



Surrey Heritage Awards 2019

Nomination 4: Oatlands Park Gates

Weybridge, Elmbridge Borough

Summary

Oatlands Park Gates are set at the edge of the Oatlands Hotel, formerly the site of Oatlands House. Research conducted as a result of the repairs established the gates were based on a design by notable landscape gardener William Kent and constructed during the mid to late 18th century.



Project

Following a piece of masonry coming loose it was established that rusting iron cramps in the masonry were causing damage and had to be removed (pictured right). Following an initial survey, steam cleaning was carried out to identify further repairs and ensure new stone inserts would blend with existing masonry. Works were carried out on a minimal intervention basis with rusting iron cramps replaced with stainless steel and loose masonry pinned and resin bonded where necessary. To ensure best conservation practice was followed, historic repairs were retained and paint analysis carried out on the railings. A total of 150 repairs were carried out as part of the project.



Initial Comments

Judges were impressed by the retention of historic repairs and paint analysis, the latter of which revealed the origins or the gates noted in the summary above. The photographic record of the gates was also commendable and will help inform periodic repairs in the future.

