimes.co.uk/news

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