

GETTING A WAR MEMORIAL LISTED

War Memorials Trust encourages the listing of war memorials in order to provide them statutory protection. This leaflet contains details on Listing and advice on how to request the listing of a war memorial. Further advice on a memorial's "listability" can be provided by contacting War Memorials Trust.



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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, responsibility for designation rests with English Heritage. In Scotland the list is compiled by Historic Scotland on behalf of The Scottish Ministers. In Wales the Assembly is advised by the professional Inspectorate of Historic Buildings within Cadw.



There are three listing grades or categories: In England and Wales Grades I and II are the highest and together account for the top 8% of listed structures. The majority of listed structures are Grade II. In Scotland Category A comprises the top 8% of listed structures, Category B of 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.

Getting a memorial listed

Anyone can apply to English Heritage, Cadw or Historic Scotland to have a building or memorial listed through the process of 'spot-listing'. There is no charge for applying. For England and Wales there is no application form to fill in whereas for Scotland a Listing Proposal Application needs to be submitted. This form can be downloaded from www.historic-scotland.gov.uk or by contacting Historic Scotland.

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, WWII and subsequent commemorations). For structures in these periods the criteria for listing are relatively strict because of the greater number that survive compared with earlier times.

In general the criteria used for listing are:

- ◆ architectural interest: works of well known architects or examples of structures which are important for their architectural design, decoration, craftsmanship and materials employed
- ◆ historic interest: structures that illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural, industrial or military history
- ◆ close historical association with nationally important buildings, events or people
- ◆ group value, especially where buildings comprise an important architectural or historic group or streetscape or are a fine example of planning

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All war memorials, by their very nature are considered of historic significance and are presumed listable. All of the above criteria could apply to war memorials. Moreover, the presence of inscriptions commemorating casualties and events renders each memorial unique, whilst those memorials with exceptional visual interest merit listing at a higher grade.

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?

It is also useful to check whether the memorial is recorded in the National Inventory of War Memorials (www.ukniwm.org.uk) and include a copy of that record. Alternatively, 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. You should also contact the conservation officer of the planning department at your local authority for support. You should also mention who is the current owner or custodian of the memorial.

You should send your application and supporting information to:

ENGLAND	WALES	SCOTLAND
Heritage Protection Operations English Heritage 1 Waterhouse Square 138-142 Holborn London EC1N 2ST	Cadw Plas Carew Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed Parc Nantgarw Cardiff CF15 7QQ	Historic Scotland Inspectorate Listing Team Room 2.20 Longmore House Salisbury Place EDINBURGH EH9 1SH

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 severely damaged and in an unstable condition or is under immediate threat of demolition) this should be stressed in the application.

A map indicating the location of the memorial is also necessary. A photocopied extract from an Ordnance Survey map or A-Z with the memorial's location marked is sufficient. It is also useful to indicate whether the memorial relates to other nearby structures or is adjacent to other listed buildings, as it is possible to list structures for their contribution to a group.



Application Check List

- ◆ *Application letter incorporating key details and why the memorial should be listed*
- ◆ *Details of who owns or is responsible for the memorial (if known)*
- ◆ *Photographs of the memorial*
- ◆ *Map extract showing the memorial's location*
- ◆ *Photocopies of any other supporting information*