

Kingsway Cenotaph

Condition Report

Date: 20.03.2026

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CRUCIFORM ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE PLANNING

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1 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The memorial is in fair condition.

In the immediate term, grille fixing bolts need to be replaced on the corner lights to prevent unauthorised access. Stones to the top section need to be tested for stability.

In the medium term, open brick joints need to be repointed, paving should be re-laid to prevent trip hazards

In the long term, the bricks could be cleaned to improve its appearance. Bronze plaques could receive a wax coating.

A list of recommended repairs is presented at the back of this document.

2 - INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site information

Address: Kingsway, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1JH

Listed / Scheduled

Monument Status: Grade II listed

Date of Construction: Circa.1938

Inspection Information:

Inspection Date: 20th March 2026

Surveyor: Mr. S. Smith RIBA AABC

Cruciform Ltd.
Enterprise House
Moorland Road
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 1JQ

01782 777000

Weather: Dry, Sunny

2.2 Description

The Stoke-on-Trent New Cenotaph is a principal war memorial; it is located on the forecourt of King's Hall on Kingsway. It commemorates the service men and women who lost their lives in the First and Second World War, with additional bronze plaques donated by the veteran's associations for the Battle of Normandy, Dunkirk, El Alamein and the Korean War.

The cenotaph is constructed primarily of brick, which rises from a plain red brick plinth. The main part of the memorial is made from bullnosed red brick, with a cross in relief of buff brick on each face. It stands within a square enclosure, with a low brick wall with capped piers on each corner and scrolling bricks on the opening of each side. There is a wreath either side of the memorial with the dates of the First and Second World War inside them, with bronze plaques on each side. Mounted above the main plaque on two sides are three torches backed onto a plate.

The current Cenotaph was unveiled and dedicated in 1938 and replaced an earlier temporary First World War memorial that stood on the site since 1920. The new cenotaph was constructed in response to a need for recognition of subsequent conflicts along with continuing to remember the First World War.

2.4 Methodology

This report provides an overview on the condition of the Site. Where observations may contain a recommendation for action (generally a repair or further investigation) and if so these will be accompanied with a priority rating. The ratings indicate the following levels of priority:

1 – Urgent work, requiring immediate attention. Issue severity could lead closure of parts of premises / immediate risk to health and safety / serious breach of legislation. e.g. dangerously unstable masonry or finishes likely to cause injury or structural damage.

2 – Essential work that will prevent serious deterioration of fabric / address medium risk to health and safety / minor breach of legislation (generally required within 12 months) e.g. drainage blockages, missing roof tiles, rotten timberwork, monitoring of possible ongoing structural movement, failed flashings

3 – Necessary work that will prevent deterioration of fabric / address minor risk to health and safety (generally required within 12 – 24 months). e.g. high priority repointing, high priority timber redecoration, gutter leaks and adjustments

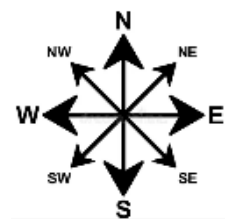
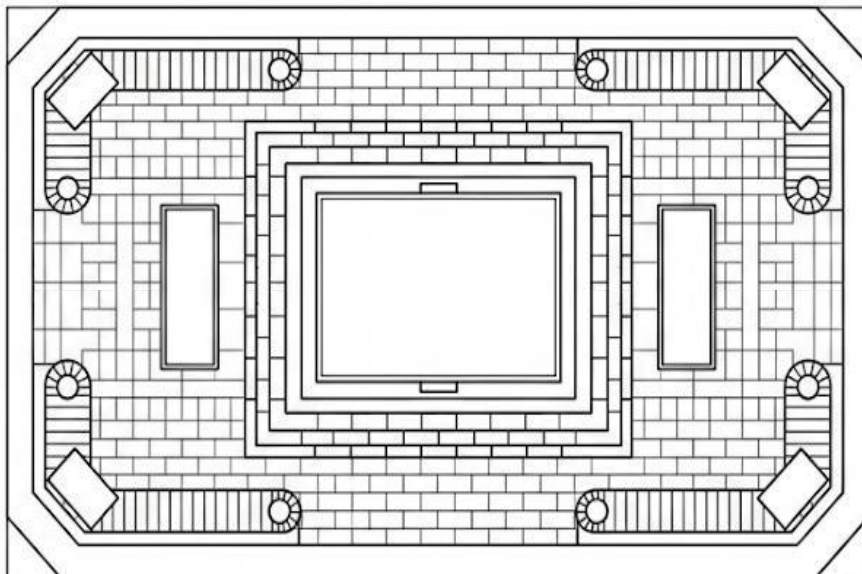
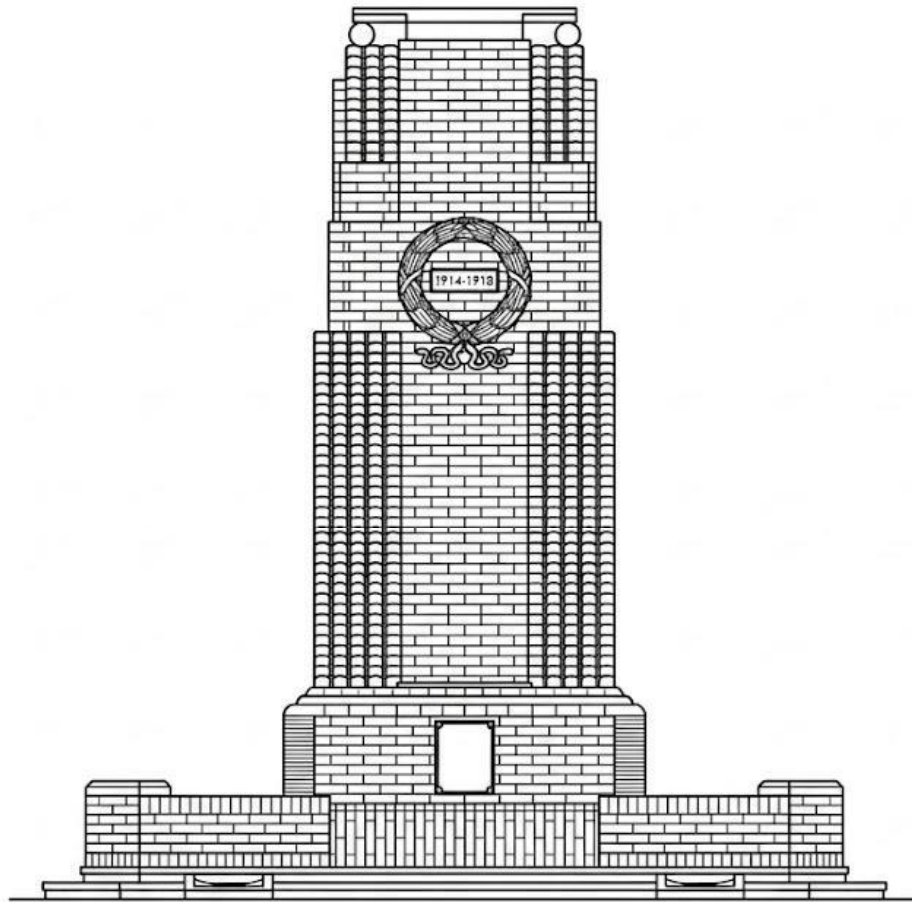
4 – Desirable remedial work that will prevent deterioration over the long term (generally required within 5 years) e.g. lower priority repointing, lower priority redecoration,

5 - Desirable Improvement with no timescale e.g. functional improvements, monitoring of historic structural movement and other issues that are unlikely to cause consequential damage at this time.

The recommendations made in the report are based upon a conservation minded approach that is considered appropriate to its status. The recommendations herein also rely upon constructional methods of repair, using materials compatible and consistent with the historic fabric, and, wherever possible, repair techniques that are reversible and that maximise the retention of the surviving historic fabric.

Recommendations are not intended to be used as repair specifications.

3 – GENERAL ARRANGEMENT



4 - CONDITION: OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

	Base	
4.1	The base is a raised paved area surrounded by brick dwarf walls around the corners.	
4.2	Paving slabs all have open joints but would have originally been tightly jointed. Slabs are loose to all sides and are rocking on the lower step and all should be re-bed in mortar. RE-LAY PAVING SLABS 	2

4.3	The dwarf walls have bricks laid vertically and a circular pier to each end. A brick is chipped in the southwest corner and should be repaired. BRICK REPAIR 	3
4.4	Each corner has a floodlight with polycarbonate and metal grille. There is a fixing bolt missing to the grille in the northwest corner. REPLACE FIXING BOLT 	4

4.5	There is a fixing bolt missing from the grille in the northeast corner. REPLACE FIXING BOLT 	4
4.6	There is movement in the bricks on the northeast corner and a joint has opened. The joint should be repointed. REPOINTING 	2

4.7	There are bolts missing from the grille of the southeast corner, that need replacing to prevent unauthorised access to the interior. REPLACE FIXING BOLTS 	1
4.8	Moss should be removed from all joints and any open joints repointed. REMOVE MOSS AND REPOINT 	3

	Plinth	
4.9	The monument has a red brick plinth with tiles laid horizontally forming the corners and a Staffordshire Blue brick laid vertically. .	
4.10	On the south face there is a bronze plaque inscribed 'The Glorious Dead'. A hot or cold wax coating could be considered following cleaning. CONSIDER WAX COATING OF BRONZE 	5
4.11	The plinth has open joints that need repointing. REPOINTING 	2

4.12	The west face has a brass plaque commemorating the Dunkirk Veterans. There is some tarnishing of the metal that could be polished out. CONSIDER METAL POLISH 	5
4.13	Brickwork has open joints that should be repointed. REPOINTING.	2
4.14	Plinth bricks are chipped and a mortar repair should be carried out to prevent water ingress. BRICK MORTAR REPAIR 	3

4.15	The north face has a similar bronze plaque as the south inscribed 'The Glorious Dead'. A hot or cold wax coating could be considered following cleaning. CONSIDER WAX COATING OF BRONZE 	5
4.16	The east face has a bronze plaque commemorating the El Alamein veterans. There has been a previous application of a coating but this is wearing. A reapplication of a hot or cold wax coating could be considered following cleaning. CONSIDER WAX COATING OF BRONZE 	5

4.17	Bricks and joints were generally satisfactory to this side.	
	Monument	
4.18	Rising from the plinth the monument has red bullnose bricks laid in a stacked form to the corners with a recessed buff brick to the centre forming a cross. On the south face brickwork is stained from atmospheric dirt and consideration should be given to cleaning. Cleaning should be considered with an appropriate biocide. If results are not satisfactory a superheated steam system could be considered. No abrasive or high-pressure methods should be employed. BRICK CLEANING 	4

4.19	A bronze plaque commemorates the Normandy veterans. A reapplication of a hot or cold wax coating could be considered following cleaning. CONSIDER WAX COATING OF BRONZE 	5
4.20	The west side has similar discolouration of the brickwork. Cleaning should be considered with an appropriate biocide. If results are not satisfactory a superheated steam system could be considered. No abrasive or high-pressure methods should be employed. BRICK CLEANING 	4

4.21	There is a carved stone wreath inlaid at high level. Joints are open around the stone and should be repointed. REPOINTING 	2
4.22	The north face has similar staining. Cleaning should be considered with an appropriate biocide. If results are not satisfactory a superheated steam system could be considered. No abrasive or high-pressure methods should be employed. BRICK CLEANING	5
4.23	The north face has similar staining. Cleaning should be considered with an appropriate biocide. If results are not satisfactory a superheated steam system could be considered. No abrasive or high-pressure methods should be employed. BRICK CLEANING	5
4.24	There is a similar carved stone wreath inlaid at high level. Joints are cracked around the stone and should be repointed. REPOINTING 	2

4.25	Open joints are particularly prevalent within the circular bricks, where vegetation has started to take hold. Vegetation should be removed and bricks re-pointed. REPOINTING 	2
4.26	At the head of the monument there is a raised table frame which looks to be constructed of granite slabs supported on spheres on each corner. Joints have opened up to each corner where the slabs do not appear to be well fixed together. Slabs on the longest sides are tipping outward and propped by what look to be loose fragments of brick. Stability of this whole structure needs to be checked. CHECK/STABILISE TABLE FRAME 	1

4.26	The cenotaph is a hollow structure - the interior can be accessed via a door disguised as the plaque on the north side, however interior access was not available at the time of survey. The interior appears to have been daylit by a glazed panel set into a wrought iron frame in the top of the structure. Oblique views show that the glazing is missing with some remnants remaining around the perimeter. The wrought iron frame is corroded and need to be removed or de-scaled and decorated. REDECORATE WROUGHT IRON 	4
4.27	The opening should be filled with a new glazed panel or at least mesh to prevent bird access. MESH/GLAZE OPENING	2
4.28	Cement flaunching around the top of the brickwork is hairline cracked in places but remains in-situ	

4.29

The top is now weathered with a sheet of thin polycarbonate which prevent rain from entering the opening. The sheet appears well-fixed with steel rivets. The polycarbonate has clouded and distorted slightly but remains unseen and functional.



5 - SCOPE OF THE REPORT

This report is based on the findings of an inspection made from the ground and from other readily accessible parts.

It is emphasised that the inspection has been purely visual and that no enclosed spaces or inaccessible parts such as boarded floors, roof spaces or hidden timbers at the wall heads have been opened up for inspection. Any part which may require further investigation is referred to in the appropriate section of this report.

We have not inspected woodwork or other parts of the structure which are covered, unexposed or inaccessible and we are, therefore, unable to report that any such part of the property is free from defect.

We can make no comment on the substrata and cannot confirm that the property is unaffected by coal seams, underground workings or general subsidence.

Unless stated to the contrary a physical penetrative examination has not been undertaken as part of this report. A full structural survey has not been carried out.

No tests have been carried out to determine whether red ash or clinker has been used as filling below ground slabs or the like. No investigation has been carried out in respect of pollution or contamination of ground on which the property is built. We are not aware of mining operations or adverse soil conditions. Should investigative work be required, this will be subject to an additional instruction fee to the appropriate specialist.

Where properties are occupied, the inspection of floors and certain areas will be limited. Such areas as can be exposed and inspected will be commented upon; where carpet cannot be lifted, we will be unable to comment on, and as such we cannot say the floors under are free from defect.

We have not tested hollow walls to determine the condition of wall ties; should investigative work be required, this will be subject to an additional instruction/fee.

In normal circumstances it is not possible to comment in detail on the condition of ceiling and wall plaster where it is covered by ceiling and wallpaper. It must be borne in mind that the condition of ceiling and wallpaper will cause wall plaster in particular to have become detached from the underlying structure.

We have not tested the various main services, specialist heating, electrical and mechanical service. Engineers should be commissioned to carry out such tests on additional instructions/fees.

Furthermore, we must stress that we have not carried out any investigation to determine whether High Alumina Cement was used during the construction of the building inspected and we are therefore unable to report that the building is free from risk in this respect. In view of the possible potential danger connected with High Alumina Cement, we strongly recommend that the appropriate investigations, inspections and tests be carried out immediately by a suitably qualified engineer. Roof voids will be entered only if there is adequate access, the cover of which is removable without significant damage being caused.

Drains and underground services have not been examined or tested; camera tests can be carried out at an additional fee.

We can make no comment on the location or type of asbestos which may be present in the building. A specialist contractor would need to be separately employed to test for the presence of asbestos.

Cruciform Ltd. accept no liability for losses directly or indirectly arising out of, or in any way involving the actual, potential, alleged or threatened formation, growth, presence, release or dispersal of any fungi, moulds, spores or mycotoxins of any kind.

We have not checked the site for Japanese Knotweed nor Giant Hogweed. These are notifiable weeds, and their presence can cause serious damage to buildings and sites. If Japanese Knotweed or Giant Hogweed are discovered, they should be disposed of in accordance with the Countryside Act.

Although best practice dictates that the buildings should be inspected every five years, it should be realised that serious troubles may develop in between these surveys if minor defects are left unattended.

6 – RECOMMENDED REPAIRS

1 – Urgent work, requiring immediate attention.

2 – Essential work (generally required within 12 months)

3 – Necessary work (generally required within 12 – 24 months)

4 – Desirable remedial work (generally required within 5 years)

5 - Desirable Improvement with no timescale

L = Listed Building Consent is likely required (*check with LPA)

C = Cyclical Maintenance task

V = works suitable for volunteer participation (subject to supervision and risk assessment)

Priority 1 Repairs:			
1	REPLACE FIXING BOLTS	4.7	
2	CHECK / STABILISE TABLE FRAME	4.26	
Priority 2 Repairs:			
3	RE-LAY PAVING	4.2	
4	REPOINTING	4.6, 4.11, 4.13, 4.21, 4.24,	
5	MESH/GLAZE TOP OPENING	4.27	L
Priority 3 Repairs:			
6	BRICK MORTAR REPAIR	4.3, 4.14	L
7	DEVEGETATE AND REPOINT	4.8,	V
Priority 4 Repairs:			
8	REPLACE FIXING BOLT	4.4, 4.5,	
9	BRICK CLEANING	4.18, 4.20, 4.22, 4.23,	
10	DECORATE WROUGHT IRON	4.26	
Priority 5 Repairs:			
11	BRONZE WAXING	4.10, 4.15, 4.16, 4.19,	C
12	METAL POLISH	4.12,	V