

The Centenary Listing Project



War Memorials Trust

On this sheet you will learn:

- What we mean by 'listing' war memorials and why this is important
- How you can help by supporting the Centenary Listing Project

What is listing?

In conservation terms, '**listing**' means adding something to the statutory list of designated heritage assets. This list is a record of heritage places or structures considered to be of national architectural and/or historical **importance**.

In England the statutory list is compiled by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on advice from Historic England. Other parts of the UK have their own criteria for listing - this sheet (and others project and activity sheets about listing on www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org) refers to **England** only.

Heritage assets on the statutory list include buildings, monuments, archaeological sites, landscapes, battlefields and freestanding **war memorials**. They can be listed at Grade II, Grade II* or Grade I (with Grade II being the lowest and Grade I the highest) depending on their importance and interest.

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Approximately **1,750** war memorials are currently listed. In recognition of the importance of war memorials and as part of the World War I **centenary** commemorations, Historic England plans to list an additional **2,500** freestanding war memorials that commemorate the World War I between 2014 and 2018.

This is an ambitious target and in order to meet it the way war memorials can be listed is being **changed** slightly to make it

easier for more people to contribute. War Memorials Trust is providing **training** for adult volunteers who will be able to **submit** list descriptions for war memorials (a list description is the key information about a heritage asset and its significance).

Alongside this, there are ways **young** people can get involved too. These are outlined in the 'what can you do?' section below.

Why should war memorials be listed?

2014 saw the beginning of the **centenary** of World War I, and the coming years will see this conflict being commemorated and its impact **remembered** around the world. War memorials are a crucial part of this remembrance; they are a **link** with the past and help us **learn** about the people who were affected by the war including those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As the World Wars move beyond living memory the war memorials in our villages, towns and cities are important **reminders** of the impact on local people, sometimes the only such physical reminder that remains. Further information about what war memorials are and why they remain important to communities can be found in our youth group information sheets at www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups.

The **historical** importance of war memorials means many can be listed at Grade II. In addition some are also important as examples of fine **architecture** or sculpture or as the work of a well-known designer, and may therefore be considered for listing at a higher grade. The Cenotaph, for example, is listed at Grade I.

Listing a war memorial offers it some **protection** against inappropriate work or changes which could **damage** it – unlisted

memorials have no legal protection outside normal planning regulations despite their importance. **Listing** does not prevent changes being made to a war memorial but it does mean that any such work is carried out in a **suitable** way. Our 'Listing case studies' information sheet gives details of some memorials that have been listed and the **impact** this has had.

What can you do?

War Memorials Trust is encouraging **young people** to get involved in the Centenary Listing Project and make a **difference** to the way their local war memorials are protected. Either by yourself or as part of a group (e.g. a Scout troop or Guide company) you can **submit a list description** for a local war memorial to Historic England. Detailed guidance on how to do this can be found in the 'How to apply for listing' project sheet at www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups and more detail on specific tasks is included in some of War Memorials Trust's other online resources.

Because of the nature of some of the activities involved in applying for listing, War Memorials Trust suggests that writing and submitting a war memorial list description is a suitable project for young people aged approximately **13 or over**. Younger children can get involved in their local war memorial in lots of other ways, and some ideas and activities are given on our learning website at www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org.

Why should you get involved?

As well as being **important** for the ongoing protection and **conservation** of war memorials, contributing to the Centenary Listing Project can also **help** you. It could be part of your work towards various youth programmes, such as:

- The Scout Heritage Activity Badge
- The Explorer Scout Community Activity Badge

- The volunteering part of your Duke of Edinburgh Award

Please note these are War Memorials Trust's suggestions of some suitable badges and awards only. The exact requirements of any award you are working towards should be **discussed** with the person supervising you.

Even if you are not working towards a particular award or badge, helping to list a war memorial is still an important **achievement**. You and your group can help make a real **difference** to the protection of this important aspect of our heritage and it gives a useful **purpose** to some of the activities that are involved in listing such as visiting a war memorial and researching it (more information about how to list a war memorial is given in the accompanying 'How to apply for listing' project sheet).

War Memorials Trust hopes that by getting involved in helping to list a war memorial you **find out** more about your local community in wartime and **enjoy** helping to protect our heritage for future generations.