



BONCHURCH WAR MEMORIAL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 51/19

10 JUNE 2019

The purpose of this paper is to advise Members of the outcome of Historic England's proposal that the Bonchurch War Memorial to be added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council was informed by Historic England that it has received an application to add the town's War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest ('The List').
 - b) Historic England advised that: *Listing helps us to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest. It brings specific protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future. Listing does not mean, however, that no alterations can be made - in fact in the vast majority of cases applications to make changes to a listed building are approved.*
 - c) The Town Council was provided with a copy of Historic England's initial assessment of the War Memorial on 21 February.
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2) LISTING

- a) An email dated 3 June from Historic England's South Co-ordinator Phillip Seely informed the Town Council that the Bonchurch War Memorial has now been listed (List Entry Number 1463237).
 - b) A copy of the Listing Notice is attached to this Report for Members' information.
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Case Name: Bonchurch War Memorial

Case Number: 1456453

Background

Bonchurch War Memorial is being for listing.

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	1463237	Bonchurch War Memorial	Listing	Add to List

Visits

None: Data from other sources.

Context

The memorial stands within the Bonchurch Conservation Area.

Assessment

CONSULTATION

We invited a representative of the church, the local authority, Ventnor Town Council, the Historic Environment Record (HER) and War Memorials Trust to comment on our consultation report.

The HER responded, providing a report on the war memorial from the HER.

The local authority responded, expressing support for the listing of the memorial.

Ventnor Town Council responded, expressing satisfaction with the report and support for listing.

No other responses were received.

DISCUSSION

War memorials attract considerable public interest and will warrant serious consideration for designating, especially around the centenary of the First World War. The Principles of Selection for Listed Buildings (November 2018) 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.

The war memorial at Bonchurch is a simple, sturdy granite structure, suited to its rocky rural setting – the village of Bonchurch, one of the oldest settlements on the Isle of Wight, is constructed on a stable section of the Undercliff, on the south coast of the island. The memorial's Celtic cross design is embellished by the sword carved in relief on its front face, in the manner of that on Sir Reginald Blomfield's 1918 Cross of Sacrifice designed for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A simple dedication honours the men of the village lost during two world wars.

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

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION

Bonchurch 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.

Architectural interest:

* for its modest yet robust design, combining a Celtic cross with a sword carved in relief recalling the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Cross of Sacrifice.

Group value:

* with the Grade II-listed church of St Boniface of 1847-1848, together with the Leeson family mausoleum of 1864 in Egyptian style, and the Swinburne family tombs, also listed at Grade II; East Dene, a Grade II*-listed house of 1825-1830, and Algernon Swinburne's childhood home, stands to the east, with its lodge of 1854, and the old school and school house of about 1840-1850 are to the south.

Countersigning comments:

Agreed.
SG
26 April 2019

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: Bonchurch War Memorial

List Entry Number: 1463237

Location

St Boniface Church, Bonchurch Shute, Bonchurch, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 1RG

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

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Isle of Wight	Unitary Authority	Ventnor

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**

Bonchurch War Memorial, a First World War memorial of 1920, designed by Herbert Bryant, standing outside the new Church of St Boniface, with added dates and names relating to the Second World War.

Reasons for Designation

Bonchurch War Memorial is listed 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.

Architectural interest:

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History

Bonchurch War Memorial was dedicated in April 1920 by the Rural Dean of East Wight, having been completed the previous month. It was designed by Mr Herbert Bryant and built by Messrs Garret and Haysom of Southampton. The memorial commemorates 18 servicemen of the community who gave their lives in the First World War. At the same time, a commemorative pulpit was dedicated in the new Church of St Boniface, within the churchyard of which the memorial stands; a tablet placed within the church notes that one of the dead, George Henry Russell, was a member of the church choir for 26 years. Further dates and the names of four men lost in the Second World War were added in 1950.

The new Church of St Boniface was built in 1847-1848 to designs by Benjamin Ferrey, replacing the old church of the same dedication which remains about 150 metres to the south-east.

Details

First World War memorial, 1920, designed by Herbert Bryant. The memorial, which takes the form of a Celtic cross, stands at the east side of the churchyard of St Boniface, near the entrance gates. Inscriptions have been added relating to the Second World War.

MATERIALS: granite with lead lettering.

DESCRIPTION: a rough-hewn granite wheel cross with a Sword of Sacrifice carved in relief on its front face, rising from a similarly rough-hewn tapered plinth on a square base. A recessed panel on the front of the plinth bears the inscription in sans-serif lettering, 'TO THE MEMORY/ OF THE MEN OF BONCHURCH/ WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR/ 1914-1919' with the names of the fallen below. The side of the plinth carries the additional inscription, '1939-45', followed by the names of those lost during that conflict.

Selected Sources

Websites

Imperial War Museum Register of War Memorials, accessed 21 February 2019 from
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/21716>

Isle of Wight Memorials website, accessed 21 February 2019 from
<http://www.isle-of-wight-memorials.org.uk/towns/bonchurch.htm>

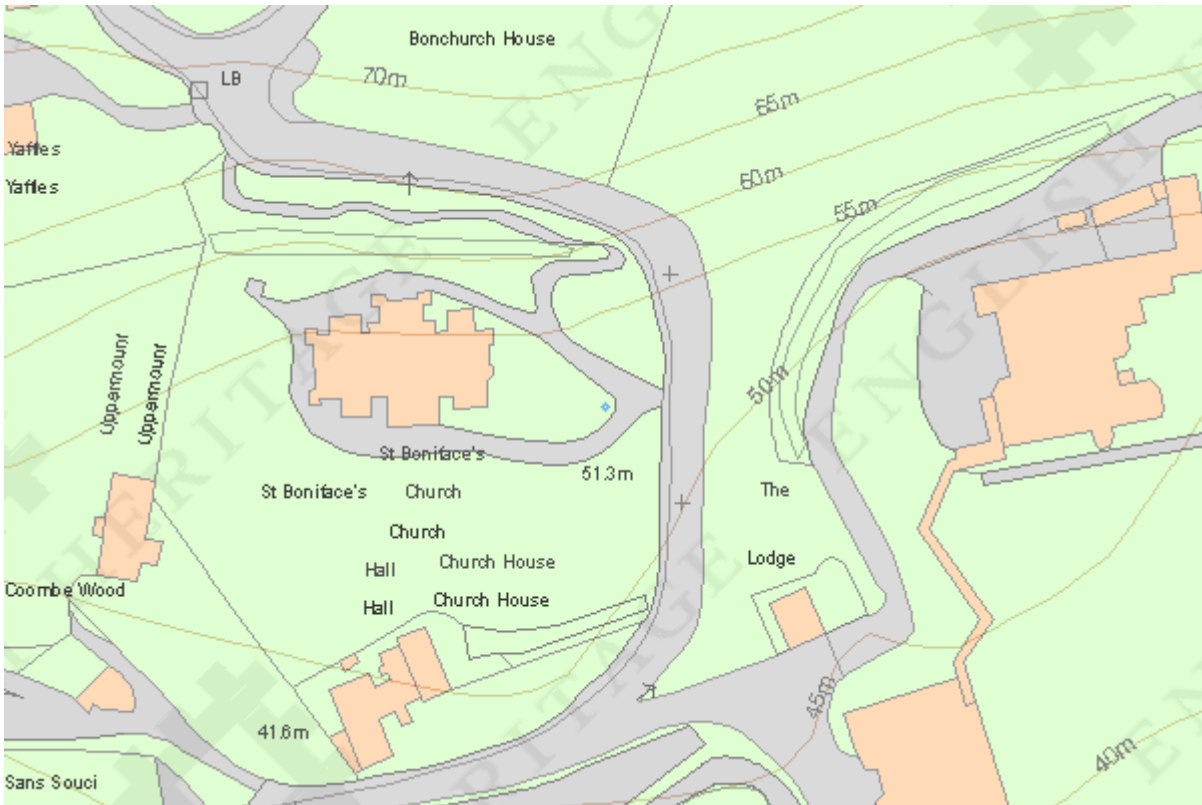
War Memorials Online, accessed 21 February 2019 from
<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/251738/>

Other

'Bonchurch', Portsmouth Evening News, (20th March 1920), p6

Map

National Grid Reference: SZ5767978127



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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 - 1463237_1.pdf