

Design, Access & Heritage Statement

Repairs works to Grade II War Memorial, Didsbury



On behalf of: David Davies, c/o Manchester City Council

March 2026

Revision: A

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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 to the WWI roll of honour plaque, affixed to the memorial.

History and background to application

The memorial, which is grade II listed, sits on the western side of Wilmslow Road in Didsbury, a suburb of Manchester.

Constructed of Portland stone and unveiled in 1921, it bears plaques dedicated to the names of fallen soldiers in both world wars. The plaque to the fallen soldiers of WWII, on the lower section, is believed to have been added by the people of Didsbury in 1996. The monument underwent restoration in 2005.

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

The Portland stone memorial is located on Wilmslow Road, opposite the Rhodes Memorial Clock Tower (Grade II) and in front of Didsbury Public Library (Grade II). Enclosed within a small, railed, garden, the memorial stands at the end of a short paved path, flanked by two small lawns. The three-stepped stone base is surmounted by a tall, two-stage plinth, square on plan, dying back via offsets to a pedestal bearing the shaft, topped by a small cross fleury.

The upper stage of the plinth bears black, rectangular, metal plaques on each side, on which the names of the fallen are inscribed in white lettering. The pedestal is decorated with carved wreaths and coats of arms, while tall flambeaux are carved in low relief on each side of the cross shaft.

The principal dedicatory inscription on the front face of the plinth reads DIDSBURY/ WAR MEMORIAL/ 1914-1919/ TO THE MEMORY OF THE/ SACRED DEAD OF THIS/ VILLAGE, WHO HAVING LEFT/ ALL THAT WAS DEAR TO/ THEM, ENDURED HARSHIPS,/ FACED DANGERS AND FINALLY/ PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE/ IN DEFENCE OF KING/ AND COUNTRY./ "LET THEIR NAMES BE EVER/ REMEMBERED WITH GRATITUDE"/ "MAY THEIR SOULS REST/ IN PEACE."

The Second World War dedication is incised into the stone of the lower stage below, reading IN MEMORY OF THOSE/ WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES/ IN THE SECOND GREAT WAR/ 1939 – 1945. The First World War names are listed on three metal plaques on the remaining three sides of the plinth, with the Second World War names on a metal plaque to the lower stage.

Proposals

It is proposed that on the upper section of the memorial, where the Great War roll of honour plaque is located, that the name of a soldier is removed/added to the existing plaque. The key works required to facilitate this are as follows:

- Carefully remove the plaque, provide necessary travel protection and transport to studio
- Cut, indent and weld the bronze as necessary, in order to change the name of the soldier to the rollcall, to match existing lettering style/depth/colouring exactly. The name Reginald Hulme is to be removed, and Horace Hulme added.
- Strip and repatinate the bronze plaque, so all matches
- Return plaque to the memorial, reinstate on stainless steel fixings with bronze domed cappings 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>
Removal of one name and addition of name to plaque	To add the name to the Great War roll of honour	Grade II listed memorial plaque, bronze, added In 1996, to memorial itself of 1921	Addition of correct name fsolider to properly commemorate the fallen solider 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

END OF STATEMENT