

Bolehill War Memorial

Design and Access Statement

1. Site and context

The Bolehill and Steeple Grange War Memorial is located between Wirksworth, and Bolehill, Derbyshire. It commemorates the fallen of the Steeple Grange and Bolehill area of Wirksworth and was listed Grade II on 21 Feb 2007. The war memorial is situated where the B5036 and New Road, Bolehill meet and is visible from both. The site backs on to the garden of a house on Memorial Croft, but there is clearance all around the building.

Following concerns from the community and an assessment by a building surveyor specialising in historic buildings, a proposal has been drawn together to renovate the memorial.

2. Use

The war memorial is open to the general public to pay their respects, it also serves as a public seating area, containing as it does, a bench. It was erected in 1925, and dedicated to the men of Bolehill and Steeple Grange who sacrificed their lives in the First World War, and a further two who lost their lives in the Second World War.

3. Layout and Access

The memorial will not be changing in terms of location, orientation and height as the plan is to restore the existing structure, and indeed to remove some previous modifications which have proved detrimental. It will sit within the existing footprint. The shrubbery either side may be reduced to allow for better drainage.

The memorial is accessible to the general public 24 hours a day. It sits on the main road between Wirksworth and Cromford and pedestrian access will remain the same. The seat is a useful public facility for those walking to Steeple Grange or Cromford up the steep hill. Car parking is available on New Road, just past the memorial.

5. Appearance and renovation proposal

The memorial is unusual in its form as a recess shelter and innovative in the early use of reinforced moulded concrete in its construction. In relief across the arch reads 'They died that we may live'. Though in relatively good condition for its age unfortunately the memorial has been subject to some deterioration, predominantly due to the modification and subsequent decay of the guttering and roof surface which has caused water damage.

The materials used to restore the memorial will be carefully chosen to match the original/ existing surfaces. This will consist of the following:

- Removal, de-rust and repaint of cast iron rainwater goods
- Rake out mastic/ dirt filled gaps and open joints and re-mortar all.
- Delicate concrete repair to the precast concrete pediment using Remmer's restoration mortar matched to the correct colour.
- Removal of broken uPVC guttering and restoration of original finish with waterproof lining.
- Installation of synthetic rubber membrane to replace the decayed bitumen roof covering.
- Application of corrosion inhibitor and a Funcosil Façade Cream to all concrete surfaces.

6. Conclusion

The existing structure is listed and can be seen from a busy B-Road. The building is currently at risk of falling into disrepair. The proposed works to the roof and rain goods will restore the building to its original design, and maintain a significant community landmark and facility.

