

War Memorials Online



Date: 21st August 2012

Status: Immediate release

Starts

War Memorials Trust (WMT) and IWM (Imperial War Museums) are working in partnership, with the financial support of English Heritage (EH), to develop a single integrated web resource which will give access to wide ranging information about war memorials in the UK. It is intended that this resource will be interactive and an important tool in encouraging greater public engagement with our war memorial heritage, particularly as we approach the centenary of the First World War.

The project has had a working title of 'We Still Remember'. It has recently been renamed and henceforth will be known as **War Memorials Online** with the website www.warmemorials.org.uk.

At present the partners are finalising a procurement process to select a developer to work with them on the project. Over 120 companies expressed an interest in the project. The partners plan to have Phase I of the project delivered this November which will provide the basic building blocks and should allow members of the public to search for and upload information about a memorial from their smartphone as they stand in front of it. The focus over the rest of the summer and early autumn will be on ensuring that target is met. Once the project is up and running the partners will be keen to promote and publicise this resource to encourage engagement. The partners are not, however, at this stage able to give further detail as they do not want to pre-empt the ongoing discussion or activate potential contributors before there is a system with which they can engage.

English Heritage released details of the project as part of their Next Steps for England's Heritage (www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/news/next-steps-englands-heritage/). War Memorials Trust's members and supporters recently donated nearly £25,000 towards the work highlighting their enthusiasm for the conservation benefits of War Memorials Online.

This project is important to War Memorials Trust as improved information on war memorials will provide the charity with a better understanding of the war memorials we are seeking to protect. The condition information will help us identify future demand for our advice and grant schemes. To help develop this project War Memorials Trust has secured specific funding to help deliver aspects of the work alongside the funding available from English Heritage and the resources available to the project from the IWM's UK National Inventory of War Memorials.

Ends

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