

New statement

War Memorials Trust reports on the condition of UK war memorials



Date: 24th October 2021
Status: Immediate release

Starts

There are believed to be around 100,000 war memorials in the UK. Almost every city, town, village and hamlet has one with many more in workplaces, schools, churches and other community sites. War Memorials Online is seeking to create a greater understanding of their condition, www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk.

Overall, the UK's war memorials are well-cared for and we can be proud of their condition but there remain some that need our help. It is also important to be aware that well-intentioned but inappropriate works to war memorials can cause damage so it is vital that best conservation practice is at the heart of how we manage this unique aspect of our shared heritage.

As we approach Remembrance Day 2021, two thirds of UK war memorials are recorded on War Memorials Online, enabling us to identify that:

- less than 3%, or 1 in 35, war memorials need work
- this equates to around 3,000 war memorials across the UK
- with a median grant award of £1,840 in 2020-21 - £5.5 million in grant funding may be needed

Of the 65,000 war memorials recorded on War Memorials Online:

- 200 are reported as being in Very bad condition
- 1,500 are reported as being in Poor condition
- 7,000 are reported as being in Fair condition
- 42,000 are reported as being in Good condition
- 12,500 are missing condition information – we need help to gather that data

If anyone is concerned about the condition of a war memorial, they can contact War Memorials Trust. The charity can provide advice, guidance and potentially grant funding to support those caring for our war memorials.

To see those in Very bad or Poor condition go to www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/search, then under the search box click on Filter results and select Very bad and Poor. This will bring up a map of the UK with those war memorials identified from which you can zoom into the map for your location. You can also view them on List View.

Ends

Contact

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Notes to editors

1. **War Memorials Online** is seeking to create a greater understanding of the condition of war memorials. Identifying war memorials in 'Poor' or 'Very bad' condition will help target resources at those memorials that need help. The public can also raise concerns through the website which are passed to War Memorials Trust to follow up. The map search on the website can be searched to show war memorial condition in your local area, www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorials.
2. **Relevant advice**
 - a. War Memorials Trust has a range of guidance on issues related to war memorials which run alongside those issued by national heritage bodies
 - i. www.warmemorials.org/helpsheets
 - ii. www.warmemorials.org/faqs
 - b. Historic England:
 - i. [The Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials](#)
 - ii. [Graffiti on Historic Buildings and Monuments. Methods of removal and preservation](#)
 - iii. [Metal Theft from Historic Buildings: prevention, response and recovery](#)
 - c. Historic Environment Scotland:
 - i. [Repair and Maintenance of War Memorials](#)
 - ii. [Graffiti Removal](#)
 - d. Cadw
 - i. [Caring for War Memorials in Wales](#)
3. War Memorials Trust has educational resources aimed at helping **young people** in schools and youth groups to learn about war memorials visit, www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org.
4. 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.