

# War Memorials in Wales



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Welsh Government

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# CARING FOR



**CYMRU'N COFIO**  
**WALES REMEMBERS**  
1914 - 1918



War Memorials Trust

 **Cadw**

Cadw, Welsh Government  
Plas Carew  
Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed  
Parc Nantgarw  
Cardiff CF15 7QQ  
01443 336000  
[cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk)

Cadw is the Welsh Government's historic environment service working for an accessible and well-protected historic environment for Wales.

War Memorials Trust  
2nd Floor  
42a Buckingham Palace Road  
London  
SW1W 0RE  
Conservation advice/grants: 020 7233 7356  
[conservation@warmemorials.org](mailto:conservation@warmemorials.org)  
[www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org)

War Memorials Trust is a national charity which works for the conservation and protection of war memorials in the UK.

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With the exception of the section on war memorials in Wales, the content is based on *Advice on Maintenance of War Memorials* (English Heritage and War Memorials Trust) and *Short Guide 3: The Repair and Maintenance of War Memorials* (Historic Scotland and War Memorials Trust).

These documents can be accessed from the War Memorials Trust website.  
[www.warmemorials.org/a-z](http://www.warmemorials.org/a-z)

This publication is available in alternative formats. For details please contact Cadw at the above address or telephone 01443 336000.

*Cover photograph: A detail from the war memorial at Aberystwyth showing Victory holding a laurel wreath.*

*Contents photograph: War memorials remain a potent focus for commemorating the dead lost in the First World War and subsequent conflicts (By courtesy of Media Wales Ltd).*



# Caring for War Memorials in Wales



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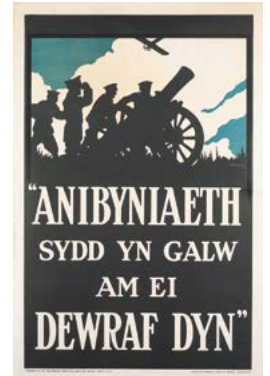
DEATH REMEMBER



# Introduction

War leaves a lasting impact on the memory of a nation, perhaps none more so than the First World War in which so many perished. Although other conflicts and those that fell in them had been commemorated before, it was no coincidence that public memorials were erected so widely after the First World War. This public display was a powerful response to the scale of the losses suffered — losses which touched virtually every community in Wales. Thirty-five thousand Welsh men were killed and only three 'thankful villages' in Wales are known to have witnessed the safe return of all their servicemen. Ever since, war memorials have been a poignant focal point in towns and villages throughout the country.

Recruitment rates in Wales were much higher than during previous conflicts, despite anti-war sentiments — linked to Nonconformity and the labour movement — which increased as the fighting continued. Welsh men fought in all regiments of the British army, including the Welsh Guards, Royal Welch Fusiliers, South Wales Borderers and Welsh Regiment. In Wales, an appeal to patriotism was particularly potent when the war was portrayed as a crusade in support of small nations. This was made all the more powerful by Lloyd George's support for the war: he was Minister of Munitions from May 1915, Secretary of State for War from July 1916 and Prime Minister from December 1916.



Top: Welsh troops were recruited with an appeal to support independence — 'Independence calls for our bravest men' (© Imperial War Museum).

Above: A recruiting poster for the Welsh Guards (© Imperial War Museum).

Left: J. M. Staniforth drew cartoons for The Western Mail throughout the First World War. This appeal for Welsh troops by Lloyd George highlights his support for the war (By courtesy of Professor Chris Williams).

Opposite: The Welsh National War Memorial in Cardiff is a focal point for the commemoration of all the Welsh men and women who have lost their lives in the service of their country.



## Equal to the Occasion.

**CUSTOMER:** (Mr. Lloyd George) Good day, ma'am! I am afraid I have come with rather a large order. I want an army corps of forty thousand Welshmen for the front.

**DAME WALES:** Certainly, sir. Indeed, look you, I shall have no trouble whatever in executing the order. When shall I send them, sir?

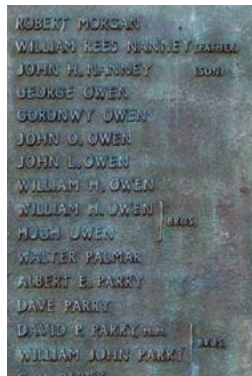
Mr. Lloyd George has taken the lead in the movement to raise, in the Principality, an Army Corps of 40,000 men for service at the front.

Wednesday, September 30th, 1914.

Bottom right: War memorials increased in number after the First World War but earlier conflicts had been commemorated. This monument in Carmarthen commemorates the South African War, 1899–1902.

Below: This detail from the roll of honour on the war memorial in Castle Square, Caernarfon, is a poignant reminder of the multiple losses that families could suffer.

Bottom left: First World War memorials were frequently modified to remember later conflicts. The two columns flanking the main memorial at Bethesda were added to commemorate the Second World War.



Although most of our public memorials to commemorate the First World War were erected during the 1920s (sometimes much later), there are examples from earlier conflicts, especially the South African War (1899–1902). Many First World War memorials also became the focus for the commemoration of those who died in the Second World War and other subsequent conflicts. New names and new structural elements were often added.

Usually paid for by local subscription, war memorials are often in prominent public places. They can take many forms ranging from the familiar monumental structures to rolls of honour, plaques and even whole buildings. Not only do they hold personal ties but they also continue to play an important role in the identity of our communities. Caring for and maintaining them is a way of honouring their enduring relevance. Nevertheless, there is a delicate balance to be struck between maintaining a memorial — so that its age and history can be appreciated — and any works that could cause damage or accelerate its decay.

Some war memorials are considered to be of special architectural or historic interest. They may be exceptional examples of a particular type of work or the work of a notable architect or artist. As a result, they may be listed or scheduled as an ancient monument, which

gives them a greater degree of legal protection and makes it essential for them to be cared for correctly.

This *Caring for* booklet explains the special interest of war memorials in Wales and suggests how custodians, local authorities, community and town councils, and local people can draw up conservation maintenance plans to make sure that this unique legacy is looked after for future generations. There is more detailed technical maintenance guidance on the Cadw website in the companion publication *Caring for War Memorials in Wales — Technical Guidance*.



# War Memorials in Wales



## Setting

War memorials are an expression of loss, grief and pride shared by entire communities. They are a focal point for commemoration and their location often directly reflects that public role. Many are sited in prominent public spaces — sometimes in places that have been designed or altered especially for them.

In many cases, the design itself includes a physical space which is an important part of the memorial. It might be contained within a simple railed enclosure, or take the form of a more

ambitious composition. One of the most unusual is perhaps at Porthmadog, where the hilltop memorial is approached through a processional route lined with standing stones that represent each year of the two world wars.

Some memorials are more remote, but have a striking visual or symbolic presence; for example, the County War Memorial on a summit above Mongtomery, the cliff-top memorial at Borth, or the memorial on Church Island in the Menai Strait.

*The setting for the war memorial at Blackwood was designed to create an imposing and protective space in which to honour those lost in two world wars.*



*Left: A processional path climbs to the war memorial at Porthmadog, which creates a sense of expectation and arrival at this prominent public space.*

*Right: The path is flanked by standing stones, reminiscent of a prehistoric stone avenue, each of which is carved with a year of the two world wars.*

Public prominence was the intention for the County War Memorial above Montgomery, which surveys a vast tract of the surrounding countryside and can be seen from miles around.



The war memorial at Church Island in the Menai Strait is also prominent, but, set within a churchyard, it has religious as well as civic significance.



Left: Memorials may also be set prominently inside buildings. The Hall of Memory, in Barry's Memorial Hall, records the names of 1,218 Barriars who lost their lives in two world wars and subsequent conflicts.



Right: Towyn Cottage Hospital is a good example of an entire building that was built to commemorate the First World War.



Sometimes the choice of location suggests a sense of history, as well as serving a contemporary public role. The memorial at Aberystwyth stands proudly above the sea within the precincts of the medieval castle (see p. 16) and in Chepstow the memorial is sited in the medieval market place which was a traditional focus for public events (see p. 28).

Others are associated with public buildings and institutions, such as a town hall, and in some communities the war memorial is in the yard of a church or chapel. Smaller memorials take the form of plaques inside churches, chapels, and town halls, or in the halls and other institutions that were specifically built as war memorials.





Left: These unusual decorative gates at Pontypool are a memorial to the fallen of the First World War. The designer was probably inspired by early eighteenth-century gates in Pontypool Park, but also celebrated local iron-working skills in their construction.

Below left: The remarkable North Wales Heroes War Memorial in Bangor is in the form of a Tudor gatehouse. Inside, the upper floor is lined with wooden panels listing 8,500 who fell in the First World War.

Below middle: Soldiers of the Glamorgan Yeomanry are remembered on St Hilary Down, Cowbridge.

Below right: In 1999, almost 55 years after the Second World War, the community at Aberdyfi erected this memorial to remember soldiers from a commando unit who trained nearby.

## Iconography and imagery

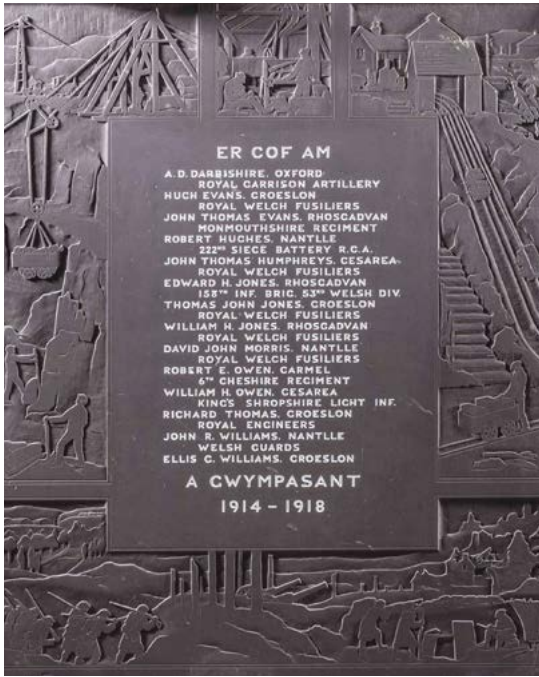
Collectively, war memorials are an important example of public art and sculpture. They were built in a wide variety of styles ranging from simple plaques and crosses to ornate figurative sculpture. They may be clock towers, gates, or even entire buildings and sites, including recreation grounds and parks.

Our memorials have many historical connections. They commemorate the fallen from individual communities, from regions,

counties and the nation itself. Some regiments had their own memorials, such as the Royal Welch Fusiliers at Wrexham and the Glamorgan Yeomanry at St Hilary Down, Cowbridge. Other memorials commemorate particular communities such as schools, trades or professions. At Capel Baladeulyn, Nantlle, there is a memorial to slate workers and at Llangefni there is a memorial at the former County School that commemorates former pupils.







Top left: Local slate workers, who lost their lives in the First World War, are remembered on this finely carved slate memorial at Capel Baladeulyn, Nantlle. The graphic images record scenes of both war and work.

Top right: School communities also commemorated the fallen. The names of former pupils, killed during the First World War, are recorded on this memorial outside the former County School in Llangefnï.



Below left: Attitudes to war varied. Here, at Ebbw Vale, a soldier brandishes his tin helmet in triumph.

Below right: In contrast, this weary soldier at Abergavenny suggests a very different attitude to war.

Memorials reflect different attitudes to war shown, for example, by the way in which soldiers were depicted as weary or triumphant. A common pose is a soldier with rifle and bayonet held pointing downwards, which signals a time for prayer and reflection. Some offer detailed depictions of military figures and regimental uniform. The Royal Welch Fusiliers memorial in Wrexham depicts an eighteenth-century soldier behind his twentieth-century counterpart and the memorial at Builth incorporates figures representing the army, navy,

air force and merchant navy. The memorial at Milford Haven also includes the figures of servicemen and there are fine reliefs of a soldier and sailor on the cenotaph in Holyhead.

There are frequent appeals to Welsh patriotism, whether indirectly through the use of the Celtic cross, or more deliberately with the use of the Welsh dragon. Often, there are references to earlier traditions, such as the fine memorial at Hanmer in the style of a medieval cross. The memorial at Miskin was also inspired by medieval sculpture, but the figures are those

*Opposite: Some regiments also have their own memorials. These figures from the Royal Welch Fusiliers memorial, Wrexham, depict eighteenth- and twentieth-century soldiers, emphasising the continuity of the regiment which is more than 300 years old.*

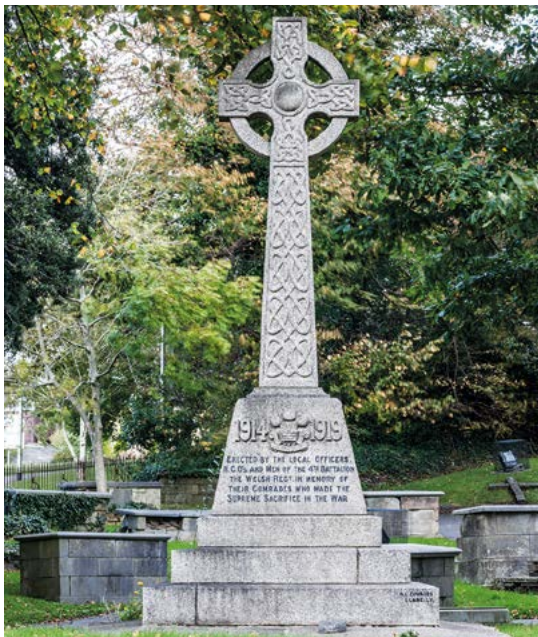
Left: The sombre figure of an aviator crowns the war memorial at Milford Haven.



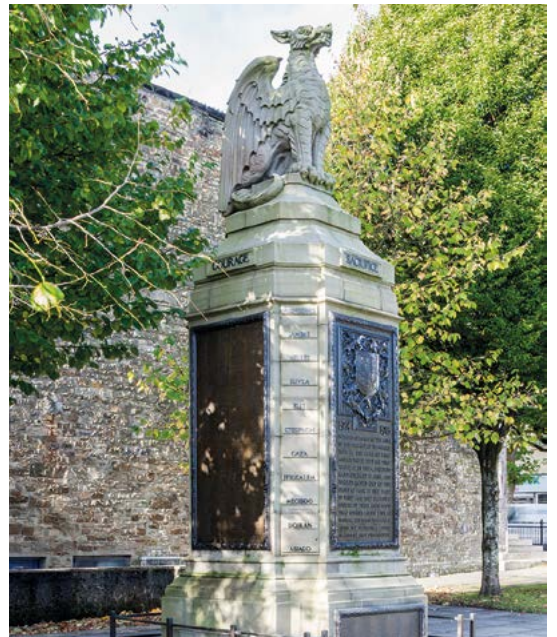
Right: All of the services lost personnel during the First World War. This fine relief on the memorial at the busy port of Holyhead shows a sailor.



Left: The Celtic cross is a familiar form for war memorials and appeals both to our Welsh and Christian heritage. This example is located in the churchyard of St Ellyw's Church, Llanelli.



Right: Dragons are a more obvious appeal to Welsh patriotism. This fierce looking beast crowns the war memorial at Haverfordwest.



There is no mistaking the patriotic message in this scene from the war memorial at Rhayader where a Welsh dragon is shown defeating a German eagle.



of service personnel. At Llantwit Major, the memorial was erected on the restored base of a medieval cross in the centre of the village. There are direct patriotic references on the clock tower at Rhayader where a Welsh dragon is shown defeating a German eagle.

Some memorials incorporate intensely local and personal references such as at Milford Haven where there is a First World War memorial erected by steam trawler owners

and the people of Ostend who were resident in the town during the war. The soldier on the memorial to the South African War in Swansea is said to be modelled on Sgt O. S. Bird, who was the physical education master at the grammar school. The memorial at Magor incorporates a bronze medallion depicting D. A. Thomas, first Viscount Rhondda and Minister of Food Control from 1917 until his death in 1918.

*Top and bottom left: War memorials took other traditional forms based on medieval architecture. The memorial at Miskin is designed in the style of a medieval cross, but figures of service personnel are included instead of religious images.*

*Right: War memorials often included very local references. The standing soldier on Swansea's memorial to the South African War (1899–1902) is said to be modelled on Sgt O. S. Bird, who was a teacher at Swansea Grammar School.*



Left: Fate personified as a woman is a recurring image on war memorials. Here, at Pontmorlais, Merthyr Tydfil, Fate is flanked by the figures of a miner and a mother carrying her child. Their downward gestures towards the inscription commemorating those who died in the First World War have an air of resignation.

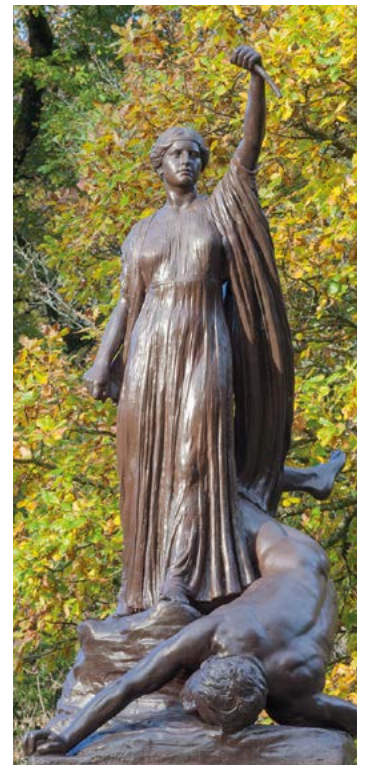
Right: The finely observed figure of a forlorn mother and child at the Pontmorlais memorial.



Left: Victory, too, is often seen personified as a strong woman. This winged figure of Victory stands on the prow of a boat looking out to sea at Penarth.

Middle: At Llandaff, the place itself is personified as this commanding woman dressed in Celtic costume.

Right: This striking figure of a woman brandishing a weapon over the defeated enemy crowns the war memorial at Mountain Ash. The figures were sculpted by J. Harvard Thomas who was responsible for the statue of Boudicca (Boadicea) in City Hall, Cardiff.





*Left: The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, designed by Edwin Lutyens, became the model for many war memorials throughout Wales, such as this fine example in Victoria, Newport. The design draws on the classical tradition and avoids any specific religious references.*

*Right: Another classically inspired design is the obelisk. This example at Flint was erected to commemorate the South African War (1899–1902).*

Memorials also contain a rich language of symbolism that was perhaps more familiar to people when they were first erected. For example, the memorial at Pontmorlais, Merthyr Tydfil, is a depiction of Fate and in Penarth a winged Victory stands on a ship's prow overlooking the sea from Alexandra Park. The remarkable memorial in Aberystwyth also depicts Victory and Humanity emerging triumphant from the chaos of war (see p. 16). The memorial at Llandaff includes a Celtic female figure personifying Llandaff itself. Peace is personified in the memorial at Pontrhydfendigaid, whilst the memorial at Mountain Ash depicts a female figure with the defeated enemy beneath her feet. The memorial in Talbot Park, Port Talbot, has a figure of Victory and relief panels representing War,

Peace and Remembrance.

Many memorials, wherever their location and whatever their stylistic references, used Christian iconography. Others attempted to avoid specific religious references, drawing instead on the classical tradition that inspired the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London: some Welsh memorials were modelled on it quite closely, including Victoria, Newport. Good examples of other memorials that were classically inspired are Caernarfon (Castle Square) — where classicism is combined with a dragon — and Holyhead (see p. 18). The obelisk was also a widely used form and there is a good example at Flint as well as many smaller ones elsewhere. The County War Memorial, Montgomery, takes the form of a giant Doric column (see p. 6).



Above: Sculptors, architects and artists, often of national repute, were commissioned to design war memorials. The war memorial at Welshpool was designed by well-known London architect Aston Webb who used images of local saints reminiscent of a medieval churchyard cross.

Right: The noted sculptor Eric Gill designed this simple and elegant memorial at Chirk. The hunched soldier clutching his rifle and bayonet creates a sense of both pathos and dignity.



## Artists and craftsmen

Many people were involved in the making of war memorials. Often, several craft skills were required including stone masonry and engraving, metalworking and casting. Although local designers and makers were often used, architects and artists with a national reputation were also commissioned.

Sculptor and designer Eric Gill designed

the memorial in Chirk; Liverpool Cathedral architect Giles Gilbert Scott designed the memorials at Hawarden and Hanmer, and Whitehall Cenotaph architect Edwin Lutyens designed the Welch Regiment memorial at Maindy Barracks in Cardiff. The local architect, Coates Carter, based in Cardiff, designed the memorial at Penarth, whilst the Welshpool



memorial was the work of Aston Webb, a well-known London architect. William Goscombe John — one of Wales's best-known sculptors — produced several fine figures that were used in a number of memorials across Wales. More unusually, the Aberystwyth town memorial

was designed by Mario Rutelli of Rome (see p. 16), but many more craftsmen were drawn from much closer to home. Although some war memorials are well documented, others are not, and there were builders and craftsmen whose names have not been recorded.

*Left: Designed by Edwin Lutyens in the style of his Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, the war memorial at Maindy Barracks in Cardiff was erected to remember the soldiers of the 1st and 2nd battalions of the Welch Regiment lost in the First World War. Memorials to other conflicts have since been added.*

*Below: William Goscombe John was a notable Cardiff-born sculptor who studied at Cardiff Castle under William Burges. His striking and realistic figures are both poignant and dignified. They feature at a number of war memorials in Wales, including Llanelli (left) and Lampeter (right).*





## Materials

Most war memorials in Wales are made of stone. More than one type of stone was often used in composite memorials, such as where a cross was raised on steps. The fine stone needed for a high-quality finish was frequently imported — for example, granite from Cornwall or Scotland, Portland limestone from Dorset and Doulling limestone from Somerset. Other stone may have been sourced closer to hand in Wales — red sandstone in the borders, Pennant stone in the south-east, and slate in the north, for example.

Variety in the type and source of stone might also be accompanied by a variety in finish. The main sculptural elements of a memorial were often finely finished or polished, but other parts might be tooled or rock-dressed to give a rustic appearance.

Many memorials also included metal elements, particularly bronze, copper and cast iron. Inscriptions were often engraved directly into the stone. Sometimes, however, they were gilded or picked out in lead. Alternatively, incised, cast or embossed panels were fixed to the stone. Separate panels were often added to the original memorial to commemorate later conflicts and could introduce yet another material.

Examples of the use of other materials can be found throughout Wales. Composite stone and concrete have been recorded, and, at Froncysyllte, the memorial to the South African War was made from faience tiles. Timber, stained glass and brass were sometimes used for memorials inside buildings alongside paper rolls of honour and even tapestries too.

There are at least 3,000 war memorials known in Wales. They are a physical record of those who died for their country and an eloquent testimony to the impact of war. They are also a fine collection of public art and sculpture which provides an insight into contemporary attitudes to conflict and a glimpse of the people from our past who helped shape our present. War memorials continue to play an important role in the identity of our towns and villages. Understanding how to care for them is essential for their long-term survival.



*Left: Although most war memorials in Wales are made of stone, they frequently include different types and finishes. For example, the memorial at Machynlleth is made from granite with polished pink Aberdeen marble columns topped by polished slate.*

*Below: At New Tredegar, white marble figures crown a red granite plinth. Part of the plinth has been polished and part has been rock cut to create different textures.*



*Opposite: The town war memorial on the seafront at Aberystwyth was designed by the noted Italian sculptor, Mario Rutelli.*

GWRONIAID Y  
RHYFEL MAWR  
1914 — 1918



MEMORIAL PLATES WITH NAMES OF SOLDIERS

IN MEMORY OF WELSH GUARDSMAN  
KILLED IN ACTION FALKLAND ISLANDS 1982  
COOM DAU WILLIAMS  
OF STADOLUN WELSH GUARDS

1939 — 1945

LEWIS, H.A. MOORE, H. MIDDLETON, E.J. NEWTON, R. HOBBS, W. OWEN, C. OWEN, G. OWEN, G.D.M. OWEN, H. OWEN, T. OWEN, W.C. OWEN, W.H. PENNY, J.	PENSTONE, J.A. PRITCHARD, C.E. PRITCHARD, H.I. PRITCHARD, H.H. PRITCHARD, R.J. PROBERT, F.E. PRYTHORCH, A. REESE, E.E. REESE, F.Y. REYNOLDS, D.R.H. RICHARDS, T.G.N. ROBERTS, H. ROBERTS, H. ROBERTS, O. ROBERTS, R.J. ROBERTS, R.D. ROBERTS, S.H.	ROBERTS, THOMAS ROBERTS, T. ROBERTS, W.H. ROBERTS, W.J.G. ROWLANDS, D. ROWLANDS, R. ROWLANDS, R.L. ROWLEY, S. SHERGOLD, S.C. STANLING, A. SULLIVAN, J.J. TAYLOR, T.J. THOMAS, D. THOMAS, H.A. THOMAS, R. THOMAS, R.H. WAINMAN, W.F. WHITCUP, W.G.	WHITTALL, A.E. WILLIAMS, E. WILLIAMS, E.G. WILLIAMS, J. WILLIAMS, J. WILLIAMS, J.H. WILLIAMS, J.H. WILLIAMS, D. WILLIAMS, D.H. WILLIAMS, E.J. WILLIAMS, R. WILLIAMS, R.H. WILLIAMS, R.A. WILLIAMS, R.A. WILLIAMS, T. WILLIAMS, T. WILLIAMS, T.W.E.
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CYFODDWDY Y GOLOFN HON GAN  
DRIGOLION CAERGYBI ER GOF AM  
Y RHAI A FU FARW DROS RYDDID  
CYFIAWNDER A GWAREIDDIAID  
EU A BERY O GENHEDLAETH  
GENHEDLAETH

Codi Pwysau a Chwaraeon  
Weightlifting and Sports

Blue street sign

Yellow sign

Blue street sign

# Conservation Maintenance Plan

If you are a custodian of a war memorial, it is a good idea to draw up a conservation maintenance plan to help you care for your war memorial effectively. If you have a war memorial in your community that you want to care for, then you need to find out who the owner is and gain their permission before you begin any maintenance work. There is more information about ownership on the War Memorials Trust website.

You should check whether the memorial is listed or scheduled as an ancient monument in case you need to seek consent for your work (see p. 25 for more information).

It is also a good idea to check whether the war memorial is covered by insurance and make suitable arrangements if it is not. War Memorials Trust has guidance about *insurance for war memorials* on its website.

Your plan can be a simple checklist that reminds you to inspect your memorial regularly and carry out basic maintenance. It will also help you to identify any repair needs at an early stage. You can find more detailed guidance about what you can do yourself and when you should consult a conservation specialist on the Cadw website in *Caring for War Memorials in Wales — Technical Guidance*.

Your plan should consist of:

- A written and photographic record of the war memorial.
- An annual programme of monitoring and maintenance, including details of any work.
- A record of any repairs.

## Recording

The record of names on a war memorial is an important source of information.

As time passes names can become obscured, defaced or illegible through wear and — as relatives pass away — there is a danger that the record could be lost forever. Keeping a written and photographic record of inscriptions on war memorials is an essential element of caring for the monument, but maintaining the inscriptions is important too.

As a priority, the custodian of a war memorial should establish its historic or architectural significance, particularly if it is listed. Researching the history of the memorial can uncover important information such as who paid for it, its materials and designer, and how the names included on the memorial were selected, all of which can help guide your conservation maintenance plan. War Memorials

*Opposite: A conservation maintenance plan for your war memorial will help ensure its long-term survival. Following accidental damage, the Holyhead Cenotaph has recently been repaired and renovated. Once volunteers from the local community had researched its history, conservation-accredited architects and specialist conservators restored the memorial. Holyhead Town Council has now insured the memorial and placed it on their asset register. This, together with the adoption of a conservation maintenance plan, means that the cenotaph will be properly cared for on a long-term basis.*

## Adding names to war memorials

Sometimes you may wish to add further names or inscriptions to existing war memorials. If the monument is listed or scheduled you may need listed building consent or scheduled monument consent for this work. However, as long as there has been research into any additions or amendments and there is sufficient space and the same style and method of lettering is used, then there is unlikely to be

any objection. War Memorials Trust help sheet *addition of names* to war memorials provides further advice and information.

If you do plan to add names or inscriptions, it is a good idea to consult the community about your plans to make sure that everyone is in agreement. It is also an opportunity to identify any other names that need to be added or altered so that the work can be

done at the same time. You will need to obtain permission from the owner or custodian.

The addition of other plaques or inscriptions, such as those to commemorate restoration works or anniversaries, is not generally supported by War Memorials Trust. Such additions can detract from the original purpose of the war memorial and create a cluttered appearance.



*Left: A good photographic record is important. This view shows the Hawarden memorial in context, including the panels which have been added to commemorate the Second World War.*

*Right: This close up view of the head of the cross records the condition of the stonework and the religious imagery.*



Trust has guidance on its website about researching the history of a war memorial.

Making an accurate written and photographic record of all features including condition, location, construction details, decorative features and inscriptions will help inform conservation or restoration decisions. It is helpful to keep old photographs, original newspaper cuttings and documents relating to previous maintenance and repair work. This record of the memorial and its features is vital in case of damage or theft.

Once you have compiled a record for your conservation maintenance plan, you should:

- Deposit a copy with the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), which is held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

- Send a copy to the appropriate Historic Environment Record (HER). These are maintained by the regional archaeological trusts.
- Send a copy to your local authority War Memorials Officer. Details are on the War Memorials Trust website.
- You should also ensure that there is a record of the memorial and its condition on the War Memorials Online website.

Further information may be available in the local Historic Environment Record or the register of war memorials curated by the Imperial War Museums' War Memorials Archive.

(See Grants, Advice and Useful Resources on p. 29 for contact details and website addresses).

# Monitoring

The war memorial should be inspected regularly, at least once a year. You can use the War Memorials Trust's *condition survey* to help you assess the condition of your war memorial.

Alternatively, you may wish to employ a suitable contractor both to assess the condition and advise on a specific programme of works.

These are the sorts of issues you need to consider:

## Condition of the structure

- Is there any physical or structural damage?
- Is the material badly weathered?
- Are any features missing?
- Does the memorial need cleaning?
- Do the joints need re-pointing?

## Inscriptions and names

- Are they legible?
- Are any letters missing?
- Are the letters badly weathered?
- Are names/plaques missing or damaged?

## Access

- Is the memorial accessible to the public?
- Is disabled access provided?

- Does the paving need cleaning?
- Does the paving need repairing?
- Does the paving or surrounding area need weeding?

## Surroundings

- Is the site generally well maintained?
- Are there any damaged or dangerous structures or trees in the vicinity?

## Security

- Has the war memorial been vandalised?
- Have any features been damaged or stolen?
- Is there a need to maintain or repair gates, fences and boundary walls?
- Is the site secure?

If you identify any problems, you should arrange for a conservator or suitable contractor to carry out any necessary repairs before the condition of the war memorial deteriorates further. This will prove cost effective in the long term as it may reduce the need for costly remedial works in the future.

*Regular monitoring of your war memorial should include not only the condition of the monument itself, but also its setting, security and access. This memorial at Cilfynydd, commemorating the army, navy and flying corps, is in a public open space which allows easy access and a bench for rest and reflection.*





War memorials are often made from a number of different materials and include boundary walls or railings and public spaces, all of which must be properly maintained. It is good practice to keep a full record of any maintenance work as part of your conservation maintenance plan.

## Maintaining

Any maintenance works should be performed by a properly trained and appropriately monitored person. Depending on the materials that the memorial is made of, you may need to engage a conservation professional to do the work for you. A full record of any maintenance work should be kept as part of your conservation maintenance plan.

Most war memorials are made of stone with bronze, brass, iron and wood being common additions. Inscriptions may be either incised, in relief or attached to the surface and may be gilded, painted or filled with lead. The presence

of all these materials shows the complexity of war memorials and maintenance works must take this into consideration.

The following list provides some general advice on maintenance treatments. For more detailed guidance, consult *Caring for War Memorials in Wales — Technical Guidance* on the Cadw website, which explains when you should consult a conservation specialist. If you are in any doubt about the right course of action, you can contact War Memorials Trust for guidance or seek the help of a conservation contractor.

## Moving memorials

War memorials were often carefully located in places chosen by the local community, perhaps for symbolic reasons or historical associations. Therefore, you should not normally move or relocate them unless there is a very good reason to do so. Damage can be caused during dismantling or if they are moved

to an inappropriate location, for example, from inside to outside a building. War Memorials Trust recommends that a memorial should only be moved if it is at risk or is completely inaccessible — such as when a building is disused and there are no plans for its re-use. In most cases there are other

options such as improving access to the memorial with appropriate landscaping or visiting arrangements. If the memorial is listed or fixed to a listed building then listed building consent is required for moving it. See War Memorials Trust's help sheet *relocation of war memorials* for further guidance.



## Stone

- Do wash with water and soft bristle brushes, but no more than once a year.
- Don't use copper, brass, bronze or ferrous (iron or steel) brushes.
- Don't use chemicals, bleach or detergents.
- Don't use abrasive methods (this includes sandblasting or re-facing stonework).
- Don't use high-pressure water jets.
- Don't use masonry paints.

## Bronze

- Do use wooden scrapers to remove bird droppings, but remember to wet the droppings first so that you don't breathe in any particles.
- Do clean with low-pressure mains water and a non-ionic detergent using a lint-free cloth or natural bristle brush, but no more than once a year. Arrange for a new wax coating after cleaning if necessary.
- Do arrange for a bronze specialist/conservator to inspect the bronze and apply microcrystalline wax every two to three years.
- Don't use chemical products (especially acid- and alkali-based products and ammonia solutions) or household cleaning products.
- Don't use metal brushes.
- Don't use paints.
- Don't use abrasive methods.



## Iron

- Do inspect joints and areas of flaking paintwork. The protective paint coating should be maintained on the iron as the build up of water can be detrimental because it encourages corrosion.
- Don't use paints to match the original colour as re-painting should only be performed by a qualified professional.

## Masonry joints

- Do check if joints are open and arrange to have re-pointing carried out in lime mortar by a suitably experienced professional. A joint covered in moss can suggest the joint is open, which has allowed vegetation to grow.
- Don't re-point without professional help. The wrong choice of mortar can lead to damage.

## Organic growths

- Do monitor the extent of organic growth. If you find unsightly algal slimes which cover inscriptions, contact a qualified professional to clean the surface.
- Do remove/control excessive vegetation. However, most lichens and mosses can be left on memorials provided they do not obscure inscriptions and carved details.
- Don't apply chemical/biocide products on the surface.
- Don't plant trees too near the memorial.
- Don't place flower pots directly on the base of the memorial.



*Left: You should monitor organic growths on your war memorial but do employ a specialist contractor if you need to clean the surface.*

*Right: Bronze statues — like this at Llandaff — and plaques can be cleaned carefully with water and a non-ionic detergent but a specialist conservator should inspect the bronze every two to three years and apply microcrystalline wax.*

## Repairing

A conservation maintenance plan should help you to identify key problems. However, you should seek professional specialist advice before proceeding with repairs. Relevant expertise must be employed to correctly assess the memorial's condition and establish appropriate conservation solutions. Repairs must be tailored to each war memorial, as inappropriate treatments will not only prove ineffective but may also cause irreversible damage. You should keep a full record of all repairs as part of your conservation maintenance plan.

You can find more detailed advice on the Cadw website in *Caring for War Memorials in Wales —Technical Guidance* and your local planning authority Conservation Officer can advise you on conservation works (in most cases your local planning authority will be your local authority). War Memorials Trust can suggest sources to help you find a conservator or a suitable specialist contractor to carry out repair work, or you can consult the conservation organisations listed on p. 30.

*You should ensure that repair work is done by properly trained and supervised people. You may need a number of specialist contractors to look after different materials. For example, the war memorial at Ruthin is built principally of concrete, but also includes iron railings, a sandstone boundary wall and granite tablets, all of which require different maintenance techniques.*



## Protecting against theft of metals

Metal components of war memorials can be targeted by thieves — particularly lead, copper and bronze. You can protect against metal theft in a number of ways, including physical fixings or barrier alarms. Forensic marking is increasingly being applied to metal elements of war memorials to try and deter thieves. This works most effectively when used with other security measures and when its use is clearly advertised with warning signs, which should not be on the memorial itself. Signs should

be carefully sited to avoid visual intrusion and clutter that could spoil the appearance of the memorial.

War Memorials Trust has further guidance on this, including the In Memoriam 2014 project which provides SmartWater free to custodians of war memorials to help prevent theft (see p. 30 for further details).

Where theft does occur, ideally you should replace the stolen item like-for-like and put in place anti-theft measures, such as additional fixings.

In cases where there is persistent theft, replacement with an alternative material may be appropriate, so long as it is physically and aesthetically compatible with the original memorial. Synthetic replicas such as resin plaques are not normally considered suitable replacements on historic memorials. For further information, Cadw endorses English Heritage's publication *Theft of Metal from Church Buildings*.

# Statutory Consents

The only legislation specific to war memorials is the War Memorials (Local Authorities Powers) Act 1923 and subsequent amendments. This empowers local authorities to use funds to maintain, repair and protect war memorials, including adding and correcting inscriptions; however, it imposes no obligation on the local authority to do so.

Some war memorials are listed buildings and a few are scheduled ancient monuments. In such cases, you will need consent for alterations, some repairs, cleaning or reinstating architectural details or for the addition of fixed security measures such as CCTV or lighting. It is wise to speak to your local planning authority Conservation Officer at an early stage to discuss whether statutory consents may be required and to come to a broad agreement about what would be most suitable.

## Listed building consent

If you propose to alter the character of a listed war memorial you must obtain listed building consent (LBC). This applies regardless of the category of listing (grade I, grade II\* or grade II). It includes all repair and conservation works that will materially affect the character of the memorial, which may include stone replacement and cleaning.

If the memorial is listed you should always check with the local planning authority whether LBC is required before undertaking any work. You can find out if a memorial is listed by contacting the local planning authority or Cadw. If a memorial is not listed in its own right but is fixed to a listed building or within its boundary, it may be considered part of the listed building and will require LBC. The planning authority will advise you whether work requires consent.

*You may need listed building consent for cleaning and repairs to your memorial if it is listed or is part of a listed building. Criccieth's memorial hall, for example, is listed and contains a hall of memory commemorating the dead of two world wars.*



*Occasionally, a war memorial is scheduled or located within the boundary of a scheduled ancient monument — such as the memorial at Caerleon, which lies within the scheduled area of the Roman fortress. If so, you will need written consent from Cadw for certain types of cleaning and repairs before you begin work.*



All applications for LBC should be made to the local planning authority who will decide them. When a local authority is the applicant, consent will normally be determined by the Welsh Government.

## Scheduled monument consent

If a memorial is scheduled either in its own right or because it lies within an area of scheduled land, you will need written consent from Cadw for most works — including repairs and alterations — before you begin work. This is called scheduled monument consent (SMC). Cadw advises that the work should normally be the minimum necessary for the preservation of the memorial. If your war memorial is scheduled then you should speak to Cadw at an early stage to discuss proposals for cleaning, repair or alterations.

## Planning permission

You may need planning permission for alterations or additions to a war memorial, for example, new boundary railings. Additional restrictions may be in place in conservation areas for some works, such as dismantling a memorial. The planning authority will advise you whether permission is required for works and what is likely to be granted consent.

## New war memorials

**If you are thinking about erecting a new war memorial, you should be clear about why you are commissioning it and what or who needs to be commemorated. You will also need to think about the design and funding of the memorial and its future maintenance. War Memorials Trust has a help sheet on *new war memorials* on its website, but as a conservation charity it is unable to fund new memorials.**

## Ecclesiastical exemption

Many war memorials may not be listed in their own right but will be located within listed church or chapel buildings, attached to the building or freestanding within their grounds. If such a war memorial is physically attached to a listed church or chapel building, or sited within its boundary, then the war memorial will probably be covered by the listing. However, buildings that are primarily in use as places of worship for certain denominations do not, by law, require LBC. This is because they have equivalent internal procedures to determine the suitability of proposed alterations. This is called ecclesiastical exemption and exempts the denomination from obtaining LBC for its own works. However, proposals by anyone else, other than the denomination, may require LBC from the local planning authority.

Any proposed alteration to a freestanding memorial that is listed independently of the church or chapel building will probably require LBC from the local planning authority. If in doubt, you should check with both authorities.



*You should check carefully whether ecclesiastical exemption applies to a memorial associated with a church or chapel. Some freestanding war memorials, like this churchyard cross in Pembroke Dock, are listed in their own right so you would need to apply to your local planning authority for listed building consent. If in doubt, talk to your local planning authority Conservation Officer.*

## Graffiti and vandalism

Sadly, even war memorials are not immune to graffiti and other vandalism. Graffiti typically appears in the form of spray paint (aerosols), marker pen, carvings or scratches. It is usually a priority to remove graffiti as quickly as possible because it has a very negative impact on the appearance of war memorials. Prompt removal will help discourage copycat attacks and it is also sensible from a technical perspective as paints, glues and inks become increasingly difficult to remove as they dry.

Despite the need for a quick response, you do need to consider

carefully the removal method so that you do not make the damage worse. It is a good idea to have to hand details of conservation specialists who know how to treat the materials your war memorial is made of so that you can get advice and remedial work can be started as soon as possible. Normally, all work to repair damage caused by graffiti should be done by a specialist.

If a war memorial has been vandalised, it is important to record the incident with photographs and a written description. Notify the police and obtain a crime reference

number, which will be needed for any insurance claim. Professional advice will be needed to decide on the most appropriate action such as cleaning, stone repairs and so forth. Check with the local planning authority whether the monument is listed and to obtain advice and necessary consents for remedial work. A suitably skilled contractor will be required and cleaning trials may be necessary before any work is undertaken.

War memorials, like this at Chepstow, are prominent features in our towns and villages. Grants and advice are available to help us all look after them for future generations.



# Grants, Advice and Useful Resources

## Grants

**Cadw** is the Welsh Government's historic environment service and is responsible for advising Welsh ministers on the scheduling of ancient monuments and the listing of buildings. Cadw provides funding to support the conservation and repair of war memorials in Wales.  
[www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk)

**War Memorials Trust** is a charity that works for the protection and conservation of war memorials in the UK. It provides free conservation advice and information on a range of war memorial issues as well as administering grant schemes, which can support the repair and conservation of war memorials. The Small Grants Scheme is open to everyone to apply, but please note that War Memorials Trust cannot fund works after they have started or been completed. Please visit the grants section of the War Memorials Trust website for further information on these schemes, how to apply, other sources of funding and advice for applicants.  
[www.warmemorials.org/grants](http://www.warmemorials.org/grants)

**Memorials Grant Scheme** is run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and can return, as a grant, the VAT incurred in memorial projects, including new memorials. Please see the website for details on eligibility and how to apply. The scheme is currently confirmed to run until 2015 so you should check that the scheme is still active before applying.  
[www.memorialgrant.org.uk](http://www.memorialgrant.org.uk)

The **Heritage Lottery Fund** can provide funding to help groups, communities and organisations mark

the centenary of the First World War, including memorials, buildings and sites. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) and Understanding the First World War — Heritage Lottery Fund [www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/whatwefund/FirstWorldWar/Pages/FirstWorldWar.aspx](http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/whatwefund/FirstWorldWar/Pages/FirstWorldWar.aspx)

## Advice

**Conservation Officers** in local planning authorities offer advice relating to listed buildings and broader conservation matters, including war memorials. Local authority **War Memorials Officers** are the best place to start if you want to find out more about caring for your war memorial and may be able to help with conservation advice. You should place a record of your war memorial with your War Memorials Officer. Details of War Memorials Officers are on the War Memorials Trust website.  
[www.warmemorials.org/wmo-wales](http://www.warmemorials.org/wmo-wales)

**The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales** maintains the **National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW)** — the national collection of information about the historic environment of Wales, which includes records of war memorials. You can search for records on their online database **Coflein** [www.coflein.gov.uk](http://www.coflein.gov.uk). You should place the record of your memorial with the NMRW.

The four **Welsh archaeological trusts** hold the Historic Environment Records (HERs), which aim to record all of the known historic and archaeological features in Wales. You should place the record of your war memorial with the appropriate trust (see p. 30 for contact details).

The records are available online at [www.archwilio.org.uk](http://www.archwilio.org.uk) and via the Android app Archwilio, which can be downloaded from Google Play.

**War Memorials Trust** offers practical advice and guidance about conserving and maintaining your war memorial and provides a range of online help sheets and frequently asked questions.  
[www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org)

The **Imperial War Museums** are also compiling a comprehensive record of all war memorials in the UK. The **War Memorials Archive** was formerly known as the UK National Inventory of War Memorials.  
[www.iwm.org.uk/warmemorials](http://www.iwm.org.uk/warmemorials)

For further advice and to find a suitable contractor, you can consult the Conservation Register, Conservation Accreditation Register for Engineers, Register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. For contact details, see website addresses below.

## Useful resources

### Publications

G. Archer, *The Glorious Dead* (Kirstead 2009).

J. Corke, *War Memorials in Britain* (Oxford 2005).

English Heritage and War Memorials Trust, *Advice on Maintenance of War Memorials* (London 2006).

English Heritage and War Memorials Trust, *War Memorial Theft: Prevention and Solutions* (London 2009).

English Heritage, *Theft of Metal from Church Buildings* (London 2011); available online at: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/places-of-worship/theft-protection/>

English Heritage, *Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials* (London 2014).

A. Gaffney, *Aftermath: Remembering the Great War in Wales* (Cardiff 1998).

Historic Scotland and War Memorials Trust, *Short Guide 3: The Repair and Maintenance of War Memorials*, (Edinburgh 2013); available online at: <<http://conservation.historic-scotland.gov.uk/publication-detail?pubid=9912>>

J. Summers, *British and Commonwealth War Cemeteries* (Oxford 2010).

J. Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History* (Cambridge 1995).

All War Memorials Trust help sheets are available online at: [www.warmemorials.org/a-z](http://www.warmemorials.org/a-z)

## Websites

In Memoriam 2014 is an initiative from War Memorials Trust and the SmartWater Foundation that provides free SmartWater forensic marking to war memorial custodians to protect metal elements.

[www.inmemoriam2014.org](http://www.inmemoriam2014.org)

War Memorials Online is a project aiming to create a greater understanding of the condition of war memorials by seeking the help of the public to upload information, photographs and condition reports. [www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk)

The Imperial War Museums' War Memorials Archive [www.iwm.org.uk/warmemorials](http://www.iwm.org.uk/warmemorials)

*Cymru'n Cofio* — Wales Remembers 1914–1918 [www.walesremembers.org](http://www.walesremembers.org)

The Welsh Experience of World War I <http://cymruww1.llgc.org.uk/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) can provide advice and guidance for the care of historic buildings, including war memorials. [www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk)

Institute of Historic Building Conservation is the principal professional body for building conservation practitioners and historic environment specialists. [www.ihbc.org.uk](http://www.ihbc.org.uk)

The Building Conservation Directory is a useful resource for finding conservation products and services. [www.buildingconservation.com](http://www.buildingconservation.com)

The Conservation Register can help you find conservation contractors. [www.conservationregister.com](http://www.conservationregister.com)

Institute of Conservation (ICON) is a good resource for conservation advice and manages the Conservation Register. [www.icon.org.uk](http://www.icon.org.uk)

CARE (Conservation Accreditation Register for Engineers) [www.careregister.org.uk](http://www.careregister.org.uk)

AABC (Register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation) [www.aabc-register.co.uk](http://www.aabc-register.co.uk)

RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Find a Surveyor [www.ricsfirms.com](http://www.ricsfirms.com)

The Twentieth Century Society [www.c20society.org.uk](http://www.c20society.org.uk)

## Addresses

Cadw, Welsh Government  
Policy and Protection Team  
Plas Carew  
Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed  
Parc Nantgarw  
Cardiff  
CF15 7QQ  
01443 336059  
[cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk)

War Memorials Trust and War Memorials Online  
2nd Floor  
42a Buckingham Palace Road  
London  
SW1W 0RE  
Conservation advice/grants:  
020 7233 7356 / 0300 123 0764  
[conservation@warmemorials.org](mailto:conservation@warmemorials.org)  
[www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org)  
[info@warmemorialsonline.org.uk](mailto:info@warmemorialsonline.org.uk)  
[www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk)

War Memorials Archive  
Imperial War Museums  
Lambeth Road  
London  
SE1 6HZ  
020 7207 9863/9851  
[memorials@iwm.org.uk](mailto:memorials@iwm.org.uk)  
[www.iwm.org.uk/warmemorials](http://www.iwm.org.uk/warmemorials)

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales  
Plas Crug  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 1NJ  
01970 621200  
[nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk](mailto:nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk)  
[www.rcahmw.gov.uk](http://www.rcahmw.gov.uk)

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust  
41 Broad Street  
Welshpool  
SY21 7RR  
01938 553670  
[trust@cpat.org.uk](mailto:trust@cpat.org.uk)  
[www.cpat.org.uk](http://www.cpat.org.uk)

Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
The Shire Hall  
8 Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
SA19 6AF  
01558 823121/131  
[info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
[www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust  
Heathfield House  
Heathfield  
Swansea  
SA1 6EL  
01792 655208  
[enquiries@ggat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ggat.org.uk)  
[www.ggat.org.uk](http://www.ggat.org.uk)

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust  
Craig Beuno  
Garth Road  
Bangor  
LL57 2RT  
01248 352535  
[gat@heneb.co.uk](mailto:gat@heneb.co.uk)  
[www.heneb.co.uk](http://www.heneb.co.uk)