



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Shared Interest

CELEBRATING INVESTMENT IN THE
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT





Oxford Castle

DEVELOPER: OXFORD CASTLE LTD
ARCHITECT: DIXON JONES LTD,
ARCHITECT'S DESIGN PARTNERSHIP,
PANTER HUDSPITH, RICHARD GRIFFITHS
ASSOCIATES AND JESTICO & WHILES

Oxford Castle Ltd had an excellent relationship with English Heritage throughout the project. The flexible approach that was adopted by them on the scheme assisted in creating a unique relationship between the history of the site and our concept for the redevelopment, while helping to maintain the intrinsic historical value of the buildings. Their "buy in" to the vision for the site is to the benefit of all the future visitors to Oxford Castle. ANDREW RYAN, OXFORD CASTLE LTD



Until recently, most people did not know that at the heart of Oxford's prison was a medieval castle.

Even before HMP Oxford closed in 1996, English Heritage was involved in discussions about the future of this nationally important complex. English Heritage helped select both developer and architects, supported a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a museum there, and invested £150,000 in the repair of the 11th-century St George's Tower:

Built by the occupying Norman forces on an ancient Saxon settlement, the castle, founded in the 1070s, is now open to the public for the first time in almost a thousand years. The five-acre city-centre site, surely the oldest 'new quarter' in England, includes housing, retail and leisure facilities. The austere buildings of the Prison have been converted into a luxury hotel by Malmaison, the hotel group which 'dares to be different'. Remaining significant parts of the castle: St George's Tower, the castle motte, the Romanesque chapel crypt and other buildings, together form 'Oxford Castle Unlocked', a new visitor attraction run by the Oxford Preservation Trust.

In the words of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment's Design Review Committee, this is indeed an "exemplary regeneration project... a model for other towns".

PARTNERS

The Heritage Lottery Fund
Oxford Castle Ltd / Trevor Osbourne
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxford Preservation Trust
South East England Development Agency