

# Southampton City Council

## Memorials Policy

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## Memorials Policy

December 2023

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Memorials Policy			
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## 1.0 Introduction

This policy focuses on the creation, installation, management and maintenance of memorials on land owned by Southampton City Council.

The aim of this policy, and the procedures that accompany it, is for Southampton to have a fair, transparent and systematic approach to making informed decisions:

- (1) about proposals for new memorials and their long-term management and maintenance
- (2) for proposed removal or replacement of existing memorials and potential additions to provide contextual interpretation
- (3) that will enable communities and stakeholders to be involved and engaged in the process of co-creating Southampton's public spaces to create a greater sense of pride, belonging, identity and shape the look, feel and experience of the city

This policy has been developed in response to:

- (1) a recognition of the value and impact that Memorials, other forms of commemoration and public space interventions can have on a sense of place, identity, belonging and understanding
- (2) the rising number of requests to different parts of the Council for monuments, memorials, public art and other markers
- (3) the Government's 2021 legislative requirement and 2023 guidance that commemorative heritage assets should be *'retained and explained'* through the planning system
- (4) the Full Council Motion in March 2021 that committed to *'never arbitrarily extract or displace any monument, memorial or statue and to subject the decision to appropriate levels of resident consultation'*

Much of the guidance here is also applicable to proposals for public art in general, particularly 'permanent' installations, although it is intended to undertake further work in this arena, which may lead to further adaptations of this policy.

The definitions for 'monument', 'memorial', 'conservation area', 'listed building', 'heritage asset', 'public art', 'public realm' and 'commemorative heritage asset' that have been used to help guide and inform this policy are provided at the end of this document (see Appendix A).

## **2.0 Background**

This section outlines the rationale for this Policy and a summary of existing Memorials and supporting schemes.

### **2.1 Rationale for Policy**

The city is host to over 260 memorials erected over the last 200 years (see Appendix B for the distribution of memorials). They are dedicated to individuals, groups of people, organisations, events or themes that connect to parts of the city and some of its stories. The majority are concentrated in and around the city centre. Most have been funded through private philanthropy, public subscription, gifts and bequests.

The Council receives many approaches each year by those who wish to place a lasting memorial for a person, group of people or event somewhere in the city. This sits alongside requests for installation of public art sometimes generated as a result of regeneration projects. These range from life-size statues or sculptures to small plaques on benches, tree planting and murals.

The result is that there is a geographical, historical, social and cultural imbalance, whilst also reflecting the norms of the time. It is important to acknowledge therefore that in our public landscape today, many of Southampton's diverse stories are invisible to residents and visitors, and the complexity of those stories largely under-appreciated and understood. This is crucially important in a city that seeks to ensure that it is reflective and representative of its communities.

Given their age, many of the existing memorials are also heritage assets because of their evidential, historical, aesthetic, or communal value and where their significance plays a key part in our understanding of the historic environment. It is therefore important that any new proposals are given careful consideration before being installed into the city's public spaces.

Therefore, a joined-up approach to thinking about all such interventions in public spaces is increasingly important – to help tell the story of the city that has meaning for our communities; support the creation of an attractive and engaging landscape; enable better geographical and cultural distribution of such proposals; and consider the financial implications of installing, maintaining and sustaining these assets on behalf of the public.

### **2.2 Existing Memorials**

The vast majority of the 260 or so existing memorials in the public realm in Southampton are in the form of metal plaques mounted on plinths or attached to buildings or monuments, most of which have been installed since the Second World War. A significant number of these plaques mark trees or are attached to benches in the parks across the city.

Amongst the larger memorials, there are at least 23 war memorials, 15 drinking fountains/horse troughs and 8 statues. Most of the statues and drinking fountains were erected during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, whereas the large number of memorials dedicated to the victims of war, both home and abroad, all date from the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards. They continue to be created to mark significant anniversaries and acknowledge less well-known events that have strong connections with the city and the port. Amongst Southampton's stories, the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 and the departure of the Mayflower in 1620, are represented.

The greatest concentration of all types, however, is in the city centre, where about 65% of those dedicated to people or significant events, are concentrated in and around the Civic Centre, Watts Park, the northern half of Andrews Park, Holy Rood Church, and Town Quay. Of these memorials, about half are attached to buildings, a third are in city centre parks and a small number occupy space on the public highway. (See Appendix C for concentration of memorials).

The Council is responsible for the care of two thirds of the memorials, including the 23 that are Listed in their own right, and another 88 that are attached to Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings, or in a Conservation Area.

The remaining third of the memorials have been erected by a very wide range of other organisations with strong links to the city, such as the Ordnance Survey, Bevois Mount History Group, Southampton Football Club, Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society, Far East Prisoners of War. Many of these have been erected more recently than those in the care of the Council.

Black History Month South set up a Black Plaques scheme in recognition of Southampton's rich Black History, which are installed in a variety of locations across the city and the wider region. Similarly, the Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust established a plaques scheme to commemorate sites of Spitfire production and the people who became Spitfire Makers in Southampton, Hampshire and other locations.

The project initiated by the Mayor of Southampton in 2018 to erect plaques on the 230 homes occupied by local people who died in the sinking of the Titanic, is not included in the data used here.

Some of the city's most striking memorials were designed by leading artists of their day and reflect a particular period in the history of art and design, such as the Cenotaph in Watts Park. This was the first cenotaph to be designed by Sir Edward Lutyens, who went on to design the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London and many other similar war memorials. Its national significance is recognised by Historic England through its designation as a Grade I Listed Building. The statue of Isaac Watts in Watts Park was designed by the British sculptor and photographer, Richard Cockle Lucas, who lived in Chilworth, on the northern edge of Southampton.

### **2.3 Southampton's Blue Plaque Scheme**

Run by the Council, Southampton's Blue Plaque Scheme was adopted in conjunction with Historic England in 1999. Since then, seven blue plaques have been erected across Southampton. See [Apply for a blue plaque \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk) for more information.

At the time of writing, the Government is proposing to expand the existing official blue plaques scheme in London into one that will operate England-wide. Any future changes will be considered in this context.

### **2.4 Southampton's Historic Plaque Scheme**

The Blue Plaque Scheme replaced the element of the Historic Plaques Scheme (adopted in 1992), designed to highlight buildings associated with famous people. The other elements of the Historic Plaque Scheme continue to be applied, particularly the use of black, rectangular, cast metal plaques with white lettering and a white rim to mark a community, event, site or building of significance to the history of Southampton. In situations where the building once associated with an individual or community in Southampton no longer exists, the black plaques are used to mark the site where it once stood.

### **2.5 Southampton's Commemorative Seat and Plaque Policy**

Southampton City Council does not usually place commemorative seats and plaques in Southampton's parks and open spaces. However, in some circumstances, requests will be considered subject to several conditions. See [Commemorative Bench](#) for more information.

## 2.6 Alternative Memorials

There are a number of alternatives to the installation of large-scale physical memorials that may be more fitting to celebrating, commemorating and remembering the contributions of individuals, groups and organisations today and in the future. They can include:

- Planting – trees or gardens can provide places for contemplation and reflection and support Southampton’s status as a green city
- Events – celebration or commemoration through regular or annual events can provide an opportunity to bring people together to mark occasions in a meaningful way that binds communities together
- Endowments – installing and maintaining physical memorials can be very costly so committing funds to a charity or educational institution means there will be a longer-term public benefit and lasting legacy
- Other types of plaques – two dimensional plaques or tablets can be a more affordable way of marking people, places and events, and have the potential to also form wayfinding markers or trails that help to tell a connected story

Some of these approaches offer opportunities to involve artists and engage local communities with the stories of individuals, groups and organisations and contributing to a better understanding of Southampton’s story and place in the world. The involvement of an artist can add to aesthetic value, interest and impact of memorials. Where public art proposals fulfil the definition of a memorial, this policy should be considered.

## 3.0 Strategic Context

This section outlines the national and local policy framework for Memorials on Council land.

### 3.1 National Policy

#### 3.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework

23 of the older memorials in Southampton are recognised as being of national importance. The Cenotaph is regarded as one of the most significant heritage assets in the country having been Listed Grade I. The other nationally designated historic memorials are Listed Grade II. Many of the other memorials are listed locally on the Heritage Environment Record as non-designated heritage assets because they contribute to the story of Southampton and add to the richness of the historic environment. See [Historic Environment Record \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/historic-environment-record) for more information.

The National Planning Policy Framework, Section 16. *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, recognises that these assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

#### 3.1.2 New Government legislation

On 17 January 2021, the Government announced new laws to protect England's cultural and historic heritage [see [press release and further Guidance 2023](#)]. This was in the context of the removal of the Colston statue in Bristol in 2020, alongside long-standing discussions around the impact of slavery and Empire and their legacy in the UK and across the world.

The new legal protection means that historic statues should be '*retained and explained*' for future generations. Individuals who want to remove any historic statue, whether listed or not, will now require Listed Building Consent or planning permission.

This also means the Council will need to be confident of the long-lasting legacy of any new memorials that are erected in the city as the process for removal will be complex.

#### 3.1.3. Public Royal Names Memorialisation Guidance

On 4 July 2023, the Cabinet Office issued new guidance for those wishing to mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Formal approval is required for any large-scale, public-facing projects. See [Public Royal names memorialisation guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/public-royal-names-memorialisation-guidance).

### 3.2 Local Policy

A number of Council policies and strategies relating to the Memorials Policy will need to be considered. These are summarised below with further details contained above or in Appendix D:

- Southampton's Blue Plaque Scheme, Historic Plaque Schemes and Commemorative Seat and Plaque Policy (see Sections 2.3 - 2.5 above)
- Southampton City Council Core Strategy Partial Review 2015
- City Centre Action Plan 2015
- Full Council Motion, 2021
- New Local Plan (City Vision)
- Cultural Strategy 2021-2031
- Destination Management Plan 2021-2031
- Festivals and Events Strategy 2022-2032
- Master planning and regeneration
- Economic and Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030
- Southampton Streets and Spaces Framework

## **4.0 Criteria for Memorials and Other Forms of Commemoration**

This section outlines the criteria against which new Memorials on Council land will be assessed:

### **4.1 Connection to Southampton**

All prospective proposals for a memorial must have a clear and well defined historical and conceptual relationship with the proposed location and the city of Southampton. Proposals where there is no, or limited, relationship between the subject and location will not be acceptable.

Evidence of the exploration of alternative or more appropriate sites will need to be shown. For example, a cemetery or churchyard, the National Memorial Arboretum or the location in which the event took place, or the individual lived or worked.

This policy should also encourage a more equitable distribution of new memorials throughout Southampton to ensure that the whole city feels it is part of the story and avoids the focus and saturation of the city centre.

### **4.2 Equity, Inclusion and Diversity**

There will be a requirement that all prospective proposals give due consideration to equity, inclusion and diversity. This includes socio-cultural and socio-economic background, disability, ethnicity, age, sexuality, gender, gender reassignment and religion or belief. This may be through the memorial itself or wider interpretation and production of associated materials and supporting information.

### **4.3 Physical Manifestation**

All prospective proposals must describe what is being proposed and the rationale for the specific approach e.g. a statue, plaque or planting. Within this, evidence of the exploration of alternative options that have been considered and rejected e.g. a memorial garden over an event.

There will be an expectation that there is a clear justification of how the proposed scheme adds value and does not detract from the suggested location or wider public setting and what benefits it brings e.g. education, identity, inclusion.

### **4.4 Ten Year Principle**

No memorials should be erected before ten years have elapsed from the death of the individual, group or the event to be marked. This does not apply to temporary installations such as murals and benches. In exceptional circumstances memorials will be considered within the ten-year period, where a timely response is required. This is to ensure a considered approach to discussion and debate, good planning, design and consultation.

### **4.5 Quality and Experience**

Southampton has high quality monuments, memorials and public art across the city – many produced by national and international figures. In keeping with this tradition, and the ambitions for the quality of public spaces for our communities, it is critical that proposed new works enhance this legacy. This will include the consideration of materials, setting and maintenance.

There is an expectation that a robust and transparent selection process will be undertaken to commission high calibre artists, architects and designers. Open, limited, or direct invitation may be appropriate if the method of commissioning is supported by a full justification.

The employment of suitably qualified and experienced architects and landscape architects is expected to ensure the best possible setting for a new memorial, if required.



## **4.6 Formal Consents**

All prospective proposals will need to consider whether planning permission is required. No proposal will be supported without formal agreement of the landowner.

Proposals impacting on listed buildings or structures will require Listed Building Consent and those impacting on scheduled monuments will require Scheduled Monument Consent. The impact on buried archaeological remains, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and other designations must also be considered.

Some proposals may require consent under the Highways Act 1980, whilst others in Registered parks, gardens and on common land must consider the impact of any proposed development on the landscapes' special character and may be subject to approval by the Secretary of State.

## **4.7 Management, Maintenance and Legacy**

For all prospective proposals, the Council will need to be assured the applicant can fund the entire project costs and provision is made for the structure, along with associated landscaping, to be maintained in perpetuity and to the specification of the Council.

The Council will need evidence that in the event of financial or governance failure of the delivery organisation, that the required funds are in place to complete the project. The Council will not be liable for taking the project to completion.

The Council will need to be satisfied with arrangements for future maintenance and will involve specialists to advise on long term care, where required. This may be through the establishment of an endowment fund, or a commuted sum gifted to the Council. There should not be an expectation that the Council will automatically take on these liabilities or to pass these to the Council's strategic partners.

In the circumstances where it is agreed that the memorial is to be gifted to the Council, a one-off commuted sum payment will be required to cover all future maintenance costs and a formal agreement signed prior to granting permission to proceed with the proposed project.

## 5.0 Application Process

The following outlines the application process for proposals for new Memorials on Council land.

### 5.1 Enquiries

Proposals for memorials on Southampton City Council land must be discussed with the Council at an early stage before designs are finalised. This will enable a discussion around the published criteria in section 4.0 above, such as the historical connection with the proposed location, design quality, materials, future maintenance and ownership.

This provides the opportunity to address any showstoppers and/or discuss any alternative approaches and financial considerations.

Contact: [memorials@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:memorials@southampton.gov.uk)

For enquiries about commemorative benches and plaques in the city's parks and open spaces go to: [Seats & Plaques](#). There is a separate list of conditions for these, which are different to the criteria for memorials set out in Section 4.0 of this policy.

### 5.2 Public Spaces Panel

The Public Spaces Panel will review proposals against the criteria before recommending that proposals are circulated for wider public consultation and engagement.

The Panel will then review the public feedback and make recommendations for any changes, and then sign off the final design before it is submitted for a final decision by Cabinet and then planning permission and consents if required. In the rare circumstances that this arises, the panel will also consider proposals to remove, relocate or add interpretation to memorials within the legislative and consultation framework.

### 5.3 Permissions and Consents

Applicants will need to apply for the necessary permissions and consents outlined in section 4.6 above, and fund or contribute to the cost of these where necessary. No project will be able to progress without these in place.

### 5.4 Commissioning and Funding

Southampton City Council expects high quality examples of new work in public spaces to enhance the legacy of the existing monuments, memorials and public art. Following the criteria identified above, the Council will need to approve all contractors prior to the commencement of any work or award of any contract. The Council has a minimum level of Health & Safety, insurance and operational standards for all external contractors to ensure the safety of the public and the sustainability of works.

Applicants will need to provide evidence that they can fund the entirety of the project and outline their proposals for future and ongoing maintenance.

The Council reserves the right to seek a contribution to any necessary public consultation from prospective applicants. The Council reserves the right to seek a contribution for costs incurred as part of the application or implementation process including pursuing relevant applications such as works on Common Land, or if circumstances result in a public enquiry.

Agreements will need to be in place for future responsibilities, rights, insurance, repairs and maintenance before any works can take place. The Council's insurance does not cover memorials. Where the memorial is gifted to the Council commuted sums for ongoing repair and maintenance must include sums for accidental damage or vandalism and will be ringfenced for this purpose.

## **5.5 Decommissioning or Removal**

The Government's 2021 legislation predicates against the removal of historic statues, plaques and other monuments, whilst the Council's Full Council motion commits to public consultation if the situation arises. The opportunity to provide additional contextual information to help support wider public understanding, especially in areas of contested heritage, will also be examined.

However, in the rare circumstances that it is deemed appropriate, subject to a clear rationale and consultation, the Council reserves the right to remove a memorial after ten years or at a point at which the asset requires replacement to maintain its amenity value. Furthermore, where a memorial is more than ten years old, the Council reserves the right for it to fall into natural disrepair and managed decline. The Council reserves the right to remove or relocate memorials should this be required by any future development scheme.

These actions will be done in consultation with stakeholders and local communities in line with the remit of the Public Spaces Panel and will be subject to a Cabinet decision.

## 6.0 Governance

This policy will be governed by the formation of a new Public Spaces Panel that will meet twice annually, and more if required by exception.

The panel will comprise councillors, relevant officers, specialists, community representatives and people of different ages. It will involve a recruitment and selection process to form the Panel which will retain equity, diversity and inclusion at the heart of decision-making.

The process will involve consultation with relevant departments on a case-by-case basis and their expertise shared with the panel, such as Culture, Heritage, Planning and Highways, Parks, Stronger Communities. It will also involve consultation with organisations and individuals with in-depth knowledge of the city's history and heritage and as well as those with specialist skills and knowledge, where appropriate.

The Panel's objective is to receive and review proposals for memorials against agreed criteria (outlined in section 4.0 above) before circulating for wider public engagement and consultation. Feedback from public engagement and consultation will then inform the Panel's final recommendations to Cabinet for decision-making. The process for prospective applicants is described in section 5.0 above.

In the rare circumstances that this arises, the Panel will also consider proposals to remove, relocate or add interpretation to memorials. It will draw upon the Government's 2021 *'retain and explain'* legislation and the Council's Full Council motion that committed to *'never arbitrarily extract or displace any monument, memorial or statue and to subject the decision to appropriate levels of resident consultation'*.

In due course, it is anticipated that Public Art proposals may also be considered via this route, to ensure a joined up and consistent approach so that the people of Southampton have a say in shaping the look, feel and experience of their city.

## Appendix A Definition of Terms

The following definitions have been used to help guide and inform this policy:

### 1. Memorial

Described as any physical object or space created, erected or installed to remind people of an individual, a group of people or an event.

Although a memorial might usually be thought of as a commemorative plaque or a statue, this definition allows a wider array of opportunities to be considered. For example, trees, benches and memorials to groups of people who are still alive, such as key workers during the pandemic.

Memorials that are attached to the outsides of buildings are included, but complete buildings such as chapels, hospitals and community halls along with objects such as windows, organs, rolls of honour, flags and seats have been excluded. This is because they are not generally considered to be part of the public realm.

Memorials within cemeteries, other than war memorials, have not been included in the data used for this policy due to the great number in existence and because responsibility for them lies elsewhere. Temporary roadside memorials, street and building naming, other signage, interpretative panels, display boards and banners have also been excluded because they are often relatively short-lived or they do not explicitly memorialise an individual or group of people.

### 2. Monument

Historic England provides two definitions for Monument:

1) (a) any building, structure or work, whether above or below the surface of the land, and any cave or excavation

(b) any site comprising the remains of any such building, structure or work or of any cave or excavation

(c) any site comprising, or comprising the remains of, any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other movable structure or part thereof which neither constitutes nor forms part of any work which is a monument within paragraph (a) above; and any machinery attached to a monument shall be regarded as part of the monument if it cannot be detached without being dismantled

Source: Section 61(7) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

2) The concept of a historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also the urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilisation, a significant development or a historic event. This applies not only to great works of art but also to more modest works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with the passing of time.

Source: International Charter for the Restoration and Conservation of Sites (the Venice Charter), ICOMOS, 1964

Scheduling is shorthand for the process through which nationally important sites and monuments are given legal protection under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

Source: [Scheduled Monuments | Historic England](#)

### 3. Listed Buildings

Listed buildings are a statutory designation under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 designed to celebrate a building's special architectural and historic interest and to ensure that they are protected for future generations. The list is administered by Historic England.

Listed buildings are classified by the following grades to show their relative importance:

- Grade I these are buildings of exceptional interest
- Grade II\* these are buildings of more than special interest
- Grade II these are particularly important buildings of special interest, which warrant every effort being made to preserve them.

Some listed buildings are also scheduled monuments.

Sources: [What are Listed Buildings? How England's historic buildings are protected | Historic England](#); [Listed buildings \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#)

### 4. Conservation Areas

A conservation area is an area of special historical or architectural interest that the Council intends to preserve or enhance. There are 20 conservation areas in Southampton, designated under the powers of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Within a conservation area, the Council has extra controls over a number of factors including proposals to demolish and construct buildings, and the protection of trees. These controls also effect areas adjacent to conservation areas.

Sources: [Conservation areas \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#); [What Is a Conservation Area? | Historic England](#)

### 5. Heritage Assets

The Government's [National Planning Policy Framework](#) provides the following definition:

*A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).*

### 6. Public Art

Southampton City Council's Public Art Strategy ([Art People Places](#)) states:

*Public Art is contemporary art created for the public realm. It embraces a wide range of activities involving artists that are intended to be accessible to the public. From permanent site-specific sculpture and the shaping of our environment, to temporary installations or interventions that excite and challenge our perceptions of the world.<sup>1</sup>*

*Public Art is the term used to describe work produced by artists within the natural or built environment. Although it encompasses many artforms, a consistent and defining quality is the artist's intent, and the integrity of the idea or concept that informs the relationship between the artwork and its site.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> See Art People Places, page 1. Access at: [https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/bnlo02r0/public\\_art\\_strategy\\_-\\_spg-tcm63-367749.pdf](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/bnlo02r0/public_art_strategy_-_spg-tcm63-367749.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> See Art People Places, page 2. Access at: [https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/bnlo02r0/public\\_art\\_strategy\\_-\\_spg-tcm63-367749.pdf](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/bnlo02r0/public_art_strategy_-_spg-tcm63-367749.pdf).

## **7. Public Realm and Spaces**

In general, the public realm is described as the space between buildings to which members of the public have either physical or visual access. This means that the façade of a building would be seen as part of the public realm, together with the front of gardens. Although both are usually legally private within a street, the public using the street has visual access to them. For the purposes of this policy public spaces will be used.

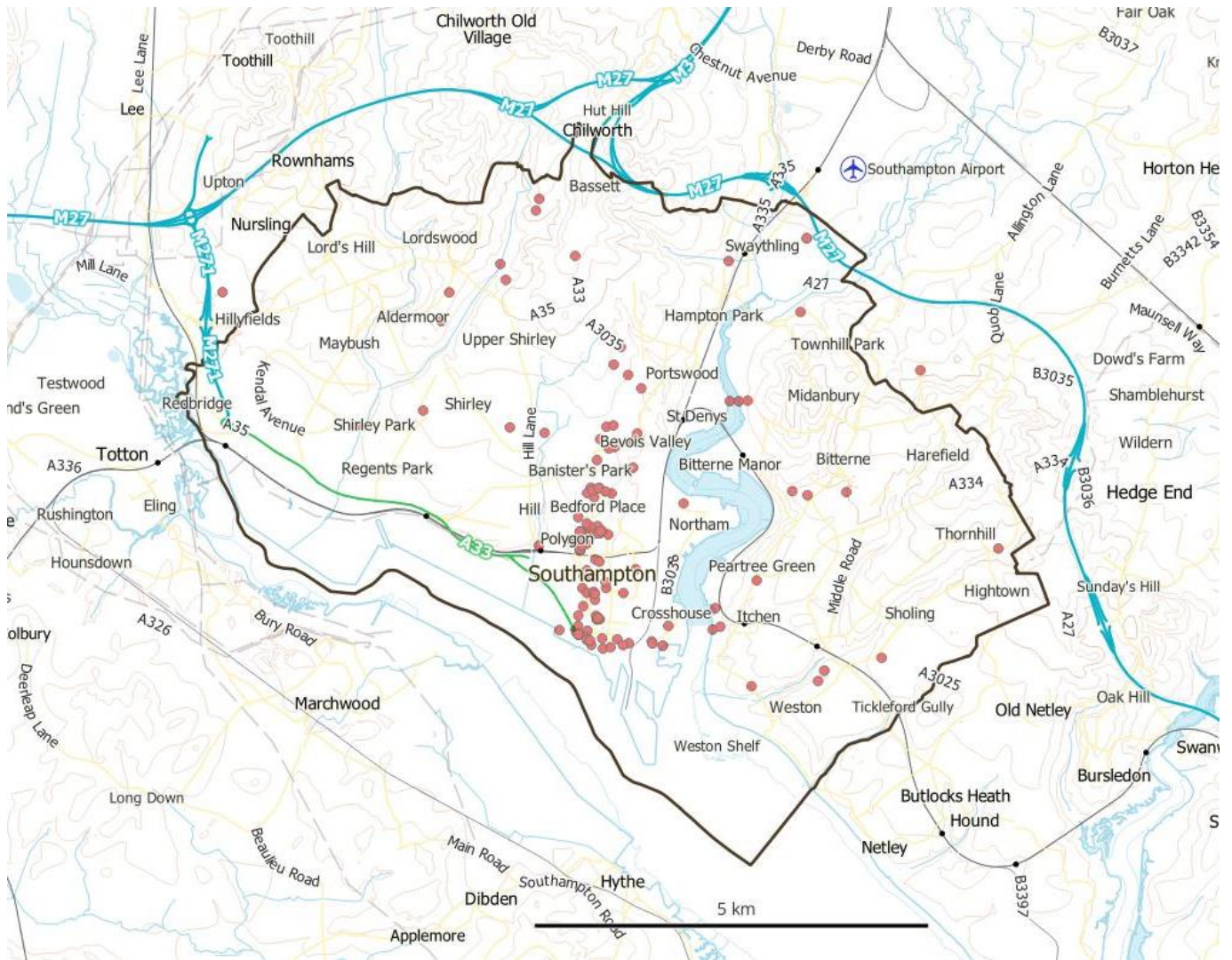
## **8. Commemorative Heritage Asset**

The Government's [Guidance for custodians on how to deal with commemorative heritage assets that have become contested](#) provides the following definition:

*Commemorative heritage asset is the summary term used to describe all commemorative structures to which the 'retain and explain' policy applies (including statues, monuments, memorials, etc.). The term 'heritage asset' is also used in this guidance and refers to 'commemorative heritage asset' as defined above.*

# Appendix B Distribution of Memorials

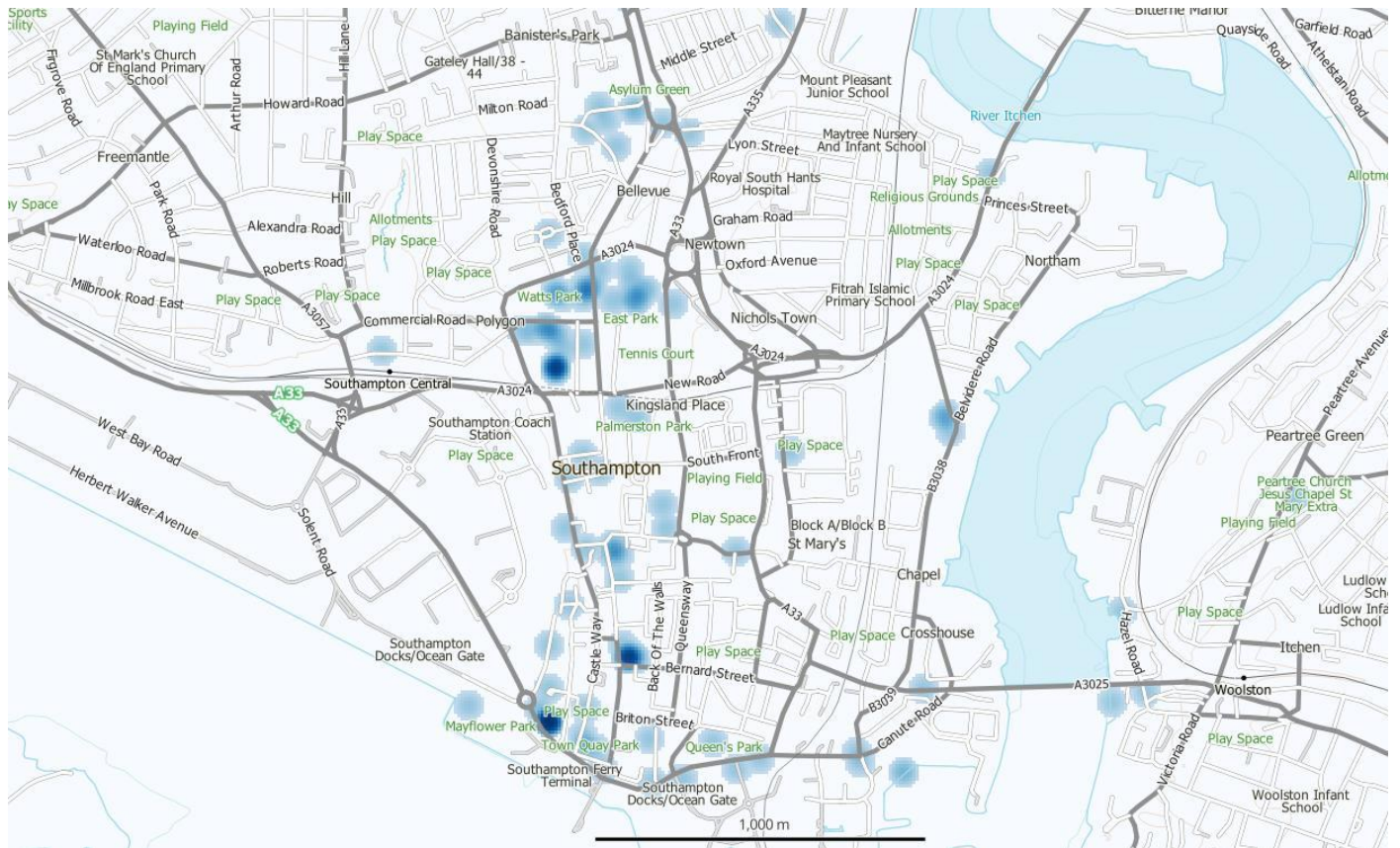
## Distribution of memorials to people and events across Southampton





# Appendix C Concentration of Memorials

## Concentration of memorials to people and events in the city centre



## Appendix D Supporting Policies and Strategies

A summary of the policies and strategies supporting this Memorial Policy are listed below:

### 1. Full Council Motion 2021

Southampton's Full Council adopted the following motion in March 2021 in response to the national debate and legislation around monuments and memorials:

*Southampton is a city with a rich maritime and community past, one that is marked by grand, striking events and smaller, incremental changes involving a range of historical figures and lesser known people. Around Southampton, monuments, memorials and statues tell some of the stories of our city that have become woven into the fabric of world history, and it is a story that continues to be written.*

*This Council recognises that it has a responsibility to be a custodian of the city's past as well as a duty to ensure that it is inclusive and representative of our diverse histories. In this way it provides the opportunity for all Southampton residents and visitors to discover the city's roots and the journey it has undertaken throughout history.*

*Therefore, this Council commits to never arbitrarily extract or displace any monument, memorial or statue and to subject the decision to appropriate levels of resident consultation. By involving residents in these decisions, this Council seeks to ensure Southampton's legacy continues to flourish and to become better understood.*

### 2. Cultural & Destination Strategies 2021-2032

Southampton's Cultural Strategy (2021-2031), Destination Management Plan (2021-2031) and Festival and Events Strategy (2022-2032), with plans for a city-wide Heritage Strategy, to underpin the significant value of culture to shaping Southampton's stories and engagement with communities, visitors, businesses, investors and the wider world.

There is an emphasis on embracing our history, multiple identities and common ground whilst striving for high quality work and regional, national and international cultural collaborations to change perceptions and put Southampton on the map.

This policy will draw upon the guiding principles of the Cultural Strategy: reflect and embolden; resonate and inspire; regenerate and embed; resilient and co-creative. These also dovetail with the UK City of Culture 2025 legacy and formation of Southampton Forward (Culture Trust) to capitalise on the momentum achieved and focus on culture, destination and festivals and events.

### 3. Southampton City Council Core Strategy Partial Review 2015

Planning policy for monuments and memorials is covered by 'historic environment' detailed in the Core Strategy in CS 14 paragraph 5.1.5, which is as follows:

*5.1.5 A fundamental consideration in the overall approach to development is how it respects Southampton's historic environment. The development of Southampton through centuries has resulted in a variety of buildings and townscapes, important to the city's environment, quality of life and 'sense of place'. The city possesses 20 conservation areas, over 450 listed buildings and three grade II listed parks<sup>3</sup>. The historic environment is an asset for the city and forms an important part of Southampton's identity and character. It is a finite and non-renewable resource requiring careful management and the first presumption is that this asset will be conserved and enhanced. Proper conservation of the*

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<sup>3</sup> The city has five Grade II Listed parks, collectively known under the single Historic England Grade II\* listing as Central Parks

*heritage is a vital tool in ensuring that development proposals are well designed and do not detract from existing local characteristics and built form.*

#### **4. City Centre Action Plan 2015**

Memorials make a major contribution to the vision for making Southampton City Centre Attractive and Distinctive:

*The city centre will be characterised by high quality parks, civic spaces and public realm and innovative modern architecture. The city centre's heritage including the Old Town and Victorian parks will be conserved and enhanced and its potential maximised.*

and particularly taken into consideration in the Action Plan for the Old Town Quarter (p129) where one of the development goals is:

*5.95 The Council aspires to bring back into use the historic vaults of the Old Town (primarily in the south and west of the quarter) and continue to improve the public realm. Town Quay Park is designated open space, and benefits from the character of surrounding heritage assets. Any proposals to enhance this open space must protect, conserve and where possible bring back into use the medieval vaults.*

The Action Plans for Fruit and Vegetable Market (AP27, p133) and Northern Above Bar (AP31, p141) explicitly says that development will be supported that incorporates public art into high quality public spaces. When this public art fulfils the definition of a memorial, this policy should be considered.

It is noted that there are currently no site policies for central parks (p167) in the City Centre Action Plan, however, the Central Parks have their own Management Plan 2020-2025. In this plan it is recognised that the historic memorials and landscape of Central Parks are indelibly linked and must be managed in a sensitive manner.

#### **5. New Local Plan (Southampton City Vision)**

Southampton City Vision is the new Local Plan that once adopted will replace the Core Strategy Partial Review and the City Centre Area Action Plan along with some other planning policy documents that form part of the city's Development Plan. A draft version of the City Vision, which contained a number of options for comment, was the subject of public consultation at the end of 2022. It will be subject to further consultation and an examination by a Government appointed Planning Inspector before it can be adopted. Whilst policy and paragraph numbers are mentioned below, please note that they are subject to change as the City Vision is progressed to a final version.

A large proportion of the city's memorials are either attached to buildings or are standalone structures set within an existing historic context. Policy EN6 (Built Heritage Assets) of the forthcoming Local Plan shall address all planning policy matters relating to these designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. When dealing with non-designated heritage assets, the Council's approach to monuments and memorials is set out in the supporting text of this policy (see para. 6.81 of the Local Plan) which states that:

*“Southampton contains a fascinating mix of buildings, parks and gardens, memorials, plaques, and other public buildings that do not benefit from any statutory protection, but which have been identified as positively contributing to the areas and the communities in which they sit. These assets help reinforce an area's sense of local distinctiveness and whose heritage interest is a material consideration in the planning process.”*

## **6. Master planning, Regeneration and Economic Strategies**

The Council is reviewing master plans and regeneration strategies across the city to develop a shared and sustainable vision for Southampton building upon the Economic and Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030 for the city.

Involving external stakeholders, it will define priority geographies and thematic approaches to realise the Council's ambitions to be a 'city of opportunity' in which there will be considerations around monuments, memorials and public art to build upon what's important to our communities, place-distinctiveness, destination-creation and story-telling.

## **7. Southampton Streets and Spaces Framework**

The Council's Streets and Spaces Framework outlines an approach that is based on the quality of place for people to improve the safety, attractiveness, distinctiveness and connectivity of streets and public places.

It recognises the significance of destination, health and wellbeing and the continuing economic competitiveness of city and district centres, alongside the impact of climate change, importance of biodiversity and creating green spaces that sustain a liveable city. There is also a wider recognition of the role and contribution of heritage and natural assets, cultural and creative interventions in shaping places which improve the lived experiences of residents, businesses and visitors.

[END]