

Design, Access & Heritage Statement

Repairs works to Grade II War Memorial, Northenden



On behalf of: Manchester City Council

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Revision:

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Introduction, setting and location

This application for Listed Building Consent is made on behalf of Manchester City Council, in order to secure permission for minor alterations and repairs to the WWII memorial cross in Northenden.

History and background to application

The memorial, which is grade II listed, sits on the north side of the main road in Northenden, set back from the road with a small memorial garden. The cross was unveiled in 1922 to commemorate the fallen soldiers of WWI, with a drinking fountain added in 1923 – sadly removed.

The gates and railings were also removed in the second world war, with names of the fallen soldiers of WWII added post conflict also.

Constructed of York stone, it sits on a stepped plinth surrounded by modern concrete crazy paving, with associated street furniture in close proximity.

The memorial was listed officially in 2016.

An extract of the Historic England listing entry can be read as follows:

DESCRIPTION: The York stone memorial is situated on the north side of the main road in Northenden, set back from the pavement in a small memorial garden and to the rear of the Northenden Social Club (which was also built just after the First World War, and is not listed). It comprises a c5m tall pillar, rectangular on plan, dying back to a wheel-head cross. The front face of the cross head bears a reversed sword carved in relief, either side of which on the cross shaft is blind arcading.

The cross shaft stands on a square plinth, that stands on a two-stepped base. A large bronze plaque fixed to the front face of the plinth records the principal dedicatory inscription TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF/ THE MEN OF NORTHENDEN WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919/ (63 NAMES). Below this, on the top step of the base, a second bronze plaque reads 1939 THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1945/ (41 NAMES).

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: The memorial is approached from the road by small forecourt, a low step and crazy-paved path. The forecourt includes a bench and a litter bin, with modern railings enclosing part of the garden. These features are not of special interest.

This list entry was subject to a Minor Amendment on 22/06/2016

Proposals

As part of the ongoing care and maintenance of the memorial, the following works are proposed:

-Indent repairs to masonry. Where identified in the accompanying report, carry out stone indents to match existing colour/geology/finish to defective areas, bedded in lime mortar. This primarily relates to cracked/fractured or heavily weathered stones.

-Repointing works to masonry. Per the accompanying report, carefully rake out and repoint defective/failed pointing and renew in lime mortar to open joints. A feeble lime mix to be used.

-Replacement of concrete crazy paving and apron to memorial. Per the engineer's report, the current arrangement of paving and apron (concrete) offers no contribution to the heritage or aesthetic and is not shedding water as effectively as it could – contributing to the decay of the stone plinth. This shall all be carefully removed and replaced with 75mm (sawn six side) York stone flagstones, with lime mortar pointed joints.

-Careful removal of the bronze plaque, commemorating the fallen soldiers of WWII. The plaque will be transported to the studio, with cut/indent and weld of new bronze plate to add the name of the missing soldier – all to match the existing lettering style/colour/depth etc.

-Strip and repatinate the bronze plaque, to ensure all matches.

-Return plaque to site, refix with stainless steel fixings with bronze caps, per existing/to match existing.

Heritage Impact Assessment

Taking the above into consideration, the following impact assessment has been carried out to ascertain the impact of the proposed repair works upon the heritage asset.

<i>Proposed work</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Significance of affected fabric</i>	<i>Beneficial impact</i>	<i>Harmful impact</i>	<i>Proposed solution</i>
Addition of name to plaque, of missing soldier	To add the name to the WWII roll of honour	Grade II listed memorial, dated 1922, plaque is later post WWII	Addition of name of missing soldier to properly commemorate the fallen soldier of WWII from the area	Alteration to original plaque albeit modern, potential for mismatching	Lettering style, depth, colouration etc shall strictly match that of the existing text, and be refitted entirely to match previous situation
Repair to stonework and repointing in lime	To prevent further instability or decay to the masonry	Primary fabric of Grade II memorial, 1922 for masonry	To prevent further water ingress to open joints, repair defective masonry elements, improve aesthetic condition and structural stability	Potential for excessive loss of original fabric or incompatible material, potential to trap moisture in already open joints	Stone used for indent shall match existing geology as well as colour and finish, mortar shall be a feeble lime mix to ensure flexibility
Replacement of surrounding paving	To replace concrete crazy paving and apron with a more appropriate material	Concrete is a later 20thC addition, as is the paving	Enhanced management of water around base and aesthetic improvement	Close to negligible, considering the lack of heritage merit in the concrete paving and apron	New stone paving to be in York stone to compliment the memorial itself, with lime mortar pointed joints, laid to fall away from memorial

END OF STATEMENT