

Brentham Society Advice Sheet:

FRONT GATES



Front steps, paths and gates are all considered an important part of the original character of The Brentham street scene, so replacements and renovations need to be suitable for each location. This is why a Planning Application should be made if you wish to replace your gate with design that is different to the existing one.

The earliest Brentham houses in Woodfield Road and Woodfield Avenue had cast iron gates with matching railings mounted on low walls. All these were removed during WW1. Since then, timber gates have replaced the metal gates and hedges replaced the railings.

All the later houses and cottages had timber gates with some slight variation in design from road to road. The most common type has open vertical slats of varying width with a straight top rail. (See Page 2 Figure 1)

In Winscombe Crescent the gates had a curved rail above the slats. Variations on this open slatted design can be seen in many other early Garden suburbs including Hampstead GS.

By the time Brentham was made a conservation area many of the original slatted gates had been replaced with a design that is a familiar feature of 1930s developments. It has a closed lower panel with short open slats and a straight rail.

It is a conservation objective to restore the original design if possible however it is acceptable to use a similar timber gate. The Brentham Advice Group can advise on what was the original design at your house if the original gate is missing or the existing one unsuitable.

Exact copies of these designs are not currently available from a standard range but can be custom made. Some companies have similar types that are simpler than the original gates (they usually have more uniform slats) that may be acceptable, particularly if you are replacing an unsuitable wrought iron gate or one of the 1930s type described below.

The Brentham Society has a section drawing showing the dimensions and construction of the original slatted timber gate design (See Page 2 Figure 2). A copy can be provided to give to gate companies so that they can provide a custom copy.

In Woodfield Road and Woodfield Avenue consideration maybe given to allowing cast iron gates that match the original design in these streets, however it is difficult to obtain the same design. Poorly matching designs are likely to be refused so as to avoid a multiplicity of varying gates along the street.

Metal front gates are unsuitable in all other parts of the estate as they were not used in any position except until late 1950s.

For further advice contact advice@brentham.com

FRONT GATES



Figure 1: Most common timber gate

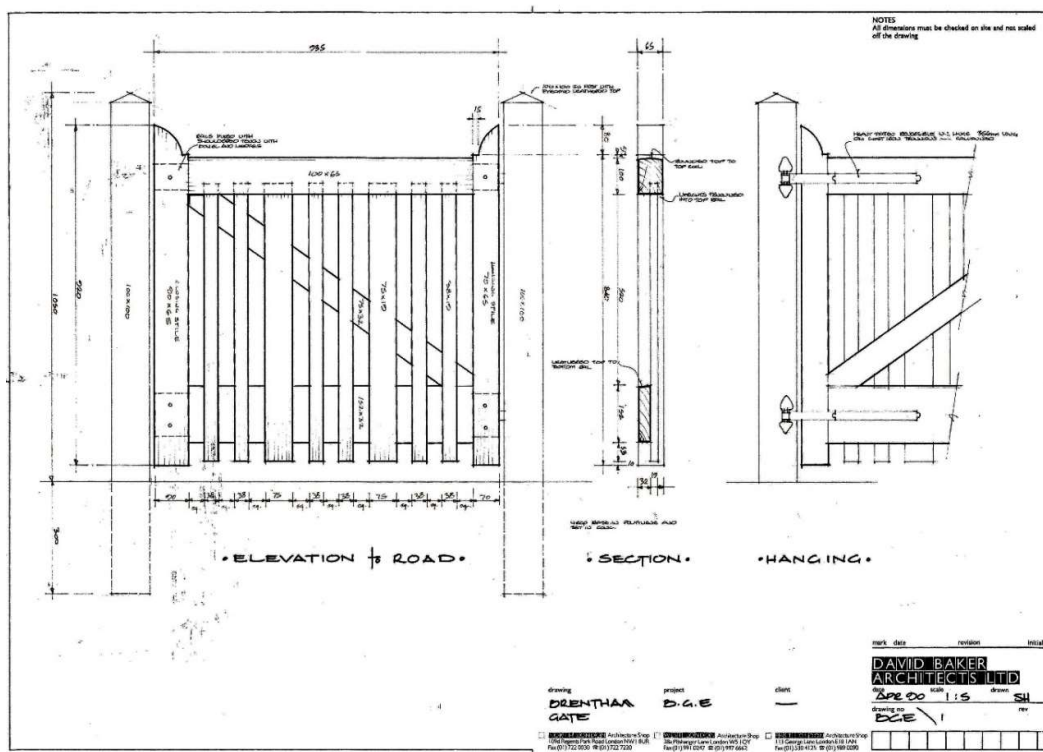


Figure 2: Architect drawing with dimensions

On behalf of the Brentham Society Planning & Conservation Advice Group

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