

**Listed Building Application
Design & Access Statement /
Heritage Statement**

**Introduction of metal railings to form partial enclosure
to the remembrance garden and
proposed steel mesh infill to the entrance to the East Wing
for prevention of falling from heights**

At

**Berkhamsted School, Castle Campus, Castle Street,
Berkhamsted HP4 3BB**

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Prepared by

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The Design Proposal

The Listed Building Application has been prepared after the previous pre-planning consultation application. The proposals put forward in this application are based on the recommendations and discussions with Neil Robertson, planning officer from Dacorum Borough Council.

The Listed Building Application has two objectives which are as follows.

1] The introduction of metal railings to 4 corners of the remembrance garden

Between the Memorial Library and the Chapel is a small square of land, divided into quarters by a cross shaped path. Two of the paths lead onto either Quad, a third takes you to the cloisters, with the fourth leading to the Library. With four low walls surrounding the garden squares, this Memorial Garden, came into being in the late 1920s.

Nowadays, the majority of new Staff and pupils pass through, or clamber over the walls, with little knowledge of its name or purpose. In 2018, a new plaque was displayed in the Memorial Library, to remind the school community and visitors alike, that the building came about to remember those that lost their lives during the Great War. It was well received and we had many folk commenting on the fact that they didn't know its' full name.

A conversation followed, with regards to the Remembrance Garden and how we could give the area more of a presence. Chains and gates were discussed but full access is needed and encouraged and these would have been restrictive. Decorative railings were suggested, sited atop the keystones, allowing access and views through but making a quiet statement. The words "We remember" would be included within each section of railings.

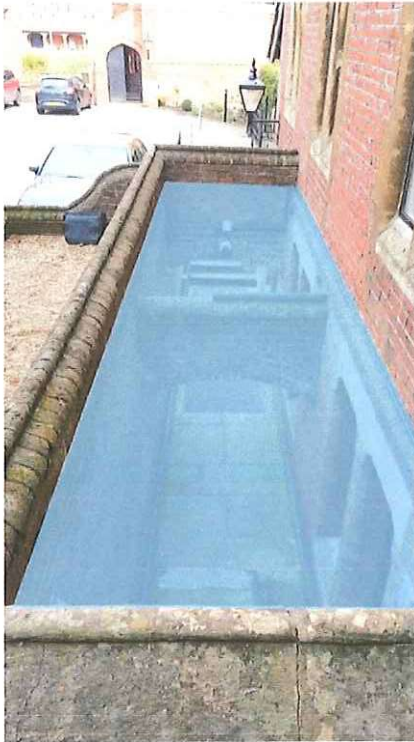
The remembrance garden is adjacent to the "*Berkhamsted School Chapel*" (1078168) Castle street which is a Grade II Listed building

2] The prevention of falling from heights at the entrance of the East Wing.

The entrance to the East Wing of the Grade I Listed Building referred to as the "*Berkhamsted School Old Building*" (1342152) is a highly trafficked area. This forms a major route into the school. As you approach the entrance there is a bridge link with very low height walls. There is a potential health and safety concern with a potential fall of 3.3m. This is of great concern for the school as pupils tend to gather around this area prior to entering or exiting the East Wing.

For the pre-planning consultation discussions we tabled two options to the Planning Officer. The two options were as follows:

A] Option 1 - To infill the recesses with a horizontal mesh area (Finish Galvanised or black if required) which would provide safety If a pupil were to fall into the recess. The mesh area would be formed from a metal grid of 2 x 1m and from eyeline would not impact on the façade of the East Wing. The proposal also includes a handrail (Finish-Black) for disabled access complying with Part M of the building Regulations.



Safety Mesh Infill to protect against 3.3m drop
East Wing - [Left of Entrance]



Existing Photograph



GRP Safety Limited
Mesh Infill Panels (colour Black)



Safety Mesh Infill to protect against 3.3m drop
East Wing - [Right of Entrance]



Existing Photograph

B] Option 2 – To add metal railings to the top of the stone parapet to the whole area of the recess, to achieve a height of 1.1m with railings at 100mm centres to comply with Part K of the building regulations. This approach would require new railings to the full extent of the parapet stones. This approach would have more visual impact on the façade. The metal railings would be produced to reflect similar railings throughout the Castle Campus.



Historic Railings – [would prevent a current day health and safety issue]



Current interpretation of the historic railing with safety in mind



Current interpretation of the historic railing

Result of the Pre Planning Consultation

It was agreed with the planning officer that the proposed metal railings (black) to the remembrance garden would have minimal impact in the curtilage of the Listed Building and the mock up metal railing would be acceptable in principle.

In terms of the two options put forward for the entrance to the East Wing it was agreed that Option 1 should be progressed. This option has minimal impact visually on the entrance façade of the East Wing. It will also provide essential Health and safety benefits as it will avoid the possibility of pupils falling over the existing low level wall and suffering injury from falling. The second Option was ruled out as the extent of the new metal railings would be significant. The railings would have more of a visual impact on the façade of the East Wing. Fixing the proposed railings would also have damaged the existing parapet stones. We are therefore moving forward with this application based on Option 1 incorporating mesh infill behind the existing parapet walls. These will be constructed from galvanised metal to avoid deterioration in the long term. The proposal also has the ability of being removed at a later date if required having minimal impact on the existing perimeter structure.



School mock-up of proposed railings for the remembrance garden (to be finished black)

Access & the Disabled Discrimination Act

This proposal will have no adverse implications on the access and servicing arrangements of The Sixth Form Building, nor will the application require any road alterations or changes to parking provision.

There will be no parking implications.

No public footpaths will be affected by this proposal.

The proposal will not cause any additional harm to highway safety.

The building currently has level access at the main entrance to enable wheelchair users to gain access.

Heritage Statement

The heritage statement is required as the application proposal affects a listed building or known heritage asset. Photographs of the existing building are contained within this document. The schedule of works are outlined as follows;

Schedule of works

- 1] To the remembrance garden four metal railings with minimal fixings will be installed with steel rod and resin anchors through the parapet stone. Fixings will be kept to a minimum but should ensure the metal railings are securely fixed.

- 2] The introduction of galvanised metal infill panels will provide essential safety from falling for pupils and members of the public. These will be constructed from metal sections forming a metal grid. The grid will be fixed to the perimeter brickwork horizontally by resin anchor fixings. Minimal fixings will be made through the grid into the masonry. Once the grid is installed the galvanised mesh panels can be dropped into the grid and securely fixed. The proposal is to use galvanised metal to protect the longevity of the steel. This can have an optional black finish if preferred by the conservation officer.

Conclusion

Based on discussions at the pre-planning stage we feel the proposal presented here to be the optimum solution respecting adjacent Listed School buildings. As the proposals are externally located, they are impacted by their location within the curtilage of the Listed Buildings. The proposal has minimal impact on the existing Listed Building and will be constructed of materials sympathetic to the surroundings and existing façade. The proposed development retains the character and setting of the Listed building. We confirm that the design will be of a high standard, recognising the character of the existing building. The metalwork will be constructed of good quality materials which will compliment those used throughout the curtilage of the Listed Building.

General Photographs



Entrance to the East Wing



Entrance to the East Wing (dangerous low level parapet)
LHS of entrance



Entrance to the East Wing (dangerous low level parapet)
RHS of entrance



View to remembrance garden