

GETTING A WAR MEMORIAL LISTED

War Memorials Trust is often approached about getting war memorials listed and we can help in three ways: we can advise on a memorial's "listability" and how to apply for listing, we can support others' requests for "spot-listing", or can submit applications for listing ourselves.



War Memorials Trust

Registered Charity Number: 1062255

What is the statutory list and who lists buildings and memorials?

The **statutory list** is a record of structures deemed to be of national architectural and historical importance. It includes secular buildings of all types, churches, statues, and structures as diverse as telephone boxes, drinking fountains, market crosses and war memorials.

In England, listing is carried out by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, acting on the advice and recommendations of English Heritage (EH). In Wales and Scotland listing is done on the recommendations of the Welsh and Scottish national heritage bodies, Cadw and Historic Scotland, respectively.

There are three listing grades or categories: In England and Wales Grades I and II are the highest and together account for the top 6% of listed structures. The majority of listed structures are Grade II. In Scotland Category A comprises the top 7% of listed structures, Category B, the next 60%, and Category C(S) the remainder.*

You can check if a war memorial is already listed by contacting the Conservation Officer at your Local Authority.

"Spot-listing" is where English Heritage, Cadw or Historic Scotland assess a particular structure in response to a request. Any member of the public may nominate a building for listing.

What makes a memorial listable?

Most war memorials fall within the periods 1840-1914 (e.g. the Crimean and Boer Wars) and post-1914 (WWI and II and subsequent commemorations). For buildings in these periods the criteria for listing are relatively strict because of the greater number that survive compared with earlier times.

The guidelines seek buildings that:

- ◆ are designed by major architects or are important works by local architects
- ◆ form part of an architecturally interesting streetscape or group of buildings
- ◆ are very complete, early or rare surviving examples of specific types of building
- ◆ show evidence of technical, material or social innovation in their purpose or construction (for example, early use of concrete)

All these criteria can be applied to war memorials. However, war memorials are also a very particular type of structure - in addition to the architectural, artistic and aesthetic merit that

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many possess, by commemorating a particular group of people or event, **each is unique**. By their very nature, war memorials are of **historic importance**, which is also a justification for listing.

Getting a memorial listed

Anyone can apply to English Heritage, Cadw or Historic Scotland to have a building or memorial listed. There is no application form and no charge for applying. Do not leave it until the last min-

Send your letter of application and enclosures to

ENGLAND	WALES	SCOTLAND
Heritage Protection Operations Department Room 202 English Heritage 23 Savile Row London W1S 2ET	Cadw (Welsh Historic Monu- ments) Crown Building Cathays Park Cardiff CF1 3NQ	Historic Scotland Longmore House Salisbury Place Edinburgh EH9 1SH

ute to submit an application. English Heritage, Cadw and Historic Scotland all have heavy workloads and may take some time to consider your application.

Supporting an application

A well-researched application stands a better chance of success. If possible, you should establish the date and designer or maker of the memorial. Any additional interesting background information you can supply should also be included - Is the symbolism used on the memorial unusual? Does the memorial take an unusual form? Is it a unique commemoration of a specific event or action? Are any of those commemorated on the memorial known regionally or nationally?

Your local library, archives and county record office are good sources of information – they could have newspapers reporting the memorial's unveiling or dedication ceremony and may have postcard or photographic collections. For memorials located in churchyards, parish, congregational or Diocesan records may contain useful information. Local history societies, ex service and Regimental organisations, Royal British Legion local branches and local businesses or associations/clubs whose members are commemorated as a group can often provide additional information. It is also useful to check whether the memorial is recorded in the National Inventory of War Memorials (Tel: 020 74165353). You should also contact the conservation officer of the planning department at your local authority for support.

Presentation

English Heritage, Cadw and Historic Scotland will make their initial assessments of the memorial based on the information you submit, so good photographs are also needed. These should convey the quality of the memorial, showing it in context and any particular features of note.

Structural condition, whilst of great importance in itself, is not a factor which influences the decision to list the memorial. There is no "sympathy vote" to be gained by highlighting areas of decay. However, if the memorial is in peril and urgent action is needed (for example, it is under immediate threat of demolition or damaged and in an unstable condition) this should be stressed in the application.

A map is also necessary. A photocopied extract from an Ordnance Survey map or A-Z with

Application Check List

- ◆ *Application letter incorporating key details and why the memorial should be listed*
- ◆ *Photographs of the memorial*
- ◆ *Map extract showing the memorial's location*
- ◆ *Photocopies of any other supporting information*