

Damage Report on the Grade 2 Listed Gates into Trent Country Park at Cockfosters







To Whom It May Concern




As representatives of Trent Park users and groups concerned with the preservation of historic assets in Enfield, we wish to express our deep disappointment about the continuing state of the Grade 2 Listed entrance gates to Trent Park. These have been damaged 3 times in the last few years, primarily by events or service trucks which are too big for comfortable access through the gates off Cockfosters Road, which presents its own restrictions.





We understand that the latest damage is being discussed and hopefully being repaired through an insurance claim. This damage was caused by a Go Ape supplier truck back in April 2023. In view of that ongoing process and to ensure that the gates are finally restored back to their original condition before the series of collisions occurred, we have sought the advice of a professional heritage inspector and he has provided his assessment of the state of the gates. His findings, which we have illustrated with photos, are as follows:

1. **Vegetation issues:** There is undesirable vegetation (ivy and tree limbs) on the structure particularly at the extremes of the curtain walls. (we believe it's been 5 years since vegetation was last cleared from this area and think that this should be part of the park's annual maintenance schedule).



	
<p>2. Impact damage to structure: The gate suffers from vehicle impact damage and is currently in a damaged state in several areas. One of the main gate pillars is missing its capping and urn embellishment as a result of the most recent collision.</p>	  

	
<p>3. Missing Urn: One urn is totally missing. We would like to know where the pieces are being stored and whether reconstruction is possible.</p>	
<p>4. Delapidation of remaining urn: The surviving urn embellishment has a crack in it and should be looked at asap.</p>	

	
<p>5. Safety issue with pedestrian arch: The flat arch above the northern pedestrian entrance appears to have loose mortar and has a crack that runs vertically through the stone above.</p>	 
<p>6. Issues with the historic wooden gates: The gates are suffering from misalignment and the timber cappings are rotting.</p>	



7. **Ironmongery issues:** The historic and possibly unique ironmongery is in a poor state – some of it is broken and no longer functioning and some is damaged and detached.



8. **Missing bollard:** One of the protective bollards is no longer there.



As you can see, conservation issues are causing health and safety issues and both need to be addressed.

We have expressed our concerns about the condition of the gates at various council and heritage meetings and through e-mails to heritage and other council officers, but little action has been taken. We can only assume that the severity of the gates' condition has not been recognized by you or Historic England and we trust that the above report will instigate some immediate action.

We are especially concerned that these repairs be scheduled before the winter months when more deterioration is likely to take place.

We would welcome a comprehensive schedule of rectification and timescales for each item, please. Time is of the essence with many of these actions. We would appreciate a response by November 30, 2023.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Trent Park Conservation Committee
Friends of Trent Country Park