

Wilkins Building Library Entrance

Design & Access Statement

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Burwell Architects
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Wilkins Building Library Entrance

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Wilkins Building Library Entrance

| 1.1 Introduction

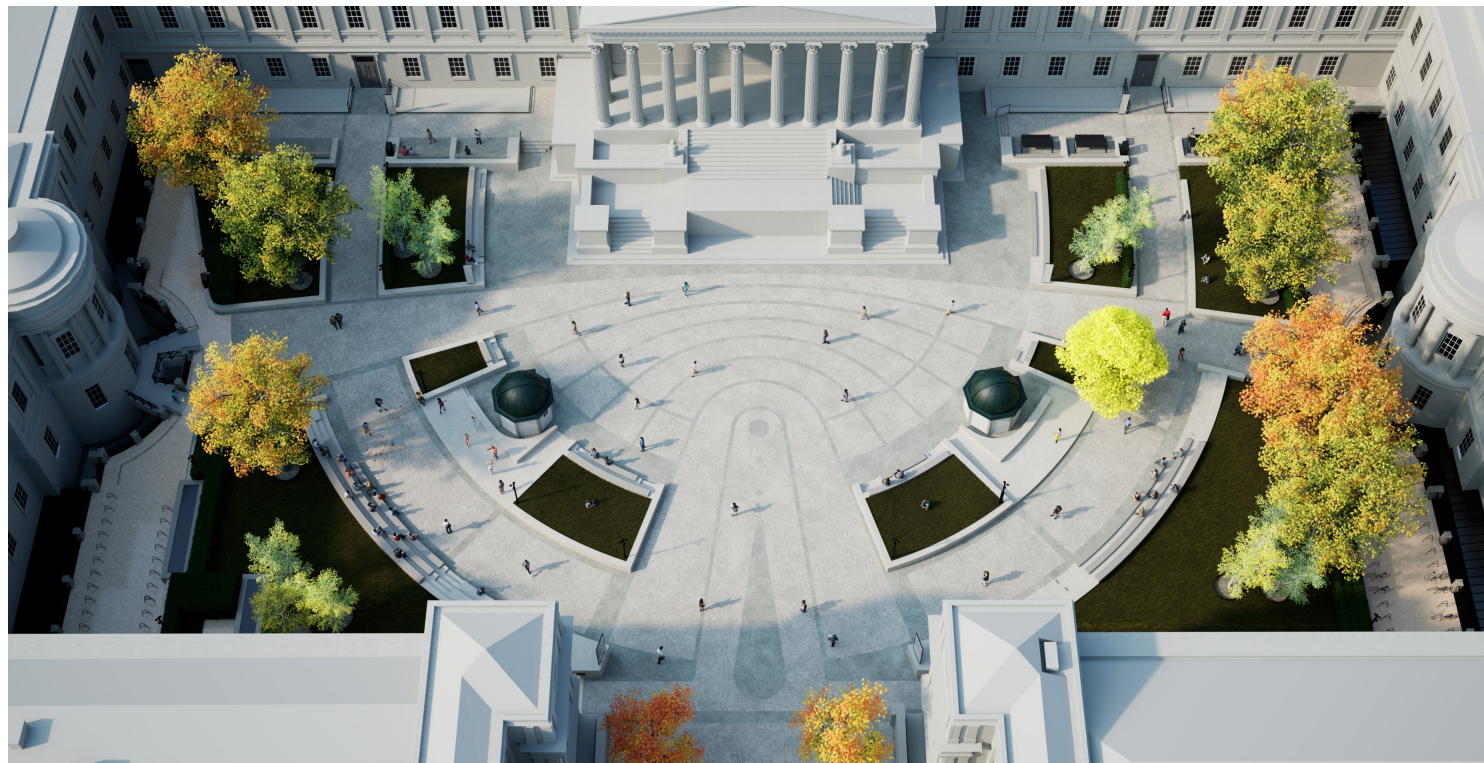
In 2026, UCL will be celebrating its bicentenary. To mark this occasion, a number of building legacy projects are being undertaken and will be completed by the bicentenary year.

These projects include landscaping the Main Quad and refurbishing a large proportion of the spaces within the ground floor of the Grade I Listed Wilkins Building.

In order to facilitate the construction works, the entrance to the Wilkins Building Library has been relocated to first floor level, as its current location is unable to remain accessible and operational during this period.

This provides UCL with an ideal opportunity to refurbish the existing library entrance, and this will allow them to reorganise how this operates in order to address a number of accessibility and customer service issues.

UCL have appointed Burwell Architects to undertake this project as this will allow a consistent design approach to be utilised throughout the primary ground floor spaces, linking the North Cloisters, Library Entrance, new vertical circulation link and the South Cloisters.

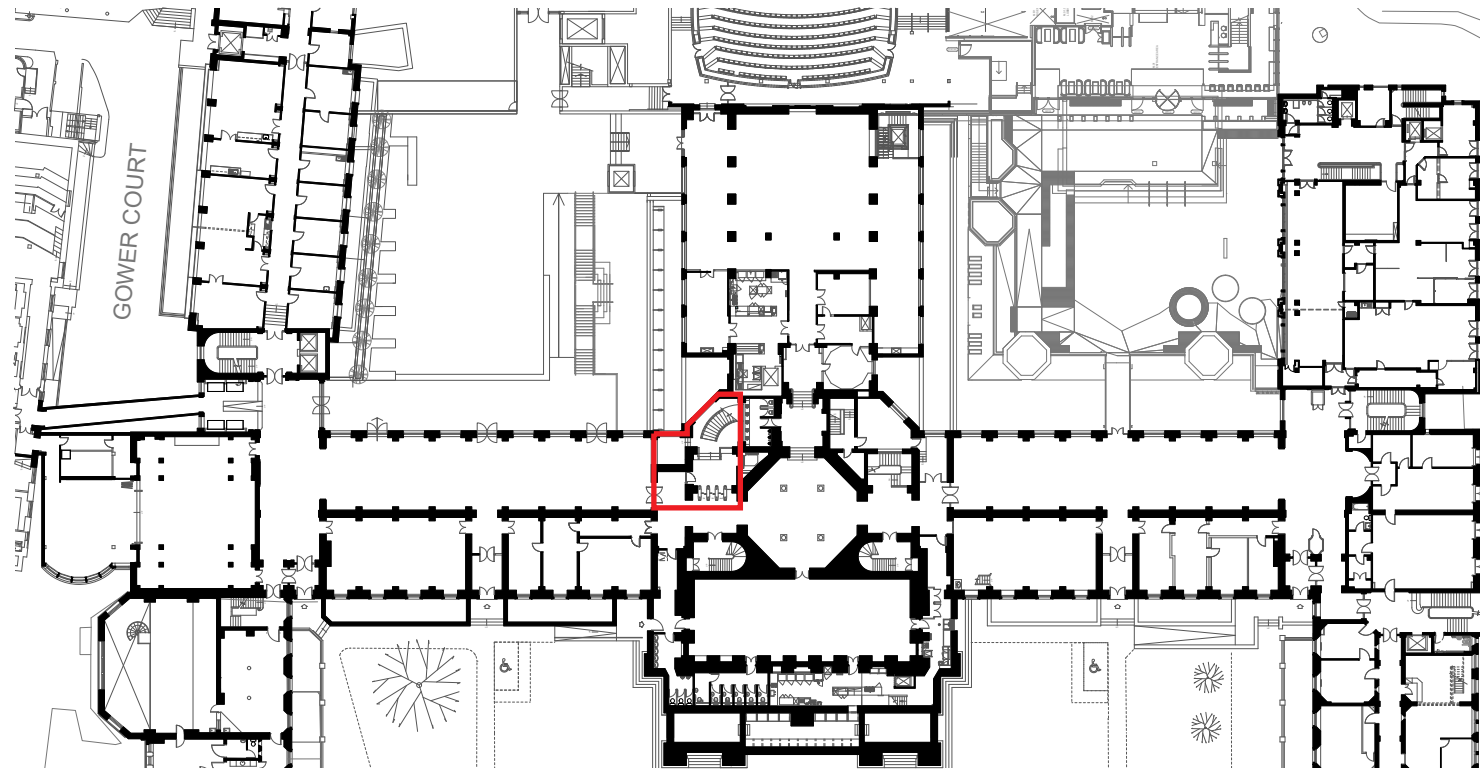


3D Proposal Visual - The 'Main Quad'



3D Proposal Visual - The Wilkins Cloisters

1.0 Wilkins Building Library Entrance - Context



Wilkins Building - Existing Ground Floor Plan

| 1.2 Existing Library Entrance

The existing Library entrance occupies a prominent location adjacent to the Octagon Gallery in the lower ground floor of the Grade I Listed Wilkins Building.

This is a point of control for access into and egress from the Library, and the reception desk functions as an information point for visitors and for ad hoc general enquiries.

The space was reorganised and refurbished in 2005 and having been operational for almost twenty years, it is in need of a refresh and upgrade.

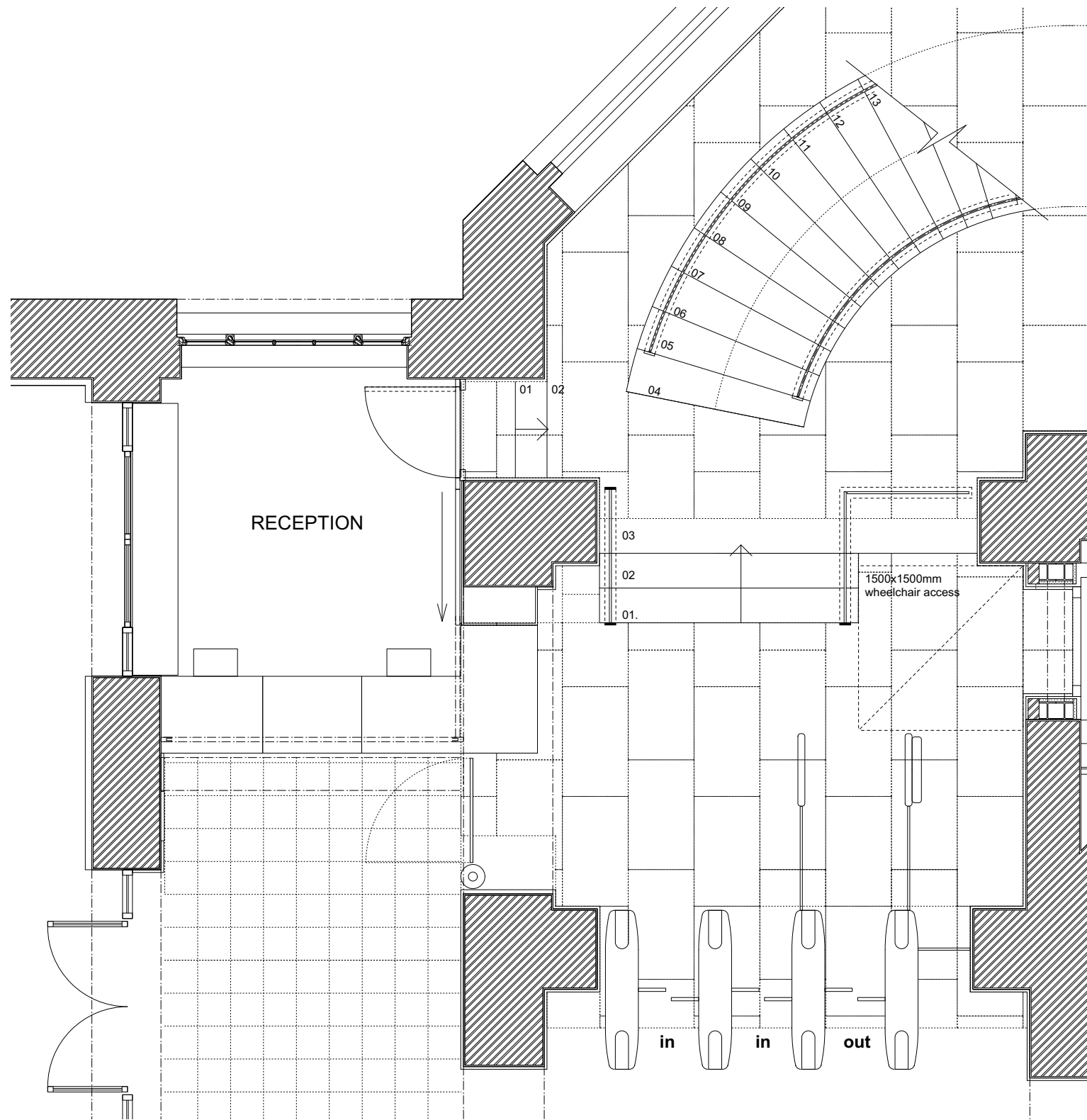
Library, Culture, Collections and Open Science (LCCOS) have identified a number of long-standing access and usability issues with how the reception operates that also need to be addressed.



Existing Wilkins Building Library Entrance

2.0 Wilkins Building Library Entrance - Proposal

| 1.2 Existing Library Entrance



Existing Plan

1.0 Wilkins Building Library Entrance - Context

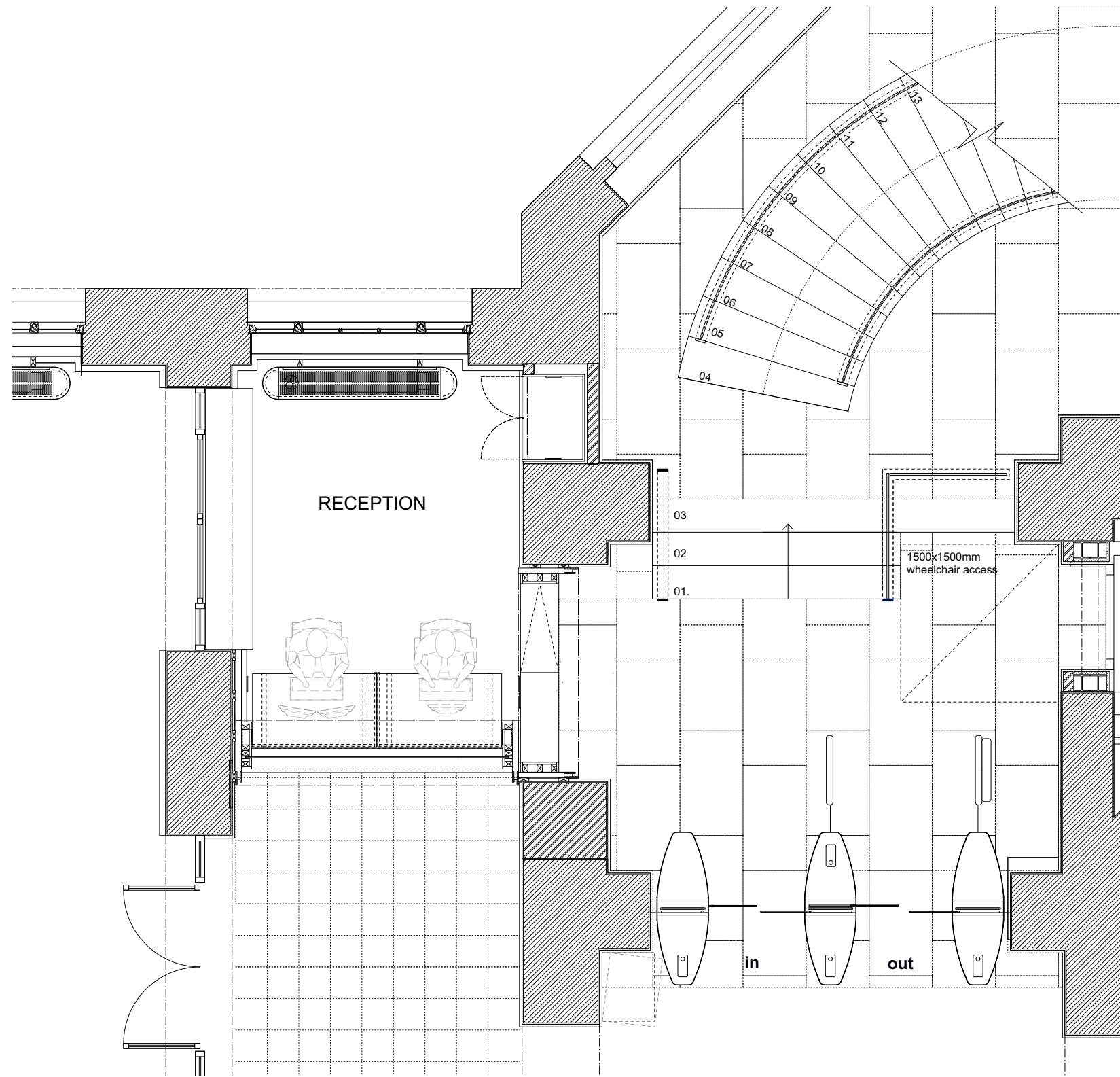


1.3 Project Brief

The project brief involves the following:

- Replace the existing 3 lane entrance gates with wider 2 lane DDA accessible gates.
- Remove the side pass gate (which opens onto people stood in front of the desk).
- Improve customer service by removing the raised floor behind the desk so that staff and visitors are at the same level.
- Replace the built-in joinery desk with a new joinery unit that incorporates height adjustable desks behind the reception counter.
- Improve the environment for staff working behind the desk by providing improved heating and lighting.
- Provide improved security measures for when the Library is closed and the reception is not staffed.

2.0 Wilkins Building Library Entrance - Proposal



Proposed Plan

| 1.4 The Proposals

The new Library Entrance arrangement involves the following:

- Installing new wider double lane entrance barriers to provide DDA access. Barriers to be located closer to the lift and stairs to improved the line of sight with the reception desk.
- Removing the existing side pass gate and installing a new built-in joinery unit further forward, with height adjustable desks to allow staff to work at their chosen height. New position of unit will allow level access entry via lift up hatch behind the desk. New built in joinery to be clad in dark metal to match the new joinery being installed in the adjacent Cloisters.
- Removing raised floor behind the desk so that staff and visitors are located at the same level in order to improve customer service delivery.
- Blocking up the existing redundant door opening and installing a new storage cupboard for housing the gate control equipment and for storage of staff belongings.
- Installing new carpet tile floor finish over the existing stone floor which is to be retained.
- Installing new direct/indirect suspended luminaire and recessed linear light within joinery unit above desk with LED lighting to illuminate signage to front of desk.
- Installing new FCU with bespoke metal casing below the window, design to match FCUs being installed in the adjacent Cloisters.
- Installing new under desk trench heaters.
- Installing new low level hardwood veneered joinery unit below the side window to replace the existing unit, to house peripheral equipment such as card printers, tannoy etc.

2.0 Wilkins Building Library Entrance - Proposal

| 1.5 Proposed 3D Visual



2.0 Wilkins Building Library Entrance - Proposal

| 1.5 Proposed 3D Visual



Wilkins Building Library Entrance

| 1.5 Proposed 3D Visual



Wilkins Building Library Entrance



| 1.6 Project Strategies

Access Strategy

The new Wilkins Building library entrance will improve access for both staff and students / visitors by:

- Providing level access for staff to the area behind the reception desk (not possible previously).
- Providing wider fully inclusive DDA accessible entrance gates for visitors to the Library (removing the requirement for a separate pass gate for wheelchair users).

Fire Strategy

The modified library entrance arrangement will not change the fire strategy for this part of the building.

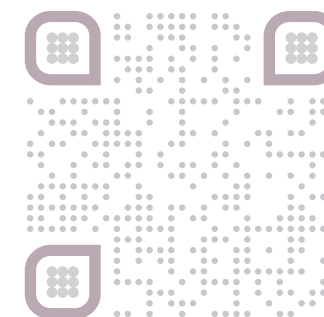
Sustainability Strategy

These modification works will be undertaken as part of the main bicentennial project and as such, they will form part of the SKA sustainability assessment that is being undertaken.

Security Strategy

LCCOS have confirmed that there have been instances when students have climbed over the current entrance barriers when the Library has been closed due to their limited height.

The replacement entrance barriers will incorporate taller 1.8m high glass screens which will prevent this from happening again.



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