

Cast Iron Gates to Cemetery Junction Arch, Reading

Condition Report

30th October 2024



Condition survey of

Cast Iron Gates

Report prepared for:

Reading Borough Council

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CONDITION REPORT

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Job No.	Issue No.	Description	Issue Date	Reviewed with
24176	1	Condition report	30/11/24	

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROPERTY: Cemetery Junction Arch, Reading

REGION: Reading

LOCATION: Reading Old Cemetery

OBJECT: Cast Iron entrance gates

MATERIALS: Cast Iron

SURVEYED BY: David Bloxam

WRITTEN BY: David Bloxam

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

Cliveden Conservation Workshop Limited (CCW) were invited to survey the Cast Iron Gates to the Old Reading Cemetery, Junction Arch. The report is prepared at the request of Reading Borough Council.

The aim of the survey was to assess the current condition and structural stability of the Cast Iron Gates prior to commencement of conservation/restoration work begin.

2.1 Summary of report

A description of the site access is explained in Section 1.2 and historical background is described in 1.3. The condition of the Cast Iron Gates is described in Section 2.0. Treatment recommendations for can be found in Section 3.0.

A description of the condition code system can be found in Appendix A and a photographic survey can be found in Appendix B.”

2.2 Site inspection

The survey was carried out by a conservator on the 30/11/24. Access to the Cast Iron Gates is gained via the entrance road off London Road/Wokingham Road.

The weather on the day of the survey was warm and clear, with an average exterior temperature of 18°C

2.3 Historical context

Reading Cemetery was set up by a local act of Parliament, the Reading Cemetery Company Act 1842 establishing the Reading Cemetery Company. The first interment took place in 1843. It was one of many cemeteries built in the Victorian era in response to the rapid population increase in the 19th century.

Reading Cemetery was built on farm land outside the existing borough boundaries at a site called Hattons Platt, which was owned by a Mr. Cholmeley

The cemetery itself, and within it the entrance lodges and the Sarcophagus Monument, are all Grade II listed buildings. The gate house is also Grade II listed and thus the listing extends to the cast Iron Gates.

There is no record of who manufactured the gates but this may well be discovered during restoration works.

3.0 CONDITION

Condition Code Summary

Stability	iv	(i – stable; iv – highly unstable)
Condition	D	(A – excellent; D – poor)
Treatment priority	4	(1 – non-urgent; 5 – Urgent)

3.1 Surface condition

The gates are in a poor condition with widespread surface corrosion.
Key elements missing or damaged:

Left Hand Gate (looking South).

- Rear vertical rail to gate missing entirely.
- 2 No vertical rails to lower L/H side bent out of vertical.
- L/H side horizontal rail badly corroded and broken through
- Lower section below decorative frieze 5 /6 vertical rails missing and outer frame.

Right Hand Gate

- Damage to flower to decorative frieze
- Wrought iron swing gate has been inserted to lower section below frieze. 5/6 vertical rails missing.
- Bottom rail missing to same section.
- Issue with lock area not fully visible due to position of gates. Further investigation required.

3.2 Structural condition

The structural condition of the gates would appear to be eminently unstable due to the above areas of damage with severe threats to their integrity and stability. Where the pintols are set into the stonework the stone has cracked due to rust jacking on the hinges which is in turn causing further fracturing to surrounding stonework and lintols. The lower hinges will also require investigation where they are set into the floor.

4.0 TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove gates from current location and cart away to workshop.
- Soda blast gates to remove all paint and corrosion.
- Reinstall missing elements to principal rails and insert missing items in like for like materials utilising cast iron welding techniques.
- Investigate lock and repair/replace as necessary.
- Prime gates with rust inhibiting paint, undercoat and re-paint in 2 coats high load black gloss paint
- Cut out damaged stonework around pintols and re set using stainless steel and epoxy resin. Replace damaged stonework with Bath stone.
- Introduce grease nipples to all hinges.
- Re-set base hinges with phosphorus bronze bushes.

4.1 Ongoing maintenance

The gates should be regularly greased, eased and adjusted and re painted on a 5 year rolling cycle.

4.2 Environmental recommendations

N/A



LIST OF APPENDICIES

- A Condition code summary**
- B Photographic survey**

APPENDIX A- CONDITION CODE SUMMARY

CONDITION (A–D)		
A	Excellent	Little or no damage evident
B	Good	Minor amount of damage and/or loss of original and added material, or with light discoloration or accretions
C	Fair	Noticeable damage and loss and appear disfigured with visible accretions
D	Poor	Considerable and/or significant loss of original or added material or major damage/breakage or disfigurement. May be endangering other objects and surfaces
STABILITY (i-iv)		
i	Stable	Condition not expected to deteriorate within the next 10+ years
ii	Potentially unstable	Condition not expected to deteriorate within next 5-10 years
iii	Unstable/Steady deterioration	Change in condition likely to be evident between 1 –5 years
iv	Highly unstable	Change in condition likely to be evident within 1 year
TREATMENT PRIORITY (1-4)		
1	No treatment	Conservation treatment not required beyond routine maintenance
2	Desirable	Conservation treatment desirable but not necessary to ensure the long-term stability of the object, for instance, conservation treatment may be required for curatorial reasons
3	Necessary	Conservation treatment necessary to avoid further deterioration, loss or undesirable strain on an object and/or loss of significance (evidential or artistic value)
4	Urgent	Conservation treatment required to prevent significant deterioration in condition of object and/or loss of significance (evidential or artistic value). This may include structural vulnerability, risk of total loss of entire object or part of object, or risk of accident to visitors/users

APPENDIX B- PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

	
<i>Fig.1 – L/H Gates showing missing</i>	<i>Fig. 2 L/H Gate showing missing area.</i>
	
<i>Fig.3 – L/H gate showing extensive damage to lower section</i>	<i>Fig.4 – Damage to rear rail.</i>

	
<i>Fig.5 R/H Gate</i>	<i>Fig 6. R/H gate damage to decorative flower to frieze.</i>
	
<i>Fig.7 R/H Gate lock area.</i>	<i>Fig 8. R/H Gate showing added in area of wrought iron.</i>
	
<i>Fig.7 R/H Gate pintol/stonework damage</i>	<i>Fig 8. Subsequent damage to lintol from rust jacking to pintols</i>