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## COLSTERWORTH WAR MEMORIAL DESIGN ACCESS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT



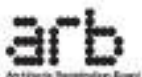
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## **Introduction**

This design access and heritage statement has been prepared on behalf of Colsterworth and District Parish Council by PPIY Chartered Architects in support of the Listed Building Consent application for repairs to the Grade II listed Colsterworth War Memorial.

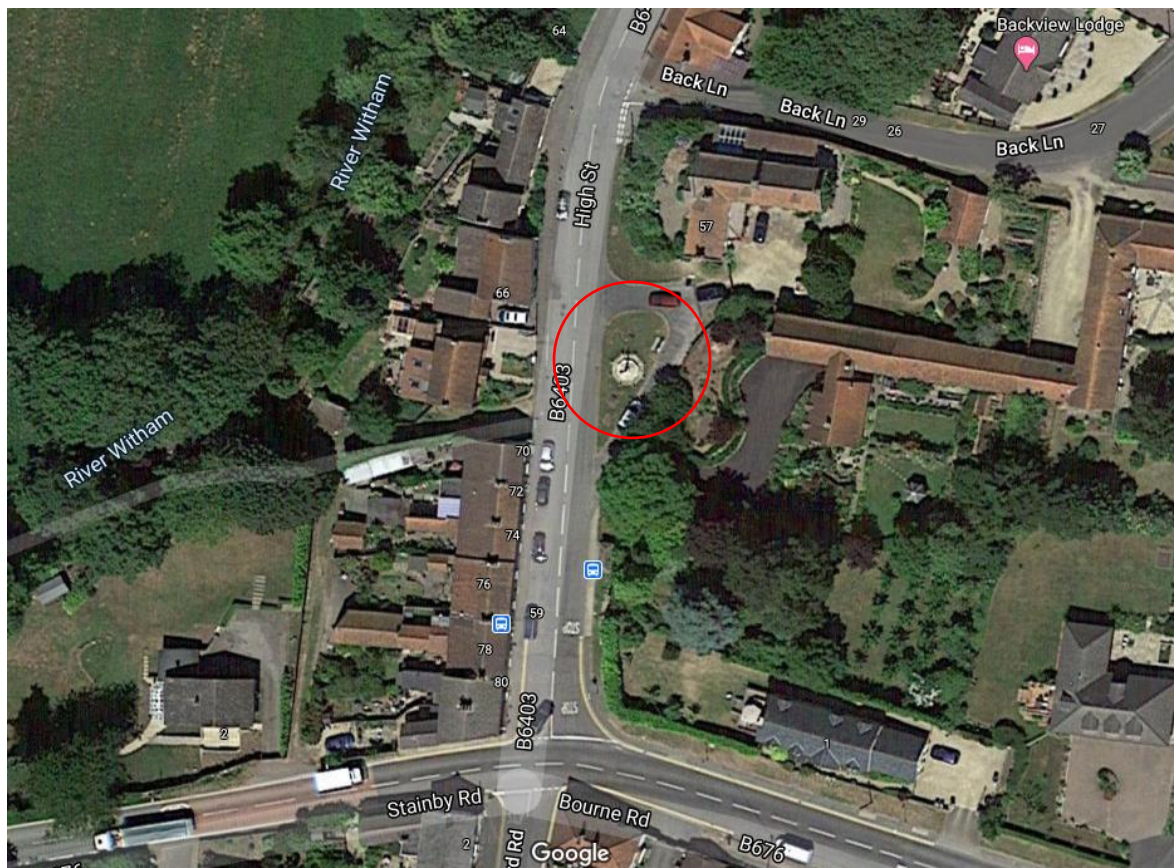
The submission of this document is made at the request of South Kesteven District Council.

The statement describes the proposed works and considers the history and nature of the structure, site and surroundings and the conservation context within which the application will need to be considered by the Local Planning Authority.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the rest of the information submitted for listed building consent including drawings, specification and schedule of works.

## **Site and access**

The war memorial is situated in the SW corner of Colsterworth village on a grassed island at a widening east off the main road High Street running N-S. The monument is overlooked by residential single or double storey properties at a good clearing distance, which provides good visibility levels to the memorial. River Witham runs parallel to High Street along its west side. Access is available both by vehicle and for pedestrians from all sides of the memorial.



*Fig. 1: Abstract from Google Maps showing the location of the monument.*

## **The monument**

Colsterworth War memorial is a grade II listed structure (see Appendix A for full Listing Entry) made of stone and consisting of: a three stepped octagonal plinth, an octagonal shaft on pedestal with gilded inscriptions and a top cross with a crenelated base. The monument is surrounded by a paved area also octagonal in plan and fenced off with posts marking each of the octagon's points all interlinked with a chain.

In the 'War Memorials of Lincolnshire' there is the following entry by Credland, M. 2014: *Colsterworth war memorial carries the names of the fallen from the First World War and the Second World War. It is situated on High Street between Bourne Road and Back Lane and was unveiled in 1920. The memorial is made up of a twenty feet (six metres) high wayside cross executed in Clipsham stone.*<sup>1</sup>

The monument underwent restoration works in 2010 which involved: stone replacement to the plinth with Ancaster Weatherbed, removal of cementitious mortar and repointing with a hydraulic lime NHL 3.5 mortar, plastic repairs and lime-based shelter-coating to the top cross, replacement of 3No fencing posts, cleaning and repointing of the paved area, cleaning and redecoration of the chain, cleaning of the stone of the main monument and regilding of the inscriptions.

## **Heritage significance**

Colsterworth War memorial is grade II listed and the listing entry mentions this mainly for its group value. As a memorial commemorating all the fallen from this area at the two World Wars, it has certainly a big communal value. There is also some aesthetic value mainly in relation to the Top Cross Crucifixion carving.

## **Current Condition**

The memorial is generally in reasonable condition with the exception of the 2010 repaired areas, which seem to have deteriorated at an unexpected speed with new Ancaster stone fracturing and water appearing to be leaching from the base of the memorial. Otherwise, the main shaft appears stable and the stone is free from vegetation growth and relatively clean. The inscriptions are bright and readable.

The main issues appear to be the failing stonework within the plinth, and in addition a continued deterioration of the carved stonework of the cross and crucifixion carving. Before any repair works could be proposed, it was felt necessary to investigate in greater depth the actual structure of the plinth and the possible cause of the stone failure, which is why an investigative section was made in February 2020 followed by a report.

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<sup>1</sup> Historic Environment Record <https://www.lincstothepast.com/War-Memorial--Colsterworth/908985.record?pt=S>



*Fig. 2: The Northwest plinth elevation (side B on plans) with failing Ancaster stone to step 3 of the base plinth.*

### **Structure investigation results**



*Fig. 3: The East plinth elevation before the investigative section.*

The investigative section was made at the eastern most face of the memorial (Side E on plans), with the stone in the poorest condition at the first plinth step first removed followed by surrounding stones and finally the coping stone. In addition, a flagstone from the paved area was lifted to examine the bedding beneath.

The structure revealed that the octagonal stone wall is back filled with a rough rubble mix made of brick and crushed stone and bound together with an early 20<sup>th</sup> c. cementitious binder. The rubble binding material provides support for the copings and next step of

stonework. It is assumed that this infill also provides support for the central column although this was not verified at the investigation.

From this opening up it was deduced that the War Memorial had been re-built at least once before. The coping stones were bedded in hard cementitious mortar over a damp proof membrane and this suggests that invasive works had previously taken place at some point within the last 40 years and certainly before the 2010 repairs, most probably also before 2000.

The memorial was visited from the writer just over a year after the investigative section had taken place and the plastic repairs made to the disturbed stone were found to have already fallen off, which is a clear sign of the high water retention inside the stone plinth.



*Fig. 4: Picture of the War Memorial structure after the investigative section.*

**Damp proof course and hard concrete mortar bedding to coping (cut away to allow access to material below)**

**Bound rubble infill**

**Stone walling**



*Fig. 5: The grey hard cement used to bed coping stone in a previous phase of repairs needs to be removed.*



*Fig. 6: Sample of stone taken from the War Memorial*



*Fig. 7: The East side as found at a site visit over a year after the investigative section: the plastic repairs to the stone have already fallen off which is an indication of the high water retention inside the plinth*

## **PROPOSED WORKS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE MONUMENT & HERITAGE IMPACT APPRAISAL**

The revealing of the monument's structure last year highlighted some incompatible materials incorporated within its fabric that are most probably related to the stone deterioration that the monument is suffering. It is therefore recommended that a set of remedial works are carried out for the removal of these materials and the full reinstatement of the monument to its original appearance, along with some improvement to the surrounding paved area. These works are listed below as follows:

### **Removal of the damp proof course and remaining cementitious mortar**

The DPM inserted under the coping stones of the first step is trapping moisture and prevents the principal function of the stone masonry to expel moisture to the air, which is why it will have to be carefully removed. Similarly, the cementitious bedding remaining under the coping stones is further impeding the ability of the monument to release moisture and will therefore have to be also completely removed.

The work will be carried out in stages to avoid any disturbance to the central shaft, carefully taking apart one section removing the old mortar and damp-proof course, replacing any stone and reconstructing using a lime rich mortar. It will also have to be established if the upper steps contain any DPM or cementitious material by making a single section to each step at a suitable area to cause the least disturbance to the building and its fabric. If this is found to be the case, these steps will also require staged dismantlement and remedial work in a similar methodology followed for the first step.



#### Heritage impact of works:

The impact of these works is only positive to the listed building as these will remove foreign elements which were inserted in the structure with a detrimental effect to the stonework. Their removal and replacement with compatible materials (rich lime mortars) will allow the controlled water movement through the structure instead of water being retained inside it, which only causes problems and deteriorates the building fabric. The staged removal and reinstatement will ensure the structural stability of the building is maintained at all times.

#### **Plinth stone repairs**

The majority of the failing stonework is the replacement Ancaster, which should not have been used in the first place as the memorial appears to have been constructed of Clipsham Stone. The latter has fared generally better, although this also shows areas of deterioration from retention of moisture.

All seriously deteriorated new Ancaster stone, as well as any deteriorated older Clipsham stone, will have to be replaced with new Clipsham stone to match closely the original stone of the monument in colour and texture. The sample provided for inspection by the Architect before any such works proceed will have to be sourced carefully as current stone samples ordered appeared to differ significantly to the stone used on the Memorial. Individual fractures to stone can be repaired with a suitable lime grout and pins if required, whereas any other localised defects will be addressed with smaller scale repairs (stone tile or indent repairs or plastic repairs to a lesser degree) to avoid an extensive loss of historic fabric.

#### Heritage impact of works:

Necessarily these works entail some loss of the listed fabric, but this is only limited to the fabric which has deteriorated beyond a degree of repair and is therefore undermining the building's integrity and visual appeal. The replacement of any failing pale Ancaster stone with a better matching and compatible stone will only be beneficial to the whole heritage significance. The completion of all stone repairs and replacements will result in a sound structure which can cope with all weather conditions, and will also provide an enhanced appearance to the monument, so eventually the heritage impact will be of positive character.

#### **Protection of the Cross and Crucifixion**

This is the most exposed element of the monument and also its most elegant feature, which requires protection to avoid any further fabric loss. The shelter coating of 2010 appears to have been rather effective in this aspect as there has only been a small amount of further stone loss (located above Christ) and this could be attributed to the mortar repair failure. There has also been some moss growth on the cross weathering.

The shelter-coat has now completely weathered away and needs to be renewed, otherwise the cross is at risk of accelerated stone loss and weathering. Small mortar repairs are to be carried out and the moss removed prior to the application of the shelter coat. The mix should be carefully tested to ensure a good colour match is found. It is crucial that the Lime shelter coating is carried out every five years to ensure its effectiveness.



*Fig 8: The crucifix prior to work in 2009*



*Fig 9: Crucifix December 2019*

#### Heritage impact of works:

The sheltercoat will be applied after careful cleaning of the stone surface and only the very necessary lime mortar fillet repairs to provide a sound surface for its application. The lime slurry is purposed to penetrate in the stone open pores to protect the stonework and it will not form a thick coat which would alter the appearance of the carving. It is sacrificial in its nature to protect the carving lying underneath, which would otherwise erode further and disappear eventually. As such the works to the Top Cross are deemed to have only a positive impact on the monument as a very conservative method of ensuring the longevity of the carving for the enjoyment of the monument in its original state by the next generations.

#### Improvements to surrounding paved area

All paving flags are to be lifted to provide a well-draining subbase below at least 100mm deep but taking care not to compromise the monument's foundations. Before lifting the flags, their position is to be recorded precisely marking each flag with a unique number, so that these can be later reinstated in the same pattern/ layout as originally. The paving flags are to be laid on a full sand bedding and pointed using a lime mortar according to the specification submitted. The flags abutting the memorial will have to be cut by 100mm to allow for a gravel margin around the base of the memorial to prevent water being held against the base of the stone. The cut stone can then be further crushed and mixed with limestone gravel to match the rest of the paving flags for the edging to the monument.

#### Heritage impact of works:

There is some loss to the listed building's fabric from cutting out the paving slabs in order to accommodate the suggested gravel border, which will also have some minor impact on the visual appearance of the paving layout. However, the benefit of better drainage around the memorial which will futureproof a good condition for the listed fabric is considered to outweigh any heritage impact of these works.

## **Conclusion**

The interventions proposed in relation to the removal of the incompatible materials currently incorporated inside the stone structure are somewhat invasive in character, but they are considered essential to stop the deterioration of the existing stone and of any new stone provided as replacement, through trapped moisture and freeze thaw action. The lifting of all the coping stones of the first step of the plinth is necessary to remove the incompatible modern materials incorporated beneath them, with a further full disassembly of all first step sides possibly required, if the use of cementitious bedding is found to be universal to the entire stonework. The two upper steps will also be checked for the nature of their bedding and they will have to be included for rebuilding with a proper lime mortar if this is found to be the case. However, this whole procedure of disassembly and rebuilding (which as explained above could range from just the coping stones to the full base plinth) will be done very carefully section by section and by precise recording of the original structure before any disassembly takes place, so that the monument can be reinstated back into its exact original appearance. Therefore, despite the essential initial disruption to the fabric to provide long term benefits to the structure, the impact on the final appearance and condition of the listed monument will only be of positive character, taking also into account that a better stone match stone will be sought to be achieved when sourcing for all the replacement stone.

The works in relation to the paved area are also rather invasive in nature as they foresee the complete lifting of the stone flags and the cutting out of the flags abutting the monument; however, again the appearance will not be significantly affected as the flags are to be carefully reinstated as originally, the only difference being that there will be a gravel edge provided to help the monument dealing better with moisture. The gravel edge, although different in appearance, will be matching the rest of the paving in colour incorporating pieces of the cut-out stone and using a matching gravel to mix.

All in all, the remedial works proposed are essential to improve the structure of the monument for generations to come with the least impact on its appearance and consequently futureproofing its listed significance.

# Appendix A – LISTING ENTRY

[WAR MEMORIAL, Colsterworth - 1062359 | Historic England](#)

Heritage Category: Listed Building  
Grade: II  
List Entry Number: 1062359  
Date first listed: 09-Jan-1987  
Statutory Address: WAR MEMORIAL, HIGH STREET

Location

Statutory Address: WAR MEMORIAL, HIGH STREET

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Lincolnshire  
District: South Kesteven (District Authority)  
Parish: Colsterworth  
National Grid Reference: SK9297323828

Details:

COLSTERWORTH HIGH STREET SK 92 SW (west side) 8/11 War memorial G.V. II War memorial. 1919. Ashlar. In the form of a medieval cross with crucifixion. Octagonal shaft with hollow chamfers rises to castellated top supporting gabled crucifixion. The base sits on 3 octagonal steps and has inscribed slate plaques to each face. Included for group value only.

Listing NGR: SK9297323828

This List entry has been amended to add sources for War Memorials Online and the War Memorials Register. These sources were not used in the compilation of this List entry but are added here as a guide for further reading, 23 January 2017.

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: 193252  
Legacy System: LBS

Sources:

## **Websites**

War Memorials Online, accessed 23 January 2017  
from <https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/136818>  
War Memorials Register, accessed 23 January 2017  
from <http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/59366>

Legal:

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

End of official listing