

HERITAGE DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Project:	Replace traffic barrier to Gray's Inn Square vehicular exit with new decorative metal gates. Gray's Inn, London WC1R	Ref/File No: HK 2271/3.1
Applicant:	The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn	
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Date:	2 nd February 2021	

INTRODUCTION

This application is for Listed Building Consent to replace the existing lifting traffic barrier to the Gray's Inn Road exit between 13 and 14 Grays Inn Square with decorative metal gates.



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BACKGROUND

General vehicular access to the Inn is by means of a one-way system with vehicles entering via the arch on High Holborn into South Square and thence into Gray's Inn Square to exit via the flat arch between Nos 13 and 14 onto Gray's Inn Road.

Currently, the one-way system operates from 6.00am to 8.00pm weekdays only. Outside of these hours the outer wooden gates to Gray's Inn Road are closed for security and the High Holborn access becomes two-way. This can give rise to confusion and traffic incidents due to the length of the single width carriageway between High Holborn and South Square.

In order to address the above issues, it is proposed to operate the one-way system 24 hours; this requires the replacement of the existing traffic barrier with gates in order that security is maintained out of hours. It is not possible to automate the existing historic outer wooden gates from Gray's Inn Square.

LISTING DESCRIPTION

The site is set within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

The Gray's Inn Square exit archway forms part of a terrace of buildings on the east side of the Square, listed Grade II* and described thus:

Gray's Inn Square Nos 12, 13 and 14, Gatehouse and attached railings

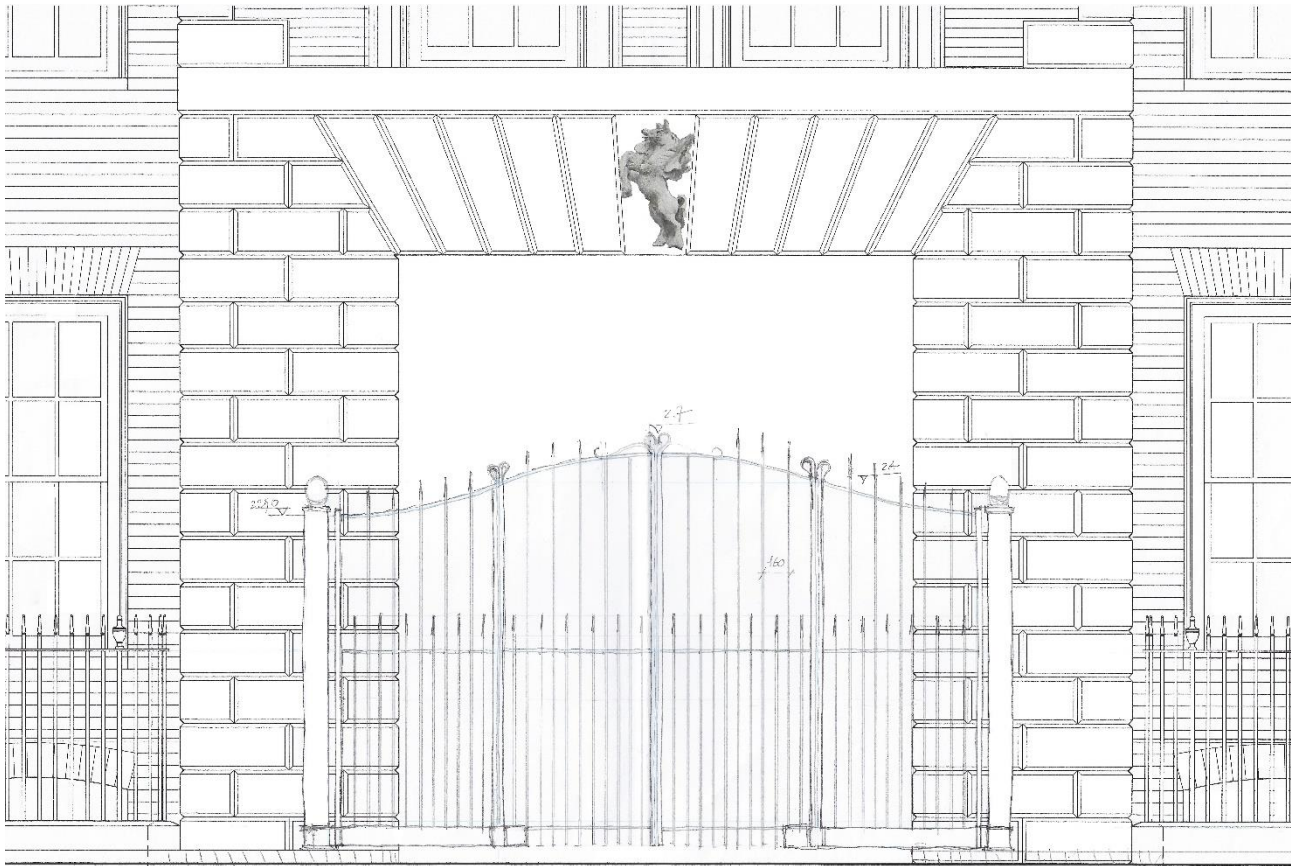
Three terraced chambers and gatehouse fronting Gray's Inn Road.c1684-88, later restorations. Brown brick with red brick dressings. Brick bands between floors. Tiled roof.

Four storeys and cellars. Seven windows each, gatehouse two windows and No.14 plus two half windows. Stone doorcases with consoles and broken segmental pediments with ball in centre. Gauged red brick flat arches and dressings to flush frame windows with boxing and glazing bars. Wood block bracketed eaves cornice.

INTERIORS: retain some panelled rooms. All with dog-leg stair of turned balusters and square newels.

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: attached cast-iron railings with urn finials to areas. Gatehouse between Nos 13 and 14: brown brick with rusticated stone ground floor. Rusticated stone quoins and stone bands. Flat arch carriage entrance with griffon carved on keystone. Windows with stone architraves and flush frames with glazing bars. Enriched modillion cornice with pediment. Gray's Inn Road elevation similar but windows have red gauged flat arches and dressings. In carriageway, windows and doorway of former C18 bookshop with frame for shutters and panelled surround.

Whilst the curtilage of the listed buildings extends only to the back of pavement edge/railings and neither the existing barrier nor proposed replacement gates is attached to the listed building, the proposed gates are clearly within the setting of the listed building and due to their close proximity, it is considered appropriate to apply for listed building consent even though technically this is not required.



Proposed New Gates

PROPOSALS & IMPACT

The existing traffic barrier and associated bright orange box mechanism together with the adjacent KEE KLAMP guarding will be removed.

New freestanding bi-folding metal gates will be installed, the design of which relates to the adjacent historic railings.

The removal of the existing barrier and associated fittings and their replacement with the proposed metal gates will enhance the setting of the immediately adjacent listed building, the appearance of the Square as a whole and thus the character and appearance of the wider Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

ACCESS STATEMENT

The proposed works do not have any DDA implications.

Prepared by Richard Young Architect RIBA
2nd February 2021