



CUMBERLAND COUNCIL DELEGATED PLANNING DECISION

1.	Reference No:	4/25/2425/0L1
2.	Proposed Development:	LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR THE ADDITION OF TWO NAMES TO LOWCA WAR MEMORIAL
3.	Location:	LOWCA WAR MEMORIAL, JUNCTION WITH WEST CROFT TERRACE AT HIGH LOWCA
4.	Parish:	Lowca
5.	Constraints:	ASC Adverts - ASC;Adverts, Coal - Standing Advice - Data Subject To Change
6.	Publicity Representations &Policy	Neighbour Notification Letter: NO Site Notice: YES Press Notice: YES Consultation Responses: See report Relevant Planning Policies: See report
7.	Report:	<p>SITE AND LOCATION</p> <p>The Application site relates to the Lowca War Memorial which is located on the junction with West Croft Terrace at High Lowca.</p> <p>The memorial is Grade II Listed. The listing entry of the building states the following:</p> <p>Summary</p> <p>First World War memorial, 1920, with Second World War additions.</p> <p>Reasons for Designation</p> <p>Lowca War Memorial, which is situated on a roadside green in High Lowca, is listed at Grade</p>

It for the following principal reasons:

Historic interest:

* as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this local community, and the sacrifices it has made in the conflicts of the C20.

Architectural interest:

* an elegant and well-executed granite column featuring decorative details.

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. This was the result of both the huge impact on communities of the loss of three quarters of a million British lives, and also the official policy of not repatriating the dead which meant that the memorials provided the main focus of the grief felt at this great loss. One such memorial was raised at Lowca as a permanent testament to the sacrifice made by the members of the local community who lost their lives in the First World War.

Lowca War Memorial was originally situated near to the Methodist Chapel. Some of the funding came from the disbanded Lowca Prisoner of War Fund in March 1919. The rest was raised by public subscription. The memorial was designed by Messrs Beattie and Co of Carlisle, whose design was accepted in May 1919, so long as they agreed to incorporate a carved rifle. The cost was approximately £105.

The memorial was unveiled near to the Methodist Chapel on 25 April 1920 by Thomas Crellin (of Lowca) and was maintained by the local branch of the British Legion until the 1960s, from then on having been maintained by the Parish Council. The memorial commemorates ten local servicemen who fell in the First World War and five men who fell in the Second World War.

The memorial was moved a short distance northwards to its current position in 2008.

Details

First World War memorial, 1920.

MATERIALS: grey granite.

DESCRIPTION: Lowca War Memorial is located on a roadside green, High Lowca at the junction with West Croft Terrace, Lowca, Cumbria. It is prominently situated by the side of the main north-south road through the village. It comprises a light grey granite column with vertical incised flutings, which stands atop a moulded pedestal with cornice and wreaths carved at the top, leaded names below, and it stands on a moulded three-tiered base featuring a carved crossed rifle and sword to the front face. The column is surmounted by acanthus carvings. A recent (2008) stone tablet had been added to mark a relocation.



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The inscription is in leaded lettering and reads ERECTED BY/ THE INHABITANTS OF LOWCA/ TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE/ WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR/ 1914 – 1918/ (NAMES)// 1939 – 1945/ (NAMES)// THIS MEMORIAL WAS RE-SITED/ THE 22ND SEPTEMBER 2008/ BY THE PEOPLE OF LOWCA.

PROPOSAL

This application seeks Listed Building Consent for the addition of two names on the blank rear side of the war memorial. The proposed lettering will follow the same style, font and format as the existing lettering on the memorial.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Lowca Parish Council

No response received.

Conservation and Design Officer

1st response

Description: Lowca war memorial dates from 1920, and was relocated in 2008.

Conclusion: Request further information

Assessment:

- I do not believe that adding two names to the war memorial will in itself cause any harm to the memorial's significance, provided there is space to do so and the lettering matches the existing lettering.
- I note the consultation response of the War Memorials Trust. While I do not believe the proposal will entail harm to the memorial, the main concerned appear to already be commemorated elsewhere, making this a somewhat unusual proposal.

Summary

- Although I don't see any reason related to the conservation of the memorial as to why the proposed addition should not go ahead, I recommend that the applicants consult further with the War Memorials Trust in order to decide whether to actually proceed with the work on the basis that the names are already commemorated elsewhere.
- Before undertaking the work, I would request a drawing of the lettering, as proposed, in situ (i.e. a proposed elevation drawing of the war memorial) showing where the lettering will go and what it will look like. The details of the inscription currently included only state the wording, not these other details.
- I would be happy for this aspect to be handled using a condition to be discharged prior to

carrying out the work.

2nd response

Description: Lowca war memorial dates from 1920, and was relocated in 2008.

Conclusion: No objection

Assessment:

- In my previous consultation, I recommended further dialogue with the War Memorials Trust, and requested a drawing of the proposed lettering be supplied showing its appearance in situ.
- A visualisation has been provided, showing the proposed lettering on the black rear side of the war memorial.
- I also understand that further dialogue with the War Memorials Trust has taken place
- I take the view that the proposal will not harm the significance of the war memorial, trusting that the names have been identified correctly.

National Amenities Society

No response received.

War Memorials Trust

1st response

War Memorials Trust is the national charity for the protection and conservation of war memorials in the UK.

War Memorials Trust has been made aware of the listed building consent application by one of its supporters in relation to Lowca war memorial,
www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/169321.

Unveiled in 1920 the memorial was originally within the grounds of the Methodist Church relocated to its present position in 2008. It was listed Grade II in 2018,
www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/thelist/list-entry/1457587

The information presented with the planning application includes the names Pte G. Whitehead, 12th Border Regiment and Pte G. Askew, Royal Artillery proposed to be added on the north side of the memorial.

In terms of which names are included on war memorials, communities sometimes based names on those born within a certain area, living in an area or just relied on the names put forward by those living in the area at the time. Sometimes families did not want their loved ones recorded as they may still have been missing or the family did not agree with the memorial. On other occasions families choose to commemorate loved ones elsewhere – today this may not be so clear to us, but we should be careful to respect the choices of the



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families of the time and recognise that may be different to what we might expect today.

Particularly after the World Wars when bodies were not repatriated, war memorials stood in place of the graves of those who fell so were sites family and friends visited as they would have graveside. War Memorials Trust generally discourages the addition of names which are commemorated on other war memorials as this demonstrates that the individuals were not overlooked and that the bereaved choose where to commemorate people that was right at the time for them; it is not necessarily appropriate for us to change their decisions.

If someone died after the war it is likely they have a grave at which their family could mourn. As such, adding them to the war memorial could be a duplication and change the nature of the memorial. The decision was often made at the time that if the family had a grave, the name was not on the war memorial.

Working out what the criteria used for collecting the existing names on the war memorial before deciding about adding is important. It may help to review our helpsheets listed below:

- Addition of names www.warmemorials.org/faqs/#Addition_of_names
- Ownership of war memorials www.warmemorials.org/hshown
- Researching the history of a war memorial www.warmemorials.org/researchhistory
- Researching the names on a war memorial www.warmemorials.org/hshresearchnames

The importance of research is demonstrated in this case. Pte G. Whitehead is believed to be buried at St Bridget's Church, Moresby having died from influenza after the 1918 Armistice. His grave is marked by a War Grave headstone therefore commemoration already exists. Pte G. Askew is understood to have died in February 1918 and is commemorated overseas. It may be appropriate to seek further evidence to establish if a local dedication already exists or whether inclusion did not meet relevant criteria or wishes at the time. For example, there appear to be dedications to a G. Askew and G. Whitehead at nearby Harrington, see www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/170467/ and www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/118650/.

In respect of the addition, although entirely separate to the existing inscription there would appear be sufficient space. If the request to add the names is accepted by the LPA then the Trust would recommend any addition is on a like-for-like basis, using the same style, font and format as the existing.

2nd response

War Memorials Trust is the national charity for the protection and conservation of war memorials in the UK.

War Memorials Trust was made aware of the listed building consent application by one of its supporters in relation to Lowca war memorial, www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/169321. It previously submitted comment on 15th

January 2026.

This document provides further comments following receipt of the consultation letter. The application proposes to add two names to the listed Lowca war memorial. Our previous advice drew attention to the need for research and information to establish whether commemoration already exists and we drew attention to possible candidates. We also highlighted the physical considerations for adding the names.

The new information includes the applicant's response consisting of a letter which references names on the Harrington war memorial, stating that the forenames start with a 'C' rather than a 'G' which therefore leads them to believe they are not commemorated there.

It is unclear which memorial the applicant is referring to as to our knowledge there are two. The first is a brass plaque war memorial in St Mary's Church, Harrington see www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/170467/. It is appreciated that the inscription font may be challenging to decipher and the 'G' could be mistaken for a 'C' but as the names are listed in alphabetical order by surname it is possible to see the similarities with some surnames that start with a 'G' illustrating the similarities in the 'C' and 'G' style. It would therefore appear they commemorate G. Askew and G. Whitehead from the photographic records we can see.

The second is the memorial now sited in the churchyard at St Mary's, in Harrington relocated c.2000, see www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/118650/. Again, the font is difficult to decipher and some later re-painting of the inscription may have unintentionally altered or affected clarity. Perhaps a similar assumption having been made. The World War I inscription appears to replicate those names that are on the plaque and therefore again likely to be G. Askew and G. Whitehead.

The evidence presented by the applicant is therefore inconclusive. Whilst it is ultimately a decision for the community, based on the information presently available adding names could result in a duplication and change the nature of the Lowca memorial. Before agreeing works, we would encourage the LPA to be satisfied they have the necessary supporting information. I would draw attention to helpsheets Researching the names on a war memorial, www.warmemorials.org/hshresearchnames and Researching the history of a war memorial www.warmemorials.org/researchhistory.

In respect of the addition, although entirely separate to the existing inscription there would appear be sufficient space on Lowca war memorial (WMO/169321) to include this. And the information provided appears to illustrate that the same format and font will be used which would follow the best conservation practice approach.

Cumberland Property Department

Property have no objections on the basis that planning have undertaken the due diligence as to the legitimacy of the request.

Public Representation



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The application has been advertised by way of a site notice and press notice.

Letters have been received from one objector relating to the following concerns:

- Both forename initials should be included on the inscription;
- A memorial to the deceased exists already;
- The family did not consent to this.

PLANNING POLICY

Planning law requires applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Development Plan

On 1st April 2023, Copeland Borough Council ceased to exist and was replaced by Cumberland Council as part of the Local Government Reorganisation of Cumbria.

Cumberland Council inherited the local development plan documents of each of the sovereign Councils including Copeland Borough Council, which combine to form a Consolidated Planning Policy Framework for Cumberland.

The inherited the local development plan documents continue to apply to the geographic area of their sovereign Councils only.

The Consolidated Planning Policy Framework for Cumberland comprises the Development Plan for Cumberland Council until replaced by a new Cumberland Local Plan.

Copeland Local Plan 2021 – 2039 (LP)

Cumberland Council continued the preparation of the LP as commenced by Copeland Borough Council.

The LP was adopted by Cumberland Council on the 5th of November 2024 replacing the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 and the saved policies of the Copeland Local Plan 2021-2016.

The relevant policies are as follows:

Policy DS4 – Design and Development Standards

Strategic Policy BE1 – Heritage Assets

Policy BE2 – Designated Heritage Assets

Other Material Planning Considerations

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (LBCA)

ASSESSMENT

Works Proposed and Impact on Heritage Asset

Policy DS4 seeks high quality design standards. Policies BE1 and BE2 of the LP seek to protect, conserve and where possible enhance listed buildings and their settings.

The LBCA sets out a clear presumption that gives considerable importance and weight to the desirability of preserving a heritage asset and its setting.

Section 16.2 requires that: *'In considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works the local planning authority or the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses'*.

Paragraphs 184 – 202 of the NPPF in respect of heritage include a requirement that when considering the impact of development proposals on designated heritage assets such as listed buildings, great weight should be given to the conservation of the asset's significance; however, less than significant harm should be weighed against the public benefits of a development.

Information has been provided by the Applicant in respect of the heritage asset significance of the property and the impacts of the proposed development.

The heritage asset significance of the property is principally derived from its physical form/construction.

The works are minimal to inscribe a single name, in the same font and size to those that are existing on the memorial. The Council's Conservation Officer has considered the proposal and has raised no objections following the receipt of a visualization of the proposed lettering, He has concluded that the proposal will not harm the significance of the war memorial.

Comments were received about the appropriateness of the two particular names and whether they had already been memorialized elsewhere. This is not considered to be a matter relating to the consideration of this Listed Building Consent. The Applicant should make sure all of the correct research and permissions have been obtained.

Planning Balance and Conclusion

The Conservation Officer considers that the proposed works are acceptable and will not entail any harm to the significance of the war memorial.

In applying the tests of the Copeland Local Plan 2021-2039, the LBCA and the NPPF, the proposal as amended would preserve the heritage significance of the listed structure and so is therefore supported.

8.

Recommendation:

Approve Listed Building Consent (start within 3yr)



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<p>9. Conditions:</p> <p>1. The works hereby permitted shall be commenced before the expiration of three years from the date of this consent.</p> <p>Reason</p> <p>To comply with Sections 18 and 74 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.</p> <p>2. Permission shall relate to the following plans and documents as received on the respective dates and development shall be carried out in accordance with them: -</p> <p>Application form, received 18th December 2025; Site Location Plan, scale 1:1250, received 18th December 2025; Inscription confirmation, received 18th December 2025; Details of inscription, received 18th December 2025; Design and Access Statement, received 18th December 2025; Supporting information and pictures, received 4th March 2026.</p> <p>Reason</p> <p>To conform with the requirement of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.</p> <p>Statement</p> <p>The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by assessing the proposal against all material considerations, including planning policies and any representations that may have been received, and subsequently determining to grant listed building consent in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Case Officer: Sarah Papaleo</p>	<p>Date : 24/04/2026</p>
<p>Authorising Officer: N.J. Hayhurst</p>	<p>Date : 01/05/2026</p>	
<p>Dedicated responses to:-</p>		