

Private records

Our 'Private Records' are the personal papers of individuals who lived or worked in Oxfordshire. As you can imagine, this category can contain a wide range of items such as letters, diaries, photographs, financial papers, reminiscences, and testamentary documents.

Due to the contents of some of the records, it may be necessary to close them in order to comply with Data Protection legislation. Any item which has been closed should be clearly marked in the catalogue, but please check with staff if you have any queries.

Surprising examples

Our private collections include a Register of Convicts who were transported to Maria Island, Tasmania, 1815-1830 (reference number P240/R/1). This register allegedly belonged to an old Oxfordshire family, but we have never been able to find out who they were.

Where is the catalogue?

The records themselves are not online, but the catalogues of many of the records are available on [Heritage Search](#). However, a number of the earlier catalogues are only available on index cards in the History Centre searchroom.

What do I do now?

Enter the name of the person you are interested in into our [Heritage Search](#) portal and choose the "Archive Catalogue" collection to see if the catalogue you want is there. All Private collections will have the prefix P.

Some other collections are not yet available online, and you will need to visit the History Centre in person in order to view the catalogues.

[Visiting the Oxfordshire History Centre](#)