Dear Mr Badger

I am sorry to be sending this objection so late in your discussions but I have only recently become aware of these prospective works.

I understand that the intention is to lower the road access to Waterlow park at the high street gate in order to accommodate wheelchairs.  The gates and railings are Grade11\* which, with a break for the wall of Channing Junior School, run identically from below Lauderdale House up to the last shop on Highgate High Street.  The bottoms of the gates are all straight across the openings, and sit on very large limestone slabs which are most likely original.  What is suggested is a major alteration to the Grade 11\* gate and the removal some of its existing features.  Lifting the large limestone stones and putting them back without breakages will be very difficult.

Waterlow Park is situated on a steep hill with very few flat paths and the first Entrance from below the High Street leads onto a particularly steep section.  The path dips immediately from the gate and goes into a steep area where the camber is quite difficult, even for the able footed.

The government advice for wheelchairs is below.  Most of the paths from the gate have more than 1:10 incline which the advice regards as inaccessible for most wheelchair users.  A recent conversation in the park with a wheelchair user revealed that camber could be more of a problem than the incline. This gentleman had a very new, fast, motorised wheelchair and he said he never uses the High Street gate area of the park. A person pushing a wheelchair would struggle even more.  Below the Gates the path diverges into 3 paths and the camber there goes in three directions.

This is not a safe area to push or drive a wheelchair.  There is much better access through the Lauderdale House gate where a wheelchair user would arrive on flat ground and make an easy journey to the cafe and the House gardens.  The paths in front of the house undulate but are less dangerous.

The government website illustrates this with the following diagram:

**>1:10, >10%:**

**Inaccessible for many users. Forwards/backwards tip hazard. (1:10, 10% is absolute maximum ramp gradient for maximum 1m going).**

Gradients are hard to assess on drawings and photos, but they are critical for real-life accessibility.

Can I suggest you walk the paths yourself.  Hopefully, the wheelchair bound community would see the dangers for themselves and use another entrance but in that case the damage to a Grade11\* gate will be harder to justify.  This well meaning project needs to be looked at again and perhaps moved elsewhere,

Yours sincerely

Janet Jones

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For and behalf of Highgate Society Planning Group