

# PROSCHOLIUM REFURBISHMENT PROJECT



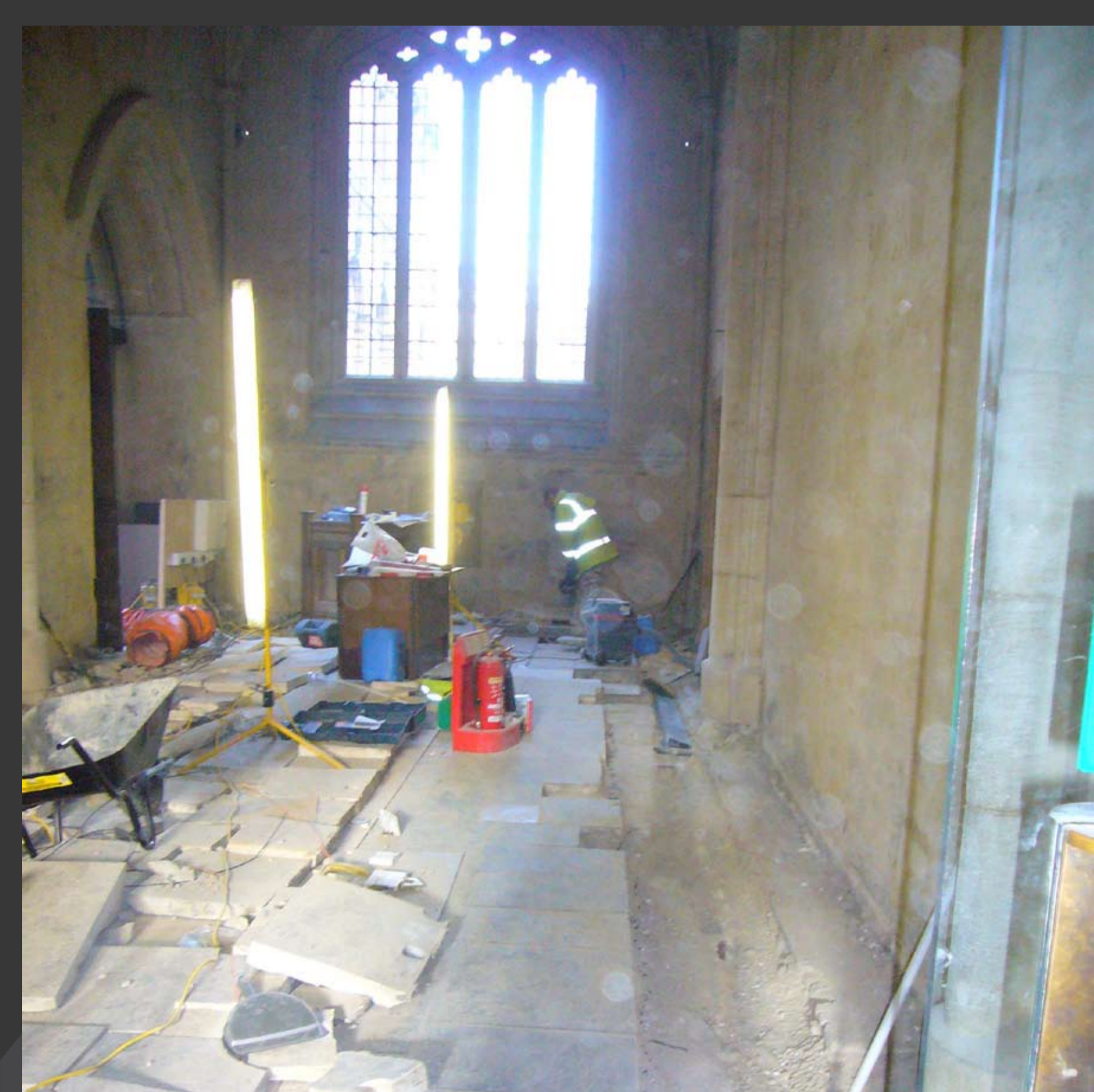
The Proscholium to the Old Bodleian Library is a remarkable early seventeenth century structure which, during the second half of the twentieth century had become cluttered, ugly, and lacked the functionality required by the Library in providing a secure and simple entry point to the Library for readers, and a means of providing additional exhibition space.

The Proscholium has to deal with over half a million visitors per year; both scholars wishing to use the Old Bodleian's reading rooms, and visitors to the Library taking part in the daily tours of the historic buildings, or taking part in academic or cultural events that take place in the Divinity School and Convocation House. The space therefore has to cope with multiple uses: complicated by the Bodleian's gift shop occupying half of the space.



The RLUK-Wolfson Project allowed the Proscholium to be replanned and decluttered, enabling greater visibility of the historic structure itself, and greater transparency of the space for both readers and visitors.

The security points were replanned with high-quality finishes to new wooden staff desks, designed to blend in suitably with the seventeenth century architecture, as well as permitting the introduction of new technology (book detection, access control and CCTV) almost invisibly into the space. This also required the upgrading of the service infrastructure, running new channels for power, data, and heating within the Grade I Listed structure.



Finally, a new high-quality exhibition case was designed and procured from Hahn, a specialist supplier from Germany, allowing the Library's greatest treasures to be displayed safely and securely (one of the Library's copies of the First Folio featured in the first exhibition in August 2009). The space has also been used to accommodate more temporary exhibition cases. An exhibition of contemporary bookbinding, *Bound for Success*, was seen by over 15,000 people in June and July 2009.

