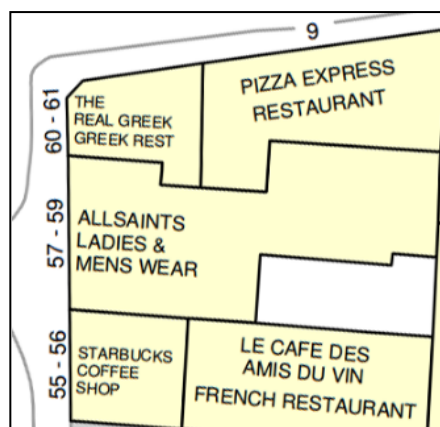


Shopping Centre plans

Detailed plans of shopping centres, compiled by London firm Charles E. Goad Ltd, chart our changing shopping habits and the growth in consumer spending.

Origins

Fire insurance plans were produced by Goad as far back as 1885 for the most important towns and cities in Britain. They aimed to provide a record of all the individual buildings and businesses within a street. But as developing technology reduced the risk of fire, Goad plans evolved into tools for retail property development and management.



Goad began to produce shopping centre plans in 1966, and the first Oxfordshire map was produced for Oxford City Centre in 1967. Experian, the credit reference and consumer information company, took over the publication of shopping centre plans from Goad in 1996.

Content

Goad plans show town centres and retail occupancy with details of retail category, floor space, fascia name and a wealth of other detail. The plans are either published annually or biennially.

The plans were drawn at the very large scale of 1:1056 (1 inch to 88 feet). Since 1999 they have been produced digitally, and Oxfordshire History Centre has continued to receive paper copies, but at the revised scale of 1:1000.

Geographical coverage

- Publication of Oxfordshire shopping centre plans began with Oxford City Centre in 1967, with Banbury following in 1969, and spreading to the remaining larger market towns in the early 1970s.
- Coverage of shopping centres was greatly extended between 2002 and 2007 to include the majority of Oxfordshire's out-of-town retail parks.

Summary list of plans available at Oxfordshire History Centre

Shopping centre	Year started	Annual or Biennial
Abingdon	1970	A
Abingdon Fairacres Retail Park	2004	B
Banbury	1969	A
Banbury Cross Retail Park	2006	B
Banbury Southam Road Retail Park	2006	B
Bicester	1972	A
Bicester Launton Road Retail Park	2007	B
Bicester Village	2002	B
Burford	2006	B

Carterton	2006	B
Chipping Norton	1984	B
Didcot	1981	B
Didcot Wallingford Road Retail Park	2004	B
Faringdon	2006	B
Henley	1971	A
Kidlington	1990	B
Oxford (centre)	1967	A
Oxford - Botley Road Retail Park	2004	B
Oxford - Cowley	1974	B
Oxford - Cowley Road	2007	B
Oxford - Headington	1985	B
Oxford - Horspath Driftway Retail Park	2004	B
Oxford - Retail Park	2004	B
Oxford - St Clements	2007	B
Oxford - Summertown	1985	B
Oxford - Walton Street	2005	B
Thame	1972	B
Wallingford	1970	B
Wantage	1972	B
Witney	1970	A

Each series of Goad plans for each Oxfordshire shopping centre has been catalogued and is listed on our [Heritage Search](#) online catalogue. You should search for the terms "Goad maps Abingdon," or other shopping centre name.

And how do I go about viewing them?

Citing the catalogue reference from [Heritage Search](#), Goad shopping centre plans can be ordered up for consultation in the Searchroom.

British Library holdings

Goad and Experian shopping centre plans ceased to be printed on paper in 1999, marking the end of British Library Map Library holdings received via legal deposit.

But the Map Library also owns the archive of Chas E. Goad Ltd 1899-1972, consisting of 39 volumes of letter books and miscellaneous manuscripts that include correspondence and surveys.

For further information, see [British Library fire insurance and shopping centre plans](#)

[Contacting and visiting the Oxfordshire History Centre.](#)