

HYDRO CLEAN EXTERIOR

Exterior Cleaning and restoration specialists

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Lower Swell - War Memorial Project

Location: Lower Swell, Gloucestershire

Designation: Grade 2 listed - Ref: 10789867

Construction date: 31st July 1921

Material: Portland stone construction

This cleaning project has been approved by Swell Parish council and contact, including arrangements made via the clerk Chris Tombs.

Pre Clean Inspection

A pre clean inspection of the war memorial was carried out on the 19th June 2018 in order to determine to best method to carry out the clean.

The memorial was found to be generally in good condition. All four sides of the main body of the memorial had a significant covering of black algae as well as large patches of white, black and yellow lichen covering the incised inscriptions making them illegible. The inscriptions are in very good condition with no signs of corrosion or damage.

The upper decorative sections of the memorial stone work is showing minor signs of surface corrosion which has only just pitted the surface of the stone.

The memorial appears to be structurally sound with no visual signs of subsidence or erosion affecting its integrity. The surrounding area on which the memorial is located is laid to lawn and well kept with no sinkage or depressions present.

The base of the memorial has two cracks on the 3rd tier/ upper step of around 30cm long which run across the corners of two separate stones (pictures 1 & 2). Both cracks have run completely through the stone work meaning the corner pieces are now detached but still in place. Stone work repairs would help prevent further damage from water ingress/ frost.

The 2nd tier/ step has two minor chips in the lower edge of the stone work that sits against the 1st tier step (pictures 3 & 4). While these chips are minor the pointing around each of them appears to be loose allowing further damage from water ingress/ frost in the future.

The urn located at the top of the memorial has a heavy build up of lichen and moss.



Cleaning Method

Cleaning of the memorial carried out on Monday 3rd September 2018.

The cleaning method used to complete the clean was chosen after assessing which techniques would achieve acceptable results while keeping the risks of abrasion or damage to the memorial to a minimum.

Tools used...

- Plastic bladed scrapers
- Nylon / natural bristled brushes

Cleaning solution used...

- PH neutral, biodegradable soap at a 40:1 solution with fresh, clean water.
- Rinsing with fresh. clean water at no more than 10bar of pressure.

The flame urn at the top of the memorial had the majority of the moss scraped out using scrapers and was then brushed down to remove as much organic build up as possible without extensive scrubbing due to the delicate nature and design and stone work.



The main body of the memorial including the inscribed sections had the majority of the lichen and organic build up scraped off and was then brushed down with the soapy cleaning solution to remove as much of the discolouration as possible. This was repeated several times until most of the build up had turned soft and been removed so the inscriptions were legible.

The base/ steps around the bottom of the memorial where brushed down, scrapped where required the washed down with the soapy solution to remove any build up of dirt and traffic film that had adhered to the horizontal surfaces. Minimal black lichen staining and other organic matter that was well adhered to the stonework in this section was removed to an acceptable level which balances the extensiveness of cleaning with leaving the memorial with its aged look and heritage.



Cleaning project before and after pictures...



