**DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT**

**CAMBRIDGE GATE – GATE PIERS AND STATUARY**

**The Site and Context**

Situated on the east side of Regent’s Park, Cambridge Gate was designed by T. Archer and A. Green in French Renaissance style and completed in 1877 on the site of Decimus Burton’s Colosseum which had been demolished two years earlier. Although a much later composition than the original Nash terraces enclosing the Outer Circle, it follows a similar disposition in that it is set back behind a carriage drive with a front retaining wall and gate piers rather than cast iron railings, which are a characteristic feature of most of the earlier Nash Terraces.

The front boundary wall is constructed in channelled limestone terminated at each end by two circular pairs of limestone piers inscribed Cambridge Gate surmounted by four terracotta statuary groups sculpted and signed by Joseph Kremer. Made at the Coalbrookdale Company works at Ironbridge, Shropshire, they are commonly referred to as ‘The Three Graces.’ The retaining wall carries a simple low railing, which replaced the originals, behind which is a narrow strip of communal planting.

The entire site lies within the Regent’s Park conservation area. The terrace and boundary wall, gates and statuary were listed separately on 14 May 1974.

The surface of the carriage drive in front of the terrace has recently been resurfaced in red tarmac and the footway to the Outer Circle restored with York stone paving in accordance with the public realm design strategy for Regent’s Park set out in *‘Regent’s Park Streetscape: A Special Precinct’* published by the CEPC in February 2017. A complementary document *‘A Total Work of Architectural and Landscape Art – A Vision for Regent’s Park’* provides additional information on the totality of Nash’s picturesque vision, which is a composition of international significance.

No alterations are proposed to the retaining wall or to vehicular or pedestrian access and egress from the private carriage drive in front of the terrace.

**The Gate Piers and Statuary**

The conservation and repair of the gate piers and the Three Graces is the responsibility of the Crown Estate Paving Commission. The piers and the sculpture are fully accessible and can be seen in public views from the surrounding area. Given their fragile condition and poor standards of past repair, urgent action is now needed to conserve them at a total cost of £133, 000 plus VAT.

Full details of the methodology and design of the repair and restoration of the gate piers and statuary are set out in full in the submitted expert conservation reports and photographs prepared by Cliveden Conservation.

As the retained conservation consultant to the CEPC, should it assist, I would be happy to meet the Council’s conservation staff on site to discuss the proposed works. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect in more detail

Philip Davies (Heritage and Planning) Ltd

[www.philipdaviesheritage.co.uk](http://www.philipdaviesheritage.co.uk)

M: 07702 831775

30 June 2022