

Oxford City Police

Please note that some of these records may be closed for 100 years.

The Oxford City Police force came into operation on 1 January 1869, under the Oxford Police Act of 1868. A new Police Committee was set up to run this new force. This committee consisted of six persons who were nominated by the University, and nine who were nominated by the City Council. Prior to the setting up of the Oxford City Police force, the policing of the City was usually done by the City during the hours of daylight, and by the University at night.

The City gained further control of the Police Committee under the Oxford Police Act of 1881. Under the Police Act of 1919, the Police Federation was set up. This body represented the ordinary policeman in employer-employee negotiations.

On 1 April 1968, the force amalgamated with the Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Reading Borough forces to become the Thames Valley Constabulary, later renamed the Thames Valley Police.

Key Dates

1869, 1 Jan – Oxford Police Act – Oxford City Police force came into operation under this Act – Police Committee set up

1881 – Oxford Police Act – increased control of the force by the City

1919 – Police Act – Police Federation set up to represent ordinary policemen

1946 – Introduction of '999' emergency calls system

1968, 1 Apr – Oxford City Police amalgamated with other forces to become the Thames Valley Constabulary, later known as the Thames Valley Police

Where are these records?

Oxfordshire History Centre

The main collection of Oxford City Police records held at OHC consists of records relating to: the OCP force; the OCP committee; the OCP Federation; the OCP Old Comrades Association. The collection reference is POL1.

A few records relating to the policing of the city prior to the setting up of the force in 1869 can be found in the Petty Sessions collection (PS/7). These include police Duty Attendance and Report Books.

Some Police Committee Minute Books, including one for the committee that helped to police the city before 1869, are to be found in the City collection held at OHC, ref. HH.1/1-33 and HH.2/1-2. They date from 1836-1964.

The Bodleian Library

This library holds some early Occurrence Books from Oct 1829 to Jan 1869 (ref. MSS Top Oxon b.129-b.162)

Where is the catalogue?

The Oxford City Police force catalogue (POL1) is available online (see [Heritage Search](#)).

Other records

The Thames Valley Police Museum at Sulhampstead holds some archive material relating to the Thames Valley Police Force and its predecessors. Please see their website for more details

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/thames-valley-police-museum/>