



War Memorials Trust



ENGLISH HERITAGE

## News release

### War Memorials Online

#### Help us to record, conserve and remember our war memorials

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Status: **Immediate release**

#### Starts

**War Memorials Online** brings together for the first time information on the UK's war memorials held by the leading experts, providing a snapshot of war memorials across the country. It will also provide an **unprecedented opportunity** for the public to upload images of war memorials and log concerns for the conservation of these important community and historical sources for future generations.

The website, [www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk), will launch **on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2012** with a public call to action. People will be invited to check and upload war memorial locations, submit photos, assess condition and share other sources of information available on their local war memorials.

War Memorials Online seeks to create a complete picture of war memorials across the country. But it needs the public to help to ensure there are records for all of the UK's war memorials and condition reports to ensure at risk memorials can be found before it is too late to save them. **Anyone and everyone** can get involved in discovering and registering war memorials for future generations.

War Memorials Online is a unique collaboration between War Memorials Trust, IWM's War Memorials Archive, English Heritage and members of the public. Together we can create the UK's most comprehensive understanding of war memorials to date. The content will help plan for the future conservation of war memorials and record the important history each memorial contains and represents.

Frances Moreton, Director War Memorials Trust said: "For War Memorials Trust this project is vital as improved information will provide the charity with a better understanding of the war memorials it is seeking to protect. The condition information will help identify current and future demand for advice and grants while public engagement will reduce the threats to, and encourage the preservation of, the nation's war memorials."

Mark Whitmore, Director of Collections and Research, IWM said: "IWM is pleased to partner War Memorials Online as this project will assist us in our work of compiling the UK's most comprehensive, freely accessible register of war memorials and the names commemorated on them. Working with the help of the public we will be able to add to our archive of memorials and provide detailed information on the wealth of history they contain."

Simon Thurley, Chief Executive English Heritage said: "War Memorials Online will be a major addition to the 1914 centenary in two years' time. War memorials record the history of ordinary – and often extraordinary - individuals so what could be more appropriate than a project which enables

anyone and everyone to share and contribute to this history, the history of our nation's greatest sacrifice. Report damage or disrepair and you'll be helping to save this crucial aspect of our national heritage - all the more important as World War I recedes from living memory. "

## Ends

### Contact

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### Notes to Editors

1. **War Memorials Online** is being funded with a grant of £220,000 from English Heritage, supported by £25,000 donated by War Memorials Trust members and supporters and the resources available to the project from the IWM's War Memorials Archive. Further support is likely to be sought as the project develops.
2. **War Memorials Trust** works to protect and conserve war memorials across the UK. The charity provides advice, advocacy, and financial assistance for the repair and conservation of memorials through grant schemes.

War Memorials Trust will use the information and photos provided to keep accurate and up-to-date information on war memorials that need urgent help or will need help in the future. This will make dealing with concerns from the public more effective, and an understanding of current and future needs will help identify the resources required to provide advice and grants to help as many communities as possible protect and conserve their war memorials.

Through the public interaction with War Memorials Online, War Memorials Trust will have a greater understanding of the condition of war memorials and be able to identify how it can effectively provide support for communities seeking to preserve war memorials today and in the future.

War Memorials Trust deals with a range of issues around war memorials. Recent figures reveal:

| Year                           | Grants awarded and value (all grant schemes) | Average casework per month | Total number of cases and enquiries |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2012 (to 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep) | 53 shared £86,108 to date*                   | 350                        | 1105**                              |
| 2011                           | 66 shared £123,647                           | 300                        | 1628                                |
| 2010                           | 84 shared £177,359                           | 200                        | 1542                                |

\*The second round of the Grants for War Memorials Scheme will be considered in November 2012. The Grants for War Memorials Scheme has an annual budget of £150,000 and can support grants of up to 20,000.

\*\*The period October-Novembers makes up a significant percentage of our casework per year so we anticipate 2012 will increase further

Details of projects supported by grants schemes administered by the Trust can be viewed at [www.warmemorials.org/search-grants/](http://www.warmemorials.org/search-grants/).

- IWM's (Imperial War Museums) War Memorials Archive** (formerly UK National Inventory of War Memorials) is the national online, interactive register of war memorials in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Our archive is constantly growing as more and more people send us details of memorials they find. You can currently search records for over 60,000 war memorials, including their location, type and history. We also record the names commemorated on war memorials.

We record memorials to all wars including memorials to civilians and animals. We also record memorials to those who died in service as a result of accident or disease.

We will use the information you provide to update gaps in our register of memorials and names commemorated and will create new records for war memorials that are missing from the register. Through your interaction with War Memorials Online, IWM will create the most comprehensive register of UK war memorials and names commemorated, freely available to search today and in the future.

- English Heritage** is the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment. We provide advice on how best to conserve England's heritage for the benefit of everyone. While most of England's heritage is in private hands, we work with all who come into contact with it - landowners, businesses, planners and developers, national, regional and local government, the Third Sector, local communities and the general public - to help them understand, value, care for and enjoy England's historic environment.

English Heritage believes War Memorials Online is a vital project which will help protect and preserve the thousands of war memorials around the country. It will enable us to collect vital information on the condition and security of freestanding war memorials, improving our understanding of the problems they face.

We are also entrusted with the custodianship of over 400 sites and monuments which together form the national collection of built and archaeological heritage. These include some of the most important monuments of human history such as Stonehenge and Hadrian's Wall. For further information about our work, please visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)