

IMI Independent Memorial Inspection

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11th February 2025

Mr. Richard Blythin
Secretary/Treasurer
Oakham Memorial Institute
6 Kingfisher Close
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6ER

Dear Mr. Blythin

**Re: Oakham War Memorial, All Saint's Churchyard, Church Passage/Church Ln,
Oakham, LE15 6AA
War Memorial Archive, Imperial War Museum Ref: 37776**

Please find below a estimate for the cleaning of the above war memorial. The cleaning will be undertaken by **Steam.Steam Cleaning** (DOFF style) uses the 150 degree temperature of the steam to remove soiling, not high pressure, so does not damage the stone (removes algae, organic growth, paint etc). This method is chemical free and environmentally friendly, non-toxic and non-hazardous, causing no damage to the surface being cleaned. Additional compounds may be used to aid cleaning.

Historic England and War Memorials Trust, have authorised this method of cleaning previously, depending upon the cleaning requirements. All pointing required on the memorial is undertaken using Lime Mortar, this is also usually supported by both Historic England and War Memorials Trust, (we do not use cement mortar).

IMI regularly sign contracts on behalf of clients to confirm the cleaning methods are those agreed with War Memorials Trust as part of grant conditions.

Most other alternative methods involve the use of **chemicals** (solvents or caustic) which usual only mask the soiling, may damage the surface and are mostly environmentally damaging or the use of **carbon rubbing blocks** which removes the surface of stone or even **high pressure water cleaning** which again damages the stone. These methods may have issues with environmental health department/agencies, conservation groups and are **not recommended** by Historic England or War Memorials Trust due to damage caused to the stone surface.

The area to be cleaned is the stone surface of the Lantern, shaft, plinth and steps.

All open joints/failed mortar will be removed by hand and will re-pointed with suitable materials (Lime Mortar).

The purpose of the clean is to conserve and protect the memorial while not removing or damaging any of the history or the memorial, it is not to restore to original condition. Due to the nature and type of stone the stone may still have the dark natural colouring as the stone naturally weathers to this colour. To restore to new/original condition chemicals are require and would be classed as restoration not conservation.

The level of cleaning can be agreed on site at the start of the cleaning process.

The quote includes all materials, labor, equipment and any items for health and safety such as scaffolding for complying with Working at Heights regulations, Highways Chapter 8 regulations temporary works. The site will be left clean and tidy. A water supply may be required to fill a water bowser.

The quote shows the cost per item any one item or all the items can be requested from the list. This is a conservation clean not a restoration of the memorial to original condition

As part of the service photos will be taken before and after the works, a written report will be produced and the same information may be provided to the War Memorial Archive, Imperial War Museum to update their records.

We also work in cooperation with "In Memoriam 2014" project to help protect cenotaph in to the future.

Once the works have been awarded method statements, risk assessments, safe method of work and insurance details will be provided.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or clarification on any issues.

Yours faithfully

Jack Sills