

News statement

Maria Miller announces plans to list thousands more war memorials



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Status: Immediate release

Starts

War Memorials Trust welcomes the recent announcement by Culture Secretary Maria Miller that more war memorials are to be listed. The charity looks forward to working with English Heritage and DCMS on this initiative through the years marking the centenary of World War I.

Frances Moreton, Director of War Memorials Trust, said "War Memorials Trust has long recognised the importance of our war memorials as social, historical and architectural monuments. War memorials have no special protection outside of normal planning regulations; as such listing is a positive step for protecting memorials and preserving them for the future. The Trust, and its volunteers, look forward to working in partnership with English Heritage over the next few years to ensure that war memorials take their rightful place at the heart of England's National Heritage List for England.

When the majority of our war memorials were erected following the end of World War I communities would have struggled to imagine a time when memorials were not cared for and protected. The fact that they could be vandalised, damaged or that their repair and maintenance would depend on budgets and funding debates would have caused deep upset amongst the family and friends of those commemorated. Listing war memorials is one way we can help protect the memorials and ensure we are doing our bit as custodians of our war memorial heritage – looking after it on behalf of those who came before us and for those who follow us."

The exact number of listable war memorials in England is currently unknown. However War Memorials Online, www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk, a website which allows people to add details of war memorials, is starting to provide a picture of this. We hope that the information gathered through this site by the efforts of the public can be used to support English Heritage in this important task. We ask everyone to get involved and ensure their local war memorial, and its condition, is on the website.

Ends

Contact

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Notes to editors

1. War Memorials Trust is an independent registered charity. Established in 1997 due to concerns about neglect and vandalism it works to protect and conserve war memorials. It provides advice, information and administers grants schemes that assist the repair and conservation of war memorials across the UK. As a charity the Trust relies on voluntary contributions to undertake its work. Supporters include annual and life members, donors, charitable trusts and corporate contributors.
2. War Memorials Online is a website seeking to create a greater understanding of the condition of war memorials. Due to the interest in war memorials generated by the centenary of the First World War this is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to help. Anyone can upload images, add condition updates, contribute information and raise concerns about war memorials at www.warmemorials.org.uk. Any concern raised, or memorial reported in 'Poor' or 'Very bad' condition, is passed to War Memorials Trust to follow up. This will ensure available funding and support is targeted at memorials, and their custodians, in greatest need of help.

War Memorials Online is managed by War Memorials Trust with the support of English Heritage. It is working with other organisations to share information to support war memorial protection and conservation across the UK.

3. War Memorials Trust provides grants that can assist repair and conservation of war memorials. Contact the Conservation Team to discuss eligibility on 020 7233 7356 / 0300 123 0764 or conservation@warmemorials.org or download an 'Expression of interest form' from www.warmemorials.org/grants/.
4. War Memorials Trust provides a free advisory service to anyone with a war memorial enquiry. Specialist Conservation Officers are available on 020 7233 7356 / 0300 123 0764 or conservation@warmemorials.org.