

Senate House, University of London Proposed signage on perimeter railings

Design and Access Statement in support of Listed Building Consent application

INTRODUCTION:

Following completion of the restoration of the railings on Malet Street, the University is keen to address the issue of students and staff affixing posters and banners to the railings.

The unregulated affixing of posters to the perimeter railings by students is extremely difficult to police. This meant that at the time of the recent restoration, there were frequent remnants of past flyers/posters, or paint damage caused by removing sellotape or other adhesive products.

The use of cable ties to secure banners to the railings also presents a risk of damaging the railings as the cable ties rub the paintwork as the banners move in the wind:



In order to overcome this issue, we are proposing to install 6 No. A1 signage panels to publicise events for the Central University, School of Advanced Studies and Senate House Library.

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DESIGN:

The proposed signage boards take the adjacent British Museum as a precedent. Here, posters are contained within secure signage boxes mechanically fixed to the railings:



Front 1.



Front 2.



Side view

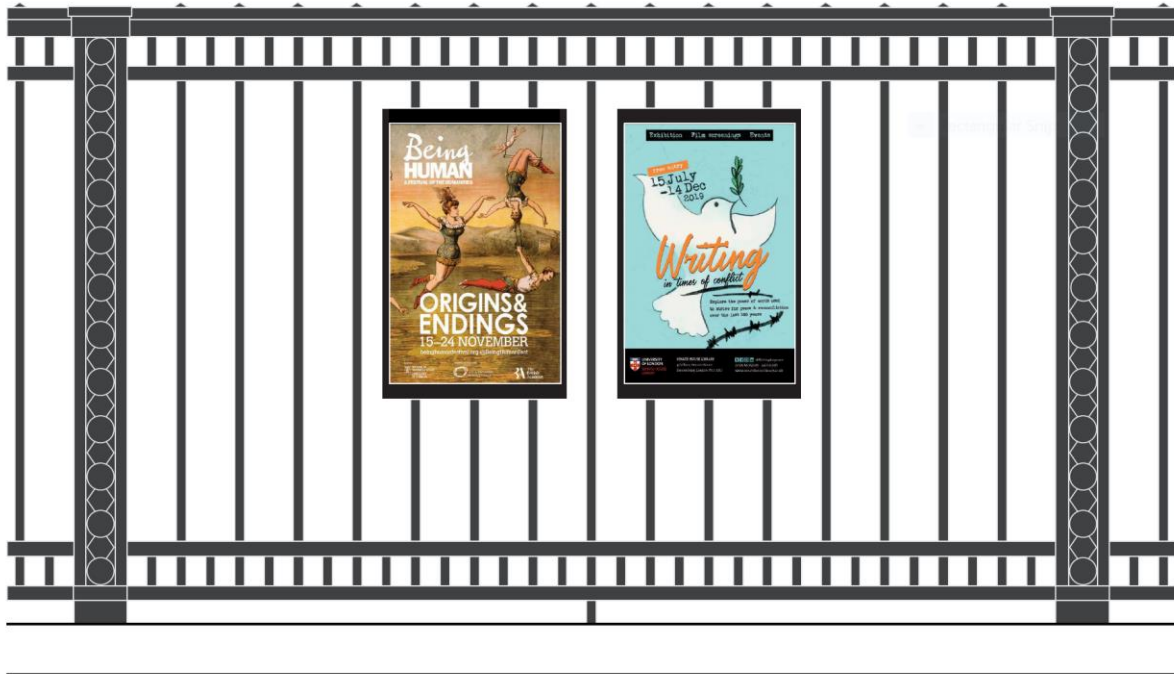


Rear view.

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We are proposing to install 6 No. A1 signs, situated in pairs at 3 No. locations.

The signs will be in 3mm aluminium and powder coated RAL 7016 – Anthracite Grey to match the recently restored railings behind:



We feel that the proportion of the paired A1 signage boards works well with the existing bay dimensions. The paired signs provide a clear area to advertise events without significantly blocking views through the railings or covering the ornate detailing.

The decision to only locate the pairs of signs at three locations is to ensure that the signs provide a useful function without detracting from the railings themselves.

ACCESS:

The proposed 6 No. signage boards will have minimal impact on the existing access arrangements at Senate House.

If the signage boards fulfil their purpose, the University may see a small increase in footfall into Senate House. However, there is already sufficient capacity, security and internal access facilities to cope with the expected minor increase in visitor numbers.