

ABLOY UK helps modernise access management at historic Lincoln's Inn

Background

ABLOY UK has helped Lincoln's Inn modernise its access management with eCLIQ, a programmable electronic locking system that combines flexible access control with a retrofit solution suited to the demands of a historic heritage estate.

One of the four Inns of Court in London, Lincoln's Inn has a rich history, with records dating back to 1422. Its 11-acre estate comprises historic collegiate buildings, commercial properties and shared spaces in a central London location. With public access permitted through its gates at certain times of the day, maintaining effective security while supporting the day-to-day operation of the estate is essential.

Lincoln's Inn needed to replace an existing electronic key system that had reached end of life and was no longer supported. The new solution needed to provide long-term reliability, simplify key management and offer flexible access rights across a varied estate, while respecting the requirements of its historic buildings.

A flexible solution for a complex estate

Managing access across Lincoln's Inn presents a number of challenges. Around 165 staff work on site, with access required to different buildings, rooms and facilities across the estate. Managing traditional keys and ensuring that individuals can access only the areas relevant to their roles requires a solution that balances security with operational efficiency.
The estate also includes heritage doors where the installation of conventional wired access-control systems can be difficult, disruptive and costly. Restrictions associated with listed buildings make the ability to upgrade security without extensive cabling or alterations particularly valuable.

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Lincoln's Inn was already familiar with the benefits of electromechanical key technology, including the ability to replace large bunches of keys with a single programmable credential. The priority was to build on that experience with a modern, supported system that could meet the estate's changing requirements.



ABLOY UK's eCLIQ system was selected to provide a flexible electronic locking solution across approximately 350 locks throughout the estate.

Modern electronic security without extensive wiring

eCLIQ is a programmable electronic locking system that can replace conventional mechanical master key systems and provide access control in locations where traditional wired solutions are unsuitable.



The system combines electronic keys with a range of locking cylinders and finishes, allowing it to be adapted to different doors and applications. As a wireless solution, it avoids the need for cabling to individual doors, making it particularly suitable for sensitive heritage environments where alterations must be carefully managed.

For Lincoln's Inn, the ability to replace existing cylinders with minimal disruption was a significant advantage. The system could be installed by the Inn's own maintenance team, supported by its on-site carpenter, helping to simplify implementation across the estate.

The electronic keys can be programmed with specific access permissions, allowing users to access designated areas without carrying multiple keys. Access rights can be updated as requirements change, while schedules can be configured to reflect when access is permitted. Audit functionality also provides greater visibility of access activity.

Together, these capabilities give Lincoln's Inn greater flexibility in managing access across its buildings, while helping to maintain the character and integrity of its historic estate.

Improving everyday access management

Since introducing eCLIQ, Lincoln's Inn has benefited from a system that is straightforward to use and reliable in day-to-day operation.

The ability to create access profiles and schedules makes it easier to manage permissions for different users and areas of the estate. A single programmable key can provide access to multiple authorised locks, reducing the need for staff to carry and manage large collections of traditional keys.

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The system also provides the flexibility to adapt access arrangements as operational needs evolve. For an estate combining collegiate buildings, commercial properties and publicly accessible areas, this helps support a more consistent approach to access management.



Feedback from end users has been positive, with the usability and reliability of the system highlighted as important benefits compared with the previous electronic key solution.

By choosing a system that can be retrofitted without extensive wiring, Lincoln's Inn has also been able to address its security requirements while working within the practical constraints of a historic site.

A long-term partnership with ABLOY UK

Alongside the technology, ongoing support from ABLOY UK has been an important part of the project. From the tender process through to installation and after-sales support, Lincoln's Inn has benefited from continuity in its account management relationship. This has provided a consistent point of contact for advice and guidance, helping the organisation implement the system and consider its future requirements.

The relationship also gives Lincoln's Inn a foundation for exploring potential expansion across additional areas of its existing estate.

"Managing access across our historic estate, with around 350 locks and a combination of collegiate and commercial buildings, presents unique challenges.

"eCLIQ has enabled us to simplify key management, tailor access permissions and introduce schedules, while respecting the restrictions of our listed buildings. The system has proved reliable, feedback from our end users has been very positive, and the support provided by Abloy throughout the project has been excellent."

Stefan Cook
Chief Porter at Lincoln's Inn

"Abloy eCLIQ provides a flexible and reliable access management solution for complex environments such as Lincoln's Inn, where security must be balanced with the preservation of historic buildings.

"By combining electronic key management with straightforward installation and the ability to manage access remotely, eCLIQ offers a practical alternative to traditional access control, without the need for extensive cabling or alterations to heritage doors."

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