

How to identify condition

WAR MEMORIALS ONLINE

War memorials in 'Fair' and 'Poor' condition

The most difficult levels to differentiate between are 'Fair' and 'Poor', this guide is designed to make it easier to compare the two. If you are unsure, we would recommend using 'Poor' as this will be flagged up by War Memorials Trust for further assessment.

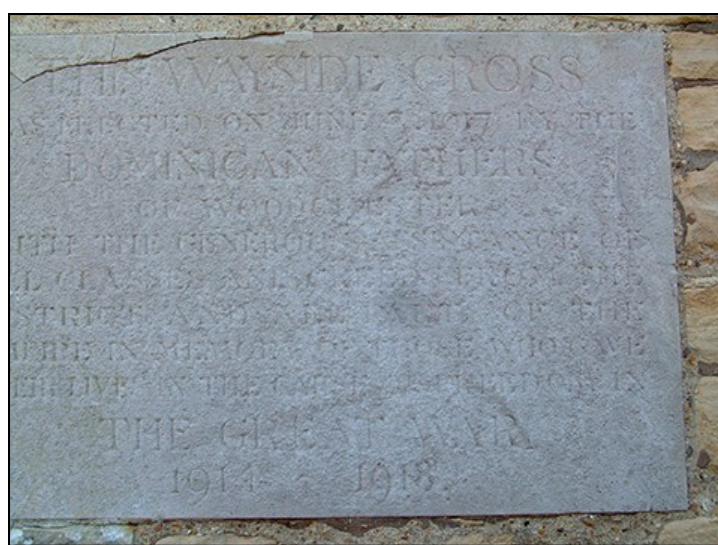
Inscriptions

- On a memorial in 'Fair' condition, lettering is on the whole well defined and legible, although there is a reduction in clarity, for example Cann war memorial in Dorset
- Lettering on a memorial in 'Poor' condition, like war memorial 1, is difficult to read due to reduced definition. There may also be ivy, moss, algae or lichen present and occasional missing letters

Stone



Cann war memorial, Dorset, WMO76631
© Chris Moreton 2011



War Memorial 1
© Paul Goodwin 2011

- Memorials with stone elements that are in 'Fair' condition like Campsie are stable and periodic maintenance is evident. There is minimal damage/deterioration/discolouration
- War memorial 2 is in 'Poor' condition because although the structure is stable, the materials are damaged and repairs are needed



Campsie (Lennoxton) war memorial, Dumbartonshire, WMO165084 © War Memorials Trust 2014



War Memorial 2
© Nick Tucker 2014

Metal

- Metal elements of memorials that are in 'Fair' condition, such as the Royal Marines South Africa and China war memorial, are stable and firmly attached to surface
- They may require some maintenance
- Inscriptions are legible, but there may be some loss in definition
- Memorial 3 is in 'Poor' condition because the plaque is corroded (metal corrosion would normally appear as orange for iron and blue/green for bronze, brass and copper)
- The memorial is also dented and requires repair
- Inscriptions are becoming obscured by discoloration
- Materials are stable, but there may be access restrictions or issues with displaying the memorial



Royal Marines South Africa and China war memorial,
London, WMO112036 © War Memorials Trust 2013



War Memorial 3
© J Proudfoot 2013

Glass

- Malmesbury war memorial window is in 'Fair' condition because the memorial is secure and maintained but may be in need of minor repair works to the small crack
- Leading is generally complete, but may require monitoring or maintenance
- Support or guards on the window do not detract from the design of the memorial
- Memorial 4 is in 'Poor' condition because the lead canes are deteriorating causing the window to bow
- Additionally the stained glass itself is damaged and requires repair
- Surrounding mortar may be damaged, or inappropriate (for example cement)
- Lettering is difficult to read due to damage to the surface of the glass



Malmesbury war memorial, Wiltshire,
WMO130671 © Richard Payler 2012



War Memorial 4,
© Brian Flint 2011

Timber

- Memorials with timber elements that are in 'Fair' condition, like Whitney, may require some maintenance, but lettering is readable and materials are stable with minimal damage
- Any paintwork is generally complete but may require monitoring or maintenance
- Memorial 4 is in 'Poor' condition because although the materials are stable, they are in need of repair, and the inscriptions are becoming obscured by damage to the surface of the timber
- Timber may be suffering from rot or infestation



Whitney war memorial, Herefordshire,
WMO182529 © Steve Morgan 2014



War Memorial 4
© Terry Matson 2010

The surrounding area:

Fair

- Surrounding area is presentable and periodically managed
- Some restrictions exist for mobility impaired visitors
- Some maintenance or monitoring is required

Poor

- Site is unkempt but not overgrown
- Access is difficult with severe restrictions for mobility impaired visitors
- Repairs and maintenance needed, and periodic monitoring is required

This 'How to...' is provided as guidance. Processes and procedures may change and it is not guaranteed that this will always remain accurate. Please note war memorial details are not always given as we are aware the condition image may not be up to date. Images are provided as examples.