

Case Name: Pangbourne War Memorial

Case Number: 1444743

Background

The war memorial in Pangbourne, Berkshire is being assessed for listing as part of Historic England's First World War Commemoration project.

Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	List Entry Number	Name	Heritage Category	HE Recommendation
1	1452724	Pangbourne War Memorial	Listing	Add to List

Visits

None: Data from other sources.

Context

The memorial is situated in Pangbourne Conservation Area. It stands within the Churchyard of St James the Less (Grade II*) facing Pangbourne Hill, and the Loveling Tomb (Grade II) is nearby. There are no known threats to the memorial.

Assessment

CONSULTATION

The owner, the local authority, the Historic Environment Record (HER) and War Memorials Trust were invited to comment on the factual details of the case as part of the consultation process.

The owner responded to correct the number of names on the memorial as identified in our report and to provide further information on the history of the memorial and its recent restoration. Further correspondence and research could not secure the additional attribution of the memorial's design to the architect J Stanley Vaughan and, therefore, his involvement has been mentioned in a revised History section and not included in the Details, where Vera Waddington is still cited as the sole designer.

The HER responded with a link to a further website, which has been added to the Sources.

The War Memorials Trust responded to send further photographs and to note that conservation works funded by the trust were carried out in 2017. The History section has been updated accordingly and it is also now noted that the name of a soldier who fell in Bosnia in 1994 was added to the memorial later. Other comments were made, but their content is not considered to require any other amendments to the draft List entry.

No other responses were received.

DISCUSSION

War memorials attract considerable public interest and will warrant serious consideration for designating, especially during the centenary of the First World War. The Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings (DCMS, March 2010) sets out how the Secretary of State determines whether a building or structure is of special interest and merits listing. The Historic England Listing Selection Guide for Commemorative

Structures (December 2017) states that, unless compromised by alteration or of little design interest, there is a presumption in favour of listing all war memorials.

This is a well-crafted example of a war memorial cross. Standing in a prominent position in front of the Church of St James the Less (Grade II*) and close to the Loveling Tomb (Grade II) it makes a striking visual reference point and is an eloquent witness to the tragic impacts of world events on this community. There is additional rarity and historic interest due to the attribution of its design to a female, the local artist Vera Waddington. It has a distinctive architectural quality while adopting a suitably solemn appearance for its commemorative purpose. Overall, it is considered that the memorial has special architectural and historic interest and meets the criteria for listing.

In recommending the extent of the listing, we have considered whether powers of exclusion under s1 (5A) of the 1990 Act are appropriate, and consider that they are not.

CONCLUSION

After examining all the available records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing are fulfilled. Pangbourne War Memorial is therefore recommended for listing at Grade II.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION

Pangbourne War Memorial is recommended for listing at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

Historic interest:

- * as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the local community, and the sacrifice it made in the conflicts of the C20;
- * as a rare example of a war memorial designed by a female artist.

Architectural interest:

- * as a well-crafted cross design in Portland stone and brick;
- * the structure is unaltered except for restored detailing.

Group value:

- * in the Churchyard of St James the Less (Grade II*) close to the Loveling Tomb (Grade II).

Countersigning comments:

Agreed.
Deborah Williams
23 February 2018

Annex 1**List Entry****List Entry Summary**

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: Pangbourne War Memorial

List Entry Number: 1452724

Location

Churchyard of St James the Less, Pangbourne Hill, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7AR

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
	West Berkshire	Unitary Authority	Pangbourne

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed:

Date of most recent amendment:

Legacy System Information

This section only relates to older records, created before the introduction of the National Heritage List for England in 2011.

Legacy System: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy Number: Not applicable to this List entry.

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description**Summary of Building**

A war memorial cross of 1920 by artist Vera Waddington.

Reasons for Designation

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Historic interest:

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Architectural interest:

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History

The aftermath of the First World War saw the biggest single wave of public commemoration ever with tens of thousands of memorials erected across England. One such memorial was raised at Pangbourne as a permanent testament to the sacrifice made by the members of the local community, who lost their lives in the First World War.

It commemorates 41 local servicemen who died during the First World War. Following the Second World War, a dedication was added to commemorate the 14 Fallen of that conflict. Subsequently, the name of a local soldier killed in Bosnia in 1994 has been added to the memorial.

Pangbourne War Memorial was designed by Vera Waddington, a local artist, although architect J Stanley Vaughan may also have been involved. Her design was accepted by the war memorial committee on 23 October 1919. The memorial was erected in September 1920 and was unveiled on 7 October 1920 by Major General T Waddington. A memorial window in the parish church was also dedicated on the same day.

The memorial underwent conservation works in 2017 with grant assistance from War Memorials Trust and through local donations.

Details

A war memorial of 1920 date by V Waddington.

MATERIALS: constructed of limestone with brick detailing.

DESCRIPTION: a stone wheel cross on top of a square shaft. The shaft rises from a stepped square plinth with brick detailing to the corners on a single-stepped base. The limestone panels between the brick are simply incised with the dates of the conflicts and the names of the Fallen. The south face of the plinth is inscribed IN/ PROUD AND GRATEFUL/ MEMORY/ OF THE MEN OF OUR PARISH/ WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES/ IN THE GREAT WAR/ 1914 1919/ GRANT LORD/ THAT WE MAY LIVE NOBLY/ AS THESE MEN DIED.

The 2017 works included restoration of the inscription panels and new paving laid around the memorial.

Selected Sources

Websites

UK National Inventory of War Memorials - Pangbourne, accessed 22 November 2017 from
<http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/9084>

Vera Waddington, Artist 1876-1954, accessed 22 November 2017 from
<http://verawaddington.com/pangbourne-war-memorial-from-vera-s-diaries/>

War Memorials Online - Pangbourne, accessed 22 November 2017 from
<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/209180/>

West Berkshire War Memorials - Pangbourne, accessed 21 February 2018 from
<http://westberkshirwarmemorials.org.uk/memorial.php?link=W B041>

Other

Reading Observer, Saturday 16 October 1920

Map

National Grid Reference: SU6344076415



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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - 1452724_1.pdf