

CHARITY **comment**

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Oxford leads the way in preservation

Oxford Preservation Trust has confirmed itself at the leading edge of the conservation movement with its contribution to the Oxford Castle project.

The Trust, which was founded in 1927, now owns over 700 acres of land and buildings in and around the city to protect and enhance its environment. It is justly proud of its positive approach to change and is often at the cutting edge of 21st century Oxford.

The Castleyard scheme forms a significant part of the Castle regeneration project with its Malmaison hotel and restaurants. The Trust's £5.6 million project was made possible by a £3.8 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and for the first time the Saxon Tower, 11th Century Castle Mound and Crypt and 18th century Prison wing and Debtors' Tower are accessible to the public. Oxford Castle Unlocked has become a major visitor attraction telling the story of Oxford outside the University from Saxon times to modern day, and the Key Learning Centre, with its full time Education officer, is fast moving towards its long term vision that every schoolchild in Oxfordshire will visit during their schooldays.

What has been unique about this project has been the partnership between the commercial Osborne Group, the local authority Oxfordshire County Council and charitable trust Oxford Preservation Trust. The project has won a number of national and international awards, including the RICS National Project of the Year Award, MIPIM International Tourism Award, the Civic Trust Centre Vision Award and the RIBA South Award

Critchleys was pleased to advise the Oxford Preservation Trust in relation to complex issues on VAT, tax, and the financial aspects of the various agreements with the trust funds.

Any or all the facilities and spaces can be available for parties and corporate hire.
Further details www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk or www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk