

HUNTERS

INCORPORATING

MAY, MAY & MERRIMANS



Heritage Assets

The legal issues relating to heritage assets - including historic houses and gardens, surrounding land, works of art and other contents, and the funds to support them - demand a range of specialist knowledge and negotiation skills that only come with frequent application and practice. In particular, the taxation treatment of heritage assets is highly complex and very different from that of other assets: often expertise in this area is essential in helping clients to plan for the future in a way which is both practical and tax-effective.

We deal with such issues more frequently than many competitors, and our Heritage Assets team has developed expertise, professional connections and influence that will help clients through this difficult area.

Heritage issues are of immediate personal importance to the owners involved and have a very real impact upon them. They may also be of great interest to the wider community, including bodies with a particular focus on these matters, and the team places great importance on all these factors in framing its advice.

Great responsibility comes with great things. We work closely with other professional firms and bodies, including HM Revenue and Customs, to achieve the best outcome possible.

Hunters Solicitors,
9 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QN

+44 (0)20 7412 0050

www.hunters-solicitors.co.uk

“One of the few firms with a specialist team in this field”
Legal 500

Gregor Kleinknecht “is very involved and is one of the few I would think of as being an art market specialist”
Chambers

Antiquities & the Law

Our Heritage Assets team has specialist experience in art and antiquities, where it advises on title disputes, questions of misattribution and authenticity of works of art, about illegally excavated and/or exported goods, and in relation to treasure.

We specialise in litigation relating to cultural and heritage property, advising and representing dealers, collectors and various private and public institutions in a variety of cultural property related disputes.

In November 2011, partner Hetty Gleave was appointed as a member of the Treasure Valuation Committee which advises the Secretary of State on the fair market value of declared Treasure finds from England, Wales and Northern Ireland which museums wish to acquire.

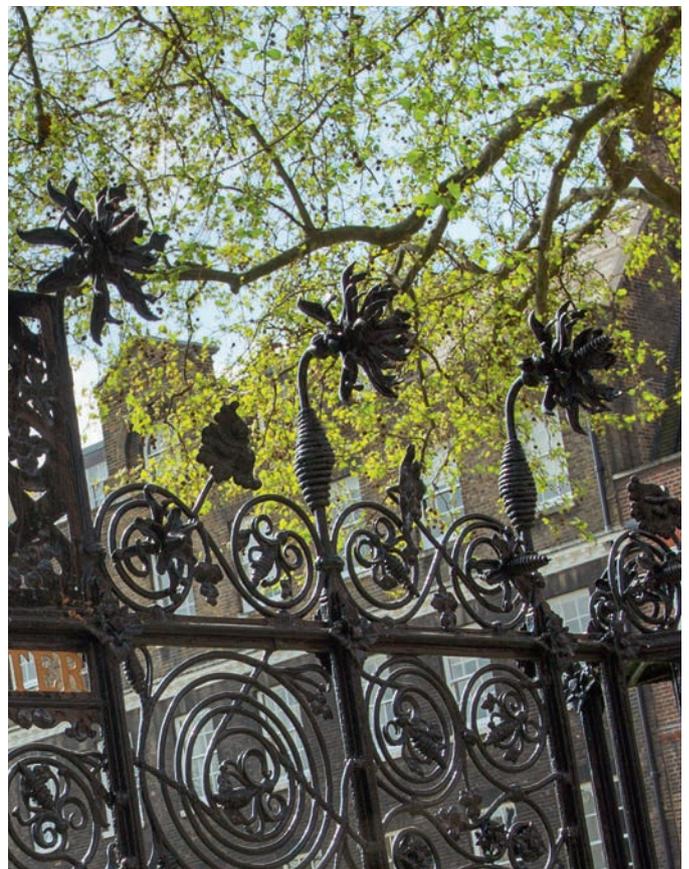
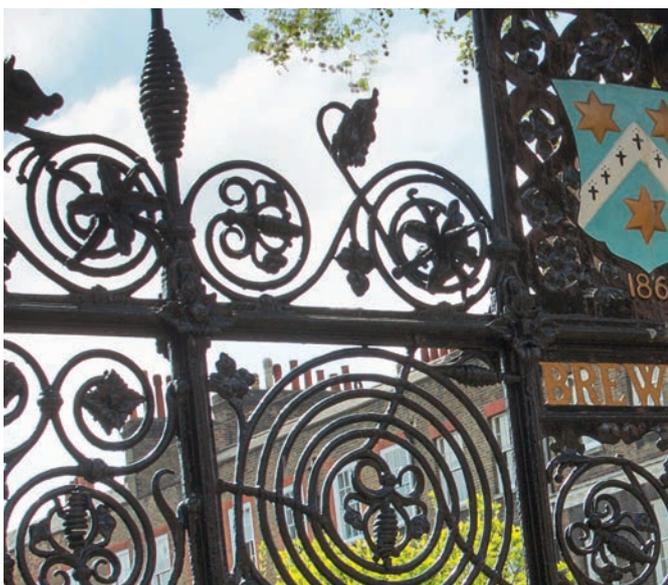
As a member of the Parliamentary Working Group on Human Remains, Hetty contributed to its report on the status, care, treatment and repatriation of remains in museums and galleries in November 2003.

Planning for the Future

Our Heritage Assets team has developed expertise over many years in relation to tax exemption, surrender in lieu, sale to a Heritage Body, and the establishment of a Maintenance Fund. This means that we are able to help owners, often with assistance from experts at the leading auction houses, fine art advisers and land agents, to ensure that the handover to the next generation of their heritage assets - whether a house, land, pictures, furniture or objets d’art - is achieved in the least disruptive, most tax effective way possible.

Knowledge of impending changes in law and practice affecting heritage property is particularly important, and our representation on the Heritage Group of Lawyers means that we are very well placed to advise owners on relevant forthcoming changes.

Our particular combination of experience and professional connections enables us to provide the owners of heritage assets with highly effective advice on which generations of our clients have come to rely.



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