# Conservation and management of war memorial landscapes











#### Introduction

War memorials are an important part of our cities, towns and villages. Although war memorials are sometimes thought of as just the memorial structures they often include landscape features which form part of the commemorative purpose and sentiment. These range from small areas of paving with railings and flower beds surrounding the structures, to avenues of memorial trees, gardens of remembrance and dedicated playing fields. In the context of this guidance all such features or settings are considered to be memorial landscapes.

Memorial landscapes were designed to remember those who lost their lives in war; their commemorative purpose and their place in our shared past make them valued spaces. Furthermore, their original design often reflected deeper symbolism and meaning and included areas designated for specific uses, such as processional routes or areas for services.

This document has been produced to guide best practice for everyone proposing to conserve, restore or manage a memorial landscape. The aim of the guidance is to highlight the key features, identify the considerations and help projects reflect and continue the original purposes embodied in memorial landscapes.

Memorial landscape projects can vary greatly in their nature and scope, but much work can be undertaken by a local project group, amateur gardeners and volunteers. Specialists may be required for more extensive projects or those involving statutorily protected sites or species; this is highlighted in the text where required.

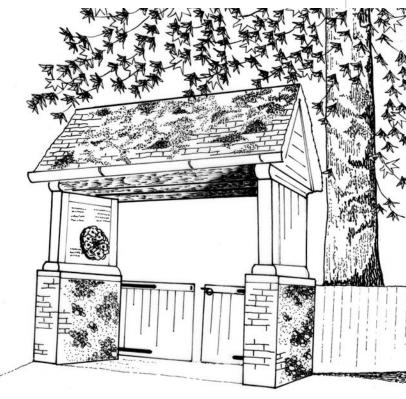
The guidance provided is extensive and holistic to cover a wide range of features. By necessity it covers project elements which may only apply to large and complicated landscapes, for example designations or protected species. Only the relevant sections in the guidance should be applied to each

project. Architectural features that form a key part of the memorial landscape are out of the scope of this guidance, but references are made throughout where to find further information. All publications and websites referred to in the guidance are detailed at the end.

Please note that this guidance is intended to offer informal advice and is a distillation of experience. The information contained in it is not exhaustive and other sources of information are available. War Memorials Trust is the charity which works for the protection and conservation of war memorials across the UK and further guidance is available on its website: <a href="https://www.warmemorials.org">www.warmemorials.org</a>.

The guidance is set out in four stages:

- 1. Understanding the significance of the current site
- 2. Planning a project
- 3. Putting the plan into practice
- 4. How to keep going for the next 100 years!



Front cover image: Todmorden, West Yorkshire © Paul Clarke © War Memorials Trust, 2012.
Registered Charity Commission Number: 1062255

## Stage One: Understanding the significance of the current site

- Physical landscape
- Design intent
- Historic information
- Statutory and planning controls
- Wildlife controls
- Social and community context
- Significance

Research and survey are needed to establish and record the memorial landscape; how, where, why and when it was created and why it is significant. This should happen before any changes are made to the existing landscape and features.

#### Physical landscape

The level of survey required will depend on the extent of the conservation works proposed. At the very least, it is necessary to understand and describe the style and condition of the architectural and landscape elements including trees, shrubs, paths, monuments, railings and benches. The different kinds of survey needed depend on the nature of the project and are listed below.

#### Survey types

- War Memorials Trust's 'Condition survey' can be used to assess the condition of any built or architectural memorial structures
- A hard landscape survey records features which help to define the character of the site such as paths, fences, gates and seats
- A utilities survey provides details of utilityrelated services found on site. The records for these can be obtained by writing to the service providers within the area. Be aware that the exact location of cables and pipes are not always as shown on plans and great care should be taken at all times if excavations are proposed. This type of survey will be needed if

you are carrying out work such as laying a path or planting a tree

- A **vegetation survey** is a survey of the soft landscape which includes trees, shrubs, grass and other plants
- If new planting is under consideration the soil pH and type (e.g sandy, clay) should be identified. Soil type will influence the choice of plants to be used and can be found by asking local gardeners, buying a small kit or having a soil sample tested at a laboratory
- A general survey of ecological elements (e.g. wildlife habitat and vegetation types) is called a **Phase 1 Habitat Survey**. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee's 'Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey a technique for environmental audit' (2010) advises how to undertake the survey. This survey will be required when making a planning application to provide a formal record of what is present on site before any changes are made
- A survey of trees and their condition is called an **arboriculture survey**, this should include a 'health and safety' audit. If work is proposed that affects trees an arboricultural impact assessment is required. Trees must be surveyed by an expert, particularly if they are in a public space or a planning application is anticipated. 'Common sense risk management of trees' by the National Tree Safety Group provides guidance
- A survey of all physical features on the site with precise measurements is called a **topographical survey**. As this survey gives you the details of everything present on the site it is helpful to use as a base plan. If the memorial landscape is small you may be able to carry this out as a project team. If the memorial landscape is larger, has complicated levels, or you want to undertake extensive restoration, then you should use a specialist



Plymouth, Devon

• If there are burial plots or historic buried features then an **archaeological survey** needs to be conducted and necessary permissions granted before any work is started. This is carried out by specialists.

#### Design intent

It is important to explore the design of the existing site and memorial and record your findings. Historic design should not be judged against current fashions, but appreciated and conserved.

Landscape design is a subtle mixture of materials and plants and their arrangement within a particular place. The materials are often local and this reflects the vernacular style and local character and should be encouraged. Local authorities may publish a 'Design Guide', 'Conservation Area Appraisal' or 'Landscape Guidelines' to help understand the local vernacular style and character.

Research and recording should take into account some or all of the following issues and considerations to a level appropriate for the project:

• It is important to understand the **setting** of the memorial landscape. Is it situated in the centre of the village/town/city or closer to the edge? Was the setting different when it was first established? Have buildings or roads 'grown up' around it? The location and its original surrounding area are likely to have affected the landscape design

- Consideration should be given to how views shaped the original landscape design. The design may enhance both views within the memorial landscape and views out of it, which may draw in elements such as church towers, significant trees or hills. Similarly, views to the memorial landscape from the surrounding area may be important. Such original views should be maintained, enhanced and restored where appropriate
- A landscape might have been designed in a particular **style**. Does research show that any particular designer was involved? If so, research into their work can inform the understanding of design intentions. The book by T. Turner referenced below helps with the understanding of different styles at different times
- Memorial landscapes are designed with a **purpose**, such as quiet reflection with seating or as a social point with space for a gathering.



Commando Memorial, Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire
© Crown Copyright. Reproduced courtesy of Historic Scotland

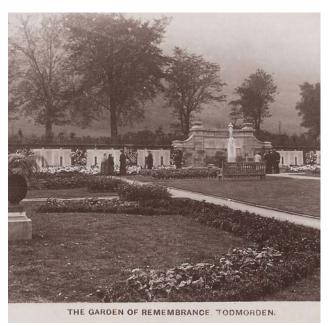
It is useful to consider whether the purpose has changed over time, and if so, whether the original purpose should be reinstated

• The landscape **features** help to emphasise the overall design. Are there artworks by famous artists or sculptors, avenues of trees, paths laid out in a particular pattern or railings that separate areas from each other?

#### Historic information

The historical context of the site is important when considering any possible changes as it highlights the origins and development of the landscape. Take a look at War Memorials Trust's guidance on 'Researching the history of a war memorial' for advice and suggestions on potential sources of information. The following may also be of help:

- Check whether the site is listed on the local authority's Historic Environment Record (HER) for England, or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for Scotland, and/or carries a national heritage asset designation (see national heritage websites below)
- Check whether the site is recorded in the County Gardens Trust records or at <u>www.parksandgardens.ac.uk</u>
- Is it on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map for the location? If not, on which map does it first appear? This will help to date the landscape and may show the original location of paths or features
- Check whether any of the trees are ancient or veteran and if there are any commemorative plantings. Ancient and veteran are specific terms relating to trees; more detailed information is available from Natural England. In Scotland information is available from Scottish Natural Heritage
- War Memorials Trust's guidance on 'Researching the names on a war memorial' will help with research on the dedications. A local history group could help with the research.



Historic image of Todmorden war memorial, West Yorkshire © TDN.3

It is important to find original documents and images, and keep a record (photocopies or details of where the original documents are) of everything found during the research process so that those who follow do not need to re-do the work. It is also important to make sure that the research is added to the local HER or SMR and if appropriate, archives lodged with the local record office.

#### **Useful** websites

England: <a href="http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/">http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/</a>
Isle of Man: <a href="http://www.gov.im/transport/">http://www.gov.im/transport/</a>
planning/conservation/registeredbuildings.xml
Northern Ireland: <a href="http://maps.ehsni.gov.uk/">http://maps.ehsni.gov.uk/</a>
MapViewer/Default.aspx

Scotland: <a href="http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/looking-after-landscapes/landscape-policy-and-guidance/landscape-and-the-historic-environm/">http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/looking-after-landscapes/landscape-policy-and-guidance/landscape-and-the-historic-environm/</a>

**States of Guernsey**: <a href="http://digimap.protected.">http://digimap.protected.</a>
aov.aa/

States of Jersey: <a href="http://www.gov.je/">http://www.gov.je/</a> PlanningBuilding/ListedBuildingPlaces/Pages/index.aspx

Wales: <a href="https://www.rcahmw.gov.uk/HI/ENG/">www.rcahmw.gov.uk/HI/ENG/</a> Search+Records/CARN/?

#### Statutory and planning controls

Memorial landscapes can be covered by a number of statutory protections; some of the designations are listed below. This list is not exhaustive but does include the designations most likely to be encountered, along with suggestions on where to find more information.

#### Planning controls

The local authority planning department is a valuable source of further information:

- Architectural features within a memorial landscape may be scheduled or listed
- Trees may be protected by a Tree Preservation Order
- The memorial landscape itself may be designated, for example as a Registered Historic Park or Garden or form a section or feature within one. In Scotland a memorial landscape may also form all or part of a designated entry on The Inventory of Historic Battlefields.

Other planning designations that may apply include:

- Conservation area
- Green Belt
- National Park
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Urban Park or Green Space
- Common Land
- Registered Village Green
- Public Rights of Way
- Highway land.

#### Wildlife controls

Landscapes may be protected for their **ecological** and/or **geological** importance:

- Special Areas of Conservation
- Special Protection Areas
- Ramsar Sites
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserves
- Local Wildlife Sites.



Philips Memorial, Godalming, Surrey

Some **species** and some of their **habitats** are protected wherever they are found and any interference with these species or their habitats is likely to require a licence. This may influence where and when you can undertake works. Some examples include:

- Bats
- Dormice
- Otters
- Great crested newts
- Badaers
- Water voles
- Reptiles
- Barn owls
- Nesting birds.

Other protection for rare species is provided through inclusion in schedules such as the Red Data Book.

Environmental designations are mapped on these websites:

England: http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/
magic/

**Scotland**: <a href="http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/">http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/</a> <a href="index.jsp">index.jsp</a>

Wales: <a href="http://www.ccgc.gov.uk/interactive-maps.aspx">http://www.ccgc.gov.uk/interactive-maps.aspx</a>

Some plants such as Japanese Knotweed are classed as **invasive** and must be prevented from

spreading under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended). Other plants should be controlled if they are **poisonous**, e.g. hemlock. Important guidance on these species is provided by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Social and community context

Understanding what the memorial site means to the local community and how it is used forms a critical part of the planning process. It is important to consult with local people and the community and record the findings.

In particular, research should be carried out to identify:

- Who uses the memorial landscape
- Who has an interest in it
- Who needs to be asked for their views.

The process should involve exploring local knowledge of the site and attempting to back this up with documentary evidence.

Some useful sources of information may include:

- Local people talk to them and see if they have old photographs
- Local schools or history groups they may have already done a project on the memorial.

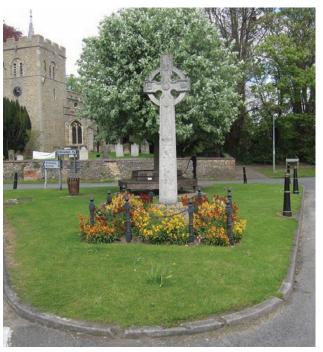
#### Significance

All memorials have inherent significance due to their commemorative purpose. However, some memorials will have a higher level of significance because they are the work of a noted architect, sculptor or artist, are designated/listed or are of national and regional rather than local value.

Use the information gathered in the above sections to create a **statement of significance** before moving to the next stage of the project. This statement highlights the key features of

the memorial landscape to ensure they are considered in any plans.

If an element is considered intrusive or detrimental to the original design intent then this is given a negative value in the statement of significance.



Duxford, Cambridgeshire

## Stage Two: Planning a project

- Conservation and repair
- Restoration
- New landscape proposals
- Access
- Security
- Legal requirements

Once the significance and statutory requirements of the site have been assessed and understood, the planning stage for any conservation work can begin.

There are lots of different issues to consider in the planning process. In particular, it is important to remember that landscapes change with the seasons so it will take a whole year to fully appreciate the plants and wildlife present. That is why changes should not be rushed; if the year-round landscape is not fully understood, changes could easily destroy something that is currently dormant.

Changes do not necessarily have to be big; small changes can make a significant difference, especially with designed landscapes which benefit from regular care and attention. Regularly cutting the grass, weeding the beds and sweeping the hard surfaces will bring a substantial change to a neglected memorial landscape and can provide time to consider further works whilst demonstrating care for the memorial. Reinstating the original purpose such as holding memorial services is a powerful form of non-physical restoration.

#### Conservation and repair

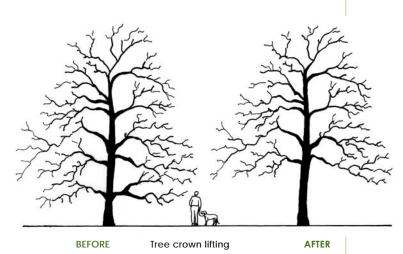
The first step should be to conserve and repair what is already present, including those items identified as having significance. War Memorials Trust provides separate guidance on conservation and repair of memorial structures.

As a general rule, it is better to keep as much original fabric and design as possible; repair

features where necessary and only replace where there is absolutely no alternative. The original design was carefully worked out and small changes may significantly damage the composition. Preserving authentic and original features helps enhance the significance of a site and maintaining original plants or trees increases the natural value of the landscape. Damage or deterioration may be a result of a lack of maintenance rather than a problem with the material itself. Therefore repair or replacement with the same material may solve the problem as long as it is maintained.

Features that are broken can be a hazard to the public. Items such as railings, fencing and broken paving should be repaired and made safe according to their original standard and design; specialists may be required.

Work should be carried out on trees that may be unsafe or in decline; ensure that professional advice is taken regarding the structural condition of the trees in areas of high public access. Tree works can extend the life of existing trees; for example crown lifting removes the lower branches of a tree and can improve access and visibility without detracting from the overall benefits of the tree. All work to trees in public places should be undertaken by a professional tree surgeon.



Both soil shrinkage and root pressure damage from trees are difficult to predict but there are some combinations of tree species and soil types (e.g. oak on clay) which make damage from tree roots more likely. Seek professional assistance from an arboriculturist if necessary and remember that removing a tree can sometimes create as many problems as keeping it.

Shrubs can be pruned, coppiced (cut to the ground and allowed to regrow) or reshaped to create formal hedges or softer shapes depending on the intended design. It is important to undertake the correct type of pruning at the right time of year for each species as incorrect pruning can kill shrubs or remove the flowering potential for the next year.

Herbaceous plants and bulbs come and go at different times of year providing variety and colour to the landscape. They are shorter lived than trees and shrubs and may need to be replaced after five to ten years; sometimes lifting the plants from the ground and dividing them into smaller clumps will extend the life and provide new plants.

Regularly cutting grass reduces weeds and improves the lushness. Trimming the edges of a grassed area improves the appearance almost as much as cutting the grass itself as it keeps the edges of the turf firm, and thickens the sward so that it is easier to maintain and keep to the intended shape. Lawns in poor condition may require localised re-seeding, weed and moss control, spiking and/or top dressing to restore a good, hard-wearing surface. Deliberately keeping appropriate areas as long meadow-style grass (cut once or twice a year) can provide a pleasing contrast to short mown grass, allowing native flowers to flourish and creating valuable habitat for bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

Referring to old photographs and other historic images can help guide the general character of plant management. The Royal Horticultural Society provides advice online and in books

on horticulture, including pruning and lawn care. Once the research has been done and a plan has been made, horticultural work could be carried out by amateur gardeners or volunteers.

Hard surfaces, paths, roads and steps should be swept clean regularly to reduce the build-up of debris that leads to slippery surfaces and the ingress of plant seedlings. These can lead to damage of the surfaces, allowing water in and resulting in further breakdown during freezing weather. Some hard surfaces such as crazy paving are typical and representative of the time when many war memorials were laid out. These are part of the historic character and significance; if there is a trip hazard, make safe in-keeping wih the original design.

#### Restoration

Another step in the process is restoring a memorial landscape to its original design, intent or purpose (should the survey show that this is needed). This does not necessarily mean removing any new additions; World War II additions, for example, have value in their own right. However, features such as paving or railings may have been introduced which with hindsight are not considered in-keeping or sensitive to the memorial or landscape design.

This stage is likely to involve a combination of repair and replacing like-for-like where necessary to maintain the site in good condition and in its original character. This may not involve any major physical changes; regular use and maintenance of the memorial landscape will improve its communal value and in turn encourage good management.

The original location and choice of tree species form part of the design of the memorial landscape and may have been symbolic; maples were often planted to commemorate the Canadian contribution to the war; trees may be planted in rows or in the shape of a cross. Where possible, dead or missing trees should be replaced in the same location

and with the same species. However some tree species, such as elm or horse chestnut, may now be inappropriate due to disease susceptibility. In such cases, take advice about appropriate replacement species from an aboriculturist or the local authority tree officer and aim to invoke the original intent of the historic character.

Shrubs and herbaceous plants may well have outgrown their original design intent if they have survived. If there are original planting plans, lists or early photographs available, these can be used to devise a plan to replant the spaces. If there is no documentary or plant material evidence available, a plan may be drawn up using plants that were available at the date of the memorial and are suitable for the local environment. Look at planting palettes from the same period or designer for ideas. A useful list of plants with their date of introduction can be found in the book by Watkins and Wright which is referenced below. Planting style and species suggestions including symbolic plants are included in Stage Four.

Lawns may have been removed to make way for hard surfaces. If appropriate, restore areas back to grass as lawns increase a feeling of calm and space as well as offering environmental benefits.

Hard surface materials, edgings and shape may have been changed over the years. If possible and practical, restore these back to the original design.

Some items identified as detracting from the significance may need to be removed. Trees, shrubs and plants that are inappropriate, for example self-set sycamore or other invasive species, may need to be removed to restore the original design. Items should only be removed following careful consideration as these decisions are as important as deciding any additions.

#### New landscape proposals

Sometimes restoration and conservation are not sufficient and new landscape proposals

may be required, for example to improve access or security, to reduce anti-social behaviour, to screen unsightly developments, to provide a new facility or to enable a new use. However, this should only be used as a last resort where there is no alternative.

The effect of any new proposals on the significance of the memorial landscape must be carefully considered. It may be more appropriate not to introduce any changes; for example, a well-maintained and used site is one of the best ways to deter anti-social behaviour and vandalism. The community should be consulted on any alterations and additions.

Sustainability is important when considering new landscape proposals; for example, will they require extra maintenance, cleaning, repairs or security?

New proposals must be appropriate to the war memorial and its original purposes. War Memorials Trust does not support the development of memorial landscapes for residential or commercial purposes unless it is appropriate to the original intention.

New tree planting will have a long-term influence upon the character of the memorial landscape and should be carefully considered in relation to species, ultimate size, shading and structural safety. If the soil in or around the memorial landscape is shrinkable clay, particular care should be taken when planting new trees close to existing structures and professional advice sought from a landscape architect or arboriculturist.

When considering new **planting**, thought should be given to the effect that it has on all of the senses and the potential for symbolic meaning. Long-term design aims, growth rates and the moisture demand of new planting should be considered in terms of potential root hazard problems.

It is important to consider the retention of **habitats** that have become established including wild flower communities or

regenerating woodland and to promote the creation of new ones for the benefit of biodiversity and local wildlife.

Any new areas of **hard surfacing** that are introduced should complement the existing surfacing. The decision will depend on whether the new surface is to form an extension to an existing space (where the materials may blend) or a separate space (where a contrast can indicate that it is new), but using fewer surface types often creates a calmer setting.

It is important to consider materials in the context in which they will be used – the right thing for the right place. In general, 'natural' surfacing materials such as flagstones are preferable as they blend better with the natural environment, have better sustainability and durability compared to some modern artificial hard surfaces and are often easier to repair/replace.

Wreath holders, plaques or new railings may be under consideration as new elements for the memorial landscape. These should only be added if there is a genuine need and should always be in-keeping with the original design. It is important to consider the materials used for any additions and how they will weather over time, particularly alongside existing and original elements. New elements may also require planning permission so always check with your local authority.

Commemorative plaques acknowledging the restoration and those who contributed to it can be published in the press or on the web and do not have to be physically situated in the landscape. Such additions are often not sustainable in the long term and often detract from the memorial and its primary commemorative function.

#### Access

It is important that memorial landscapes are accessible, however, there may be constraints that prevent a historic landscape from meeting access standards. A lot can be achieved by

good design which is sensitive to the historic character and fabric of the setting. Sometimes an alternative access route may be possible, for example in the case of steep steps to the front, access may be possible from the side or rear of the memorial. While in some cases physical access may be limited, an inclusive experience can still be achieved through ways which do not involve altering the historic character and fabric of the landscape. English Heritage provides guidance on access in historic landscapes and Historic Scotland provides guidance on accessibility on their websites.

#### Security

Some memorial landscapes are enclosed with railings and gates and are only open during daylight hours. Unfortunately this does not always prevent anti-social behaviour, which is more effectively deterred through public scrutiny and regular use. Designing out secluded areas and increasing overlooking from public footpaths or roads can help reduce anti-social behaviour. The effectiveness of deterrent measures can be enhanced by informal wardening or active surveillance. War Memorials Trust provides guidance on 'War memorial theft prevention and solutions', including suggestions on how to deter theft and vandalism of memorial structures.



Alton, Staffordshire

#### Legal requirements

Land is usually owned by someone and memorial landscapes are no exception. The owner may have put restrictive covenants on the land to ensure certain activities do or do not happen. Permission from the owner should always be granted before undertaking a project.

The Land Registry is a good starting point if ownership is unknown – see War Memorials Trust's guidance on 'Ownership of war memorials' for further advice.

## Stage Three: Putting the plan into practice

- Setting up a project group
- Getting specialist help
- Grants

Once the planning is complete, it is time to get started. This section looks at how to set up a project, getting specialist help and applying for grants.

If the war memorial landscape is relatively small and simple, it may be possible to carry out all elements of the project within a project team. For example, if there are no trees and there are none in the original design, there will be no need for arboriculture assistance. The scale of the war memorial landscape will determine the amount of resource that is required and whether work can be completed within a group of volunteers.

#### Setting up a project group

War Memorials Trust's guidance on 'Starting a war memorial restoration project' provides advice on setting up a project group and the considerations to bear in mind.

#### Getting specialist help

Sometimes specialist help is required – the most likely sources and the services they provide are listed below.

Landscape architects work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built external environment for the public benefit and can design and direct larger landscape projects. They can co-ordinate other specialists if there are insufficient resources in the project team. To find a landscape architect, visit the Landscape Institute website. This provides free guidance including 'Appointing a Chartered Landscape Architect: Guidelines for Best Value'.

**Arboricultural consultants** provide survey information and advice with regards to trees.

The Arboricultural Association provides advice and guidance on finding an arboriculturalist and/or a contractor to carry out works.

Ecologists provide information and advice about fauna and flora. They can undertake a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and advise on legal issues regarding protected species or invasive plants. The Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Management provides helpful advice and information on its website.

Topographical surveyors will survey the land and produce a plan showing location, measurements and heights. The Survey Association (TSA) is the trade body for commercial survey companies in the UK. Free guidance including 'Client Guide – Topographical Surveys' is available on the TSA website.

**Architectural features** within the landscape may also require specialist contractors- see War Memorials Trust's website for further guidance.

#### Grants

War Memorials Trust's website provides information on how to apply for a grant from the Trust and has an online showcase of the projects which have been awarded grants.

War Memorials Trust only provides grants for the conservation and repair of existing war memorials; works to soft landscaping are generally not eligible due to limited resources. However, works to hard landscaping may be eligible.

Grants may also be available from the Heritage Lottery Fund or through other funders. War Memorials Trust's helpsheet 'Fundraising for war memorial projects' provides advice on fundraising and sources of funding.

## Stage Four: How to keep going for the next 100 years!

- Management and maintenance
- Conservation Management Plans
- Protection
- Records
- Planting style

It is important to consider how the memorial landscape will be cared for over the long-term future, both physically and financially. War Memorials Trust guidance 'Setting up a local group to look after your war memorial' provides advice on this.

#### Management and maintenance

New and existing landscape elements need regular management and maintenance to ensure that the site is presented to a high standard appropriate for a memorial. There is useful and practical guidance in the Watkins and Wright book.

#### Establishment maintenance

A rigorous regime of weeding, watering, fertiliser treatment and formative pruning will get new trees, shrubs and other planting off to a good start. Regular checking of plants and replacement of those that die or are not thriving is recommended.

General maintenance can be undertaken by volunteers and amateur gardeners once an appropriate programme is in place.

#### **Conservation Management Plans**

These plans assemble all the historic documents and site survey information, assess the significance, and provide plans for looking after the landscape and structures in the future – usually for the next 25 years. These documents are often drawn up by experienced professionals, but this important task can be undertaken within the project group if other means are not available.



Welsh National War Memorial, Alexandra Gardens, Cardiff

#### Long-term management

Long-term management plans should cover issues including on-going care, repair, health and safety checks and the replacement of landscape elements when necessary.

A long-term plan for **tree** management – starting with an assessment of what you have, life expectancy, their value and condition – should be produced with the aim of maintaining and enhancing the trees in-keeping with the historic landscape design. An annual health and safety check is likely to be required for mature trees.

An annual review of **shrubs and other planting** is useful to see what works well and what does not. Replacing a few plants each year makes the work and costs manageable and helps to maintain the landscape over the long-term.

Within the **grass** areas, annual feeding and control of weeds and moss helps to keep the grass lush, looking good and manage wear and tear.

In appropriate areas site management should aim to enhance the **ecological value**, e.g. habitats for hedgehogs, stag beetles, reptiles, other endangered animals and wild flowers. Protected species on the site may be subject to annual monitoring.

Hard surfaces, walls, fences and furniture like benches and bins require regular cleaning, repair and may need re-painting.

**Architectural features** will require regular maintenance checks and may need specialist skills for repair. See War Memorials Trust's website and helpsheet 'Advice on the maintenance of war memorials' for further information.

#### Protection

Memorial landscapes are often prime sites for re-development. It is important that they are adequately protected against inappropriate development and that the community is able to comment on all plans. Memorial landscapes may be protected from future inappropriate developments by statutory designations and/or by a charitable status. See War Memorials Trust's helpsheet on 'Listing war memorials' or contact the relevant national heritage organisation for advice about different types of designation, criteria and how to apply. Designation is taken into consideration within the planning system if an application for development is made on a landscape.

Fields in Trust protects land charitably and noncharitably depending on the wishes of the landowner. Information about Fields in Trust, which landscapes are currently protected and how to turn a memorial landscape into a Field in Trust can be found on their website.



Moynash, Derbyshire, Peak District National Park

#### Records

The records collected during the project stages should be kept together safely alongside plans and policies for on-going site management. Consider depositing such records at your National Monuments Record, archive or local record office. Over the years, any new documentation created (such as annual reports by an arboriculturalist or ecologist) should be added to the record collection. Planting lists and maintenance costs will all provide good information for those managing the memorial landscape in the future.

#### Planting style

In 1918 Edwin Lutyens was appointed as one of the principal architects to the Imperial War Graves Commission. His memorial designs aimed to create landscapes of 'repose and dignity' and noted there was no need for cemeteries to be 'gloomy or even sad-looking'. He involved Gertrude Jekyll in creating planting plans to complement the designs and she used flowers and shrubs typical of soldiers' own homes and countryside. (Brown, 1982).



Other plants from the Jekyll palette are Forget-me-knot (Myosotis sp.), Columbine (Aquilega sp.) and London Pride (Saxifraga x urbium).

A number of plants have symbolic meaning and would fit comfortably with the above palette.









#### References

- Brown, J. (1982) 'Gardens of a Golden Afternoon. The story of a partnership: Edwin Lutyens & Gertrude Jekyll.' London: Penguin Books.
- English Heritage (2005) 'Easy Access to Historic Landscapes'. London: English Heritage.
- Historic Scotland (October 2010) 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Accessibility' <a href="http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/managingchange">http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/managingchange</a>
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) 'Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey a technique for environmental audit'. Peterborough: JNCC.
- Lambert, D., Goodchild, P. and Roberts, J. (2006) 'Parks and Gardens. A researcher's guide to sources for designed landscapes'. Redhill: Landscape Design Trust in association with English Heritage.
- Mitchell, A. (1974) 'A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe'. Glasgow: William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd.
- National Tree Safety Group (2012) 'Common sense risk management of trees. Guidance on trees and public safety in the UK for owners, managers and advisers'.
   Edinburgh: Forestry Commission.
- Rackham, O. (2000) 'The History of the Countryside. The classic history of Britain's landscape, flora and fauna'. London: The Orion Publishing Group Ltd.
- Royal Horticultural Society (2004) 'Good Plant Guide'. London: Dorling Kindersley.
- Turner, T. (2005) 'Garden History. Philosophy and Design 2000 BC 2000 AD'. Abingdon: Spon Press.
- Watkins, J. & Wright, T. (Ed) (2007) 'The Management & Maintenance of Historic Parks, Gardens & Landscapes. The English Heritage Handbook'. London: Frances Lincoln Ltd.

A list of general war memorial books can be found at www.warmemorials.org/bibliography.

#### **Useful contacts**

• War Memorials Trust: <a href="www.warmemorials.org">www.warmemorials.org</a> All War Memorials Trust's guidance and helpsheets are available on its website.

War Memorials Trust 42a Buckingham Palace Road London SW1W ORE

Telephone: 020 7233 7356/ 0300 123 0764 Email: conservation@warmemorials.org

- Cadw: <u>www.cadw.wales.gov.uk</u>
- English Heritage: <u>www.english-heritage.org.uk</u>
- Historic Scotland: <u>www.historic-scotland.gov.uk</u>
- Isle of Man: Department of Infrastructure <u>www.gov.im/transport</u>
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency: <a href="www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/">www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/</a>
- States of Guernsey: <u>www.gov.gg</u>
- States of Jersey: www.gov.je
- Arboricultural Association: <u>www.trees.org.uk</u>
- Association of Gardens Trusts: <u>www.gardenstrusts.org.uk</u>
- Countryside Council for Wales: <u>www.ccw.gov.uk</u>
- Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs: www.defra.gov.uk
- Fields in Trust: <u>www.fieldsintrust.org</u>
- Forestry Commission: <u>www.forestry.gov.uk</u>
- Garden History Society: <u>www.gardenhistorysociety.org</u>
- Heritage Lottery Fund: <u>www.hlf.org.uk</u>
- Historic Environment Records: <a href="https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr">www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr</a>
- Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Management: <u>www.ieem.net</u>
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee: www.incc.defra.gov.uk
- Landscape Institute: <u>www.landscapeinstitute.org</u>
- Natural England: <u>www.naturalengland.org.uk</u>
- Royal Horticultural Society: <u>www.rhs.org.uk</u>
- Scottish Natural Heritage: <u>www.snh.gov.uk</u>
- The Survey Association: <u>www.tsa-uk.org.uk</u>

This guidance was designed and produced for War Memorials Trust by Liz Lake Associates, Chartered Landscape Architects. Specialist consultation was provided by English Heritage, Historic Scotland, The Garden History Society, Tim Moya Associates (trees) and Susan Deakin Ecology.