



# Report to District Executive

## **Crompton War Memorial**

May 2015

Glenn Dale / Euey Madden  
0161 770 4065 / 0161 770 4087

# 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the District Partnership way forward for the refurbishment of Crompton War Memorial

# 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Survey Works are undertaken by Specialist contractors  
A programme of works is compiled  
Information/Consultation is undertaken  
Listed planning consent is applied for  
That the report be noted.

# 3. The Memorial Listing

- 3.1 The listing of the memorial is described as follows; Crompton War Memorial Grade II listed is a bronze statue on a stone base the sculpture depicts a male figure protecting children from two marauding beasts. They stand above an inscription on the tapering stone shaft which reads:

"In Memory of men of Crompton  
who fought and gave their lives  
to free mankind from the oppression  
and brutal tyranny of war "  
1914 1919  
1939 1945

- 3.2 The shaft stands on a stylobate and bears rolls of honour on three sides.

Founder: A.B Burton  
Sculptor: R.R Goulden

Crompton War Memorial is considered to be of special architectural and historic interest, and is an exceptional example of a War memorial thus being statutorily listed. Which in turn gives the memorial a greater degree of legal protection.

## 4. Refurbishing and maintaining a Listed Structure.

### 4.1 Refurbishing of War Memorials

- 4.1.1 There is a natural desire to keep war memorials looking pristine, out of respect for those who died and as a testament to their continued relevance. However, there is a delicate balance between maintaining a monument, while still allowing its age and history to be appreciated and carrying out well-intentioned works such as cleaning or polishing, which may actually cause damage to the material or accelerate decay.

### 4.2 Stone Work

- 4.2.1 Since the Clean Air Acts of 1956 and 1968 atmospheric pollutants such as soot and industrial chemicals have been significantly reduced, but increasing vehicular emissions continue to be a common source of stone soiling and decay in urban areas.

Stone monuments may also be subject to soiling and discolouration from biological or chemical agents, both natural and man-made.

- 4.2.2 It is perfectly natural for a stone to gradually change colour from its pristine new state, as exposure to the elements creates a natural patina on the surface. The patina begins to form when the fresh stone is cut from the quarry and a thin crust is formed by soluble minerals within the stone being deposited at the surface as the stone dries out.

The wetting and drying cycles caused by exposure to the weather continue the mineralogical changes near the stone surface which, combined with particulate matter in the atmosphere, develop into a stable surface zone, usually only a few millimetres thick. This patina acts as a protective layer and its removal by inappropriate cleaning methods can expose the softer stone underneath to deterioration and decay. It also gives the stonework much of its character and can be appreciated as an indication of the monument's permanence and endurance.

- 4.2.3 The appearance of old stonework can be beautiful in itself and stone should never be cleaned simply to 'renew' the appearance of the stonework. Soiling should generally only be considered as a defect if it is causing damage to the fabric of the monument, if it has a significant detrimental visual effect or if it makes it impossible to assess the condition of the memorial.
- 4.2.4 Algae, lichen and mosses can be common on external stonework, especially in rural areas. The presence of such growths on stone is not necessarily harmful and may even contribute to the appearance of the monument.

However, biological growths may encourage soiling by providing a suitable surface for pollutants to adhere to, so if they are damaging the stone or obscuring inscriptions or decorative detail on a war memorial it will be desirable to remove them.

Removal of biological growths may also be necessary in order to undertake a condition assessment of the surface. Some species are protected by law.

### 4.3 Repointing Stonework

4.3.1 Before starting any re-pointing work, a detailed evaluation will be carried out to determine the full extent of the required work and the specification of the mortar mix. **Listed Building Planning consent will also be required.**

4.3.2 Re-pointing should normally only be carried out where the existing pointing has become defective and there is evidence of, or a risk of, damage to the stonework.

Slightly or partially eroded pointing is often still performing effectively and over-zealous re-pointing may do more harm than good, both aesthetically and functionally. It is important to take photographs of the monument before beginning any stone repair work, to use as a reference for the repair and to avoid disputes over workmanship.

4.3.4 Contractors with suitable skill and experience will be sought to work on the memorial

## 5. Bronze Statue

### 5.1 Bronze Memorials

5.1.1 Bronze is a very common feature of war memorials and features as part of the listed Crompton Monument.

5.1.2 When bronze corrodes it leaves deposits of the corrosion products on the surface. The deposits are normally copper compounds (carbonates and sulphates) which create the familiar green surface finish sometimes known as verdigris.

Although the green colour is a result of corrosion it can be maintained as long as it is stabilised using an appropriate protective wax.

Where bronze has not been regularly re-waxed, the natural processes of weathering can accelerate corrosion and loss of the applied patina. This will lead to a change in appearance and over time the bronze may become vulnerable to damage and decay.

5.1.3 Vehicular emissions and environmental pollution can accelerate the deterioration of bronze. Bird droppings can also be highly corrosive. Active corrosion, which appears as pitting, powdering and pustules, should be treated urgently by a metals conservator.

5.1.4 Wrought iron armatures may be found within bronze statues, left over from the casting process or as structural support.

Wrought iron expands considerably as it corrodes in damp or wet conditions, which can cause 'oxide jacking' of the surrounding material and consequent structural damage to the bronze elements. If water has reached internal armatures the surface of the bronze needs to be checked for physical damage or corrosion and repaired to prevent further water ingress.

- 5.1.5 We believe the bronze sculpture at Crompton Memorial has been painted over with gloss or 'bronze' paint in an attempt to minimise maintenance or arrest deterioration in past years. Where paint has been applied in the past, we believe it should be removed and a suitable patination finish and wax applied by a conservator.

We have ordered a survey of the Bronze by a specialist and this will begin in June with a report produced for the end of June. This work will be reliant on the specialist contractor returning documentation in a timely manner.

### **5.3 Cleaning bronze**

- 5.3.1 Most cleaning methods followed by re-patination and waxing will result in a slightly patchy appearance. This is normally aesthetically acceptable and will present the monument in its conserved state.

- 5.3.2 In order to achieve a restored or original appearance, considerable works will be required and this will be advised by a specialist conservator and along with any work to the stone sections listed building consent will be required prior to any work being undertaken.

Following this process a maintenance programme with revenue identified will need to be formed to conserve the monument for years to come.

- 5.3.3 For the initial assessment work, Eura Conservation Ltd has been chosen. Eura are a leading specialist in the conservation and care of historical and culturally valuable metal sculptures and artefacts and have restored many monuments nationwide including the Albert Memorial, Staffordshire Memorial, Charles Darwin Statue in Shrewsbury, Queen Victoria Memorial in Bristol and many more.

## **6. Surfacing**

### **6.1 Paving replacement**

- 6.1.1 It is proposed that the existing concrete pavements are removed and reinstated with Yorkstone and matching Yorkstone edging kerbs to be in keeping with the surroundings.

The stone edging kerbs will be installed in areas where there is currently no edging and the lawn areas will be reinstated to finish the works.

- 6.1.2 Planning approval is required for the works as it falls in the curtilage of the listed structure.

The planning application has been submitted and although we do not anticipate any objection we await approval. The next planning committee sit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.

## 7. Funding.

- 7.1 There is currently £149,565.000 in the War Memorial Reserves Budget to cover the cost of the works.

However we can make a pre-application to the War Memorials Trust for partial funding so there would be fewer burdens on Council budgets should members so wish. To apply to the War Memorials trust we would need as much information as possible and would advise waiting until the initial survey and Conservation architect have been appointed.

Councilor Murphy also enquired via email on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 with regard the possibility of applying for lottery grants. We have already spoken to colleagues in London with regard this and they have advised putting in an application to the Manchester lottery office. A pre application enquiry can be submitted for this funding stream and grants are available for £10,000-£100,000.

There are certain outcomes that need to be met for the heritage grant and these include:

heritage will be:

- better managed
- in better condition
- better interpreted and explained
- Identified/recorded

Outcomes for people:

With our investment, people will have:

- developed skills
- learnt about heritage
- changed their attitudes and/or behaviour
- had an enjoyable experience
- volunteered time

Outcomes for communities:

With our investment:

- negative environmental impacts will be reduced
- more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage
- your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit

your local economy will be boosted  
your organisation will be more resilient

As a minimum, it is expected projects will achieve one outcome for heritage and one outcome for people. The process is competitive and there is no guarantee of success should you wish to apply.

- 7.2 Estimated cost of paving works etc. £62608.15  
Estimated cost of restoration/Conservation of Monument between £70,000 - £90,000

All works will be subject to competitive quote/tender action to ensure best value

## 8. Estimated Timescales

### 8.1 Memorial Restoration (Bronze & Stone work)

- 8.1.1 All timescales at this stage can only be estimated until the extent of the works is known. As previously mentioned the work is of a specialist nature and the initial assessment has been ordered

- 8.1.2 Eura conservation initial assessment to Start 1<sup>st</sup> week of June 2015. Compile report and return to Oldham Council by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Let competitive quote action for conservation architect: *2nd week of June 2015*, quotes returned: *26<sup>th</sup> of June 2015*

Set up initial meeting with British Legion: *July 2015*

Conservation architect draws up specification planning documents and contract documents: *July 2015*

Planning documentation submitted for listed building consent: *August 2015*

Listed Planning consent granted: *November 2015*

Works commence on the memorial to completion: *March 2015* a more definite programme can be put in place once the full extent of the works is known.

- 8.1.3 Due to the 3 month planning timescales as the memorial is a Grade II listed structure, for the sensitive and appropriate restoration with suitably qualified partners overseeing the works we believe the best approach is to wait until the weather improves in the spring of 2016 before the physical restoration is carried out. All contractual and explorative work along with engagement and consultation can continue as previously scheduled.

### 8.2 Surfacing replacement

- 8.2.1 Assuming planning permission is granted.

Much of the qualitative, quantitative and illustrative information is already produced to reduce timescales however there will be a lead-in time for the stone to be supplied that is dependent on the demand of local suppliers and quarries.

We are currently exploring options for the implementation of the works as they will need to be let in accordance with the Council's procurement procedures; due to the estimated size of the contract it is possible an Invitation to Tender document and supporting information will need to be produced and suitable competent contractors will be nominated for invitation.

#### 8.2.2 Planning permission granted: *1<sup>st</sup> week June 2015*

Let competitive tender/quote action: *2<sup>nd</sup> week June 2015*  
Quotes returned & contract let: *29<sup>th</sup> June 2015*

Works start on site: *31<sup>st</sup> August 2015*  
Completion: *25<sup>th</sup> September 2015*

#### 8.2.3 If timescales exceed those above it may be necessary to set back works and if there is danger of not completing by late October the scheme should be delayed until after commemoration events.

## 9. Consultation

### 9.1 Documentation is available to consult on the paving element of the work and has already been sent for planning approval which will form part of the consultation process.

With regard the Memorial we have produced a plan that can be viewed by the public with regard the proposed restoration but this will largely be dictated by English Heritage via the listed building consent.

Elected members to be consulted and kept informed at every stage.

The British Legion will be consulted and involved in the whole process with members present at the meetings.



# Crompton War Memorial

## Improvement Proposals

### PAVING

Paved areas to be resurfaced with Yorkstone paving to match existing kerbs and original features surrounding memorial

### EDGING

Install stone pan kerbs to sections of paved areas without edging set flush to path

### BELOW

Example of Yorkstone paving



### BELOW

Existing kerbs in need of repair/re-laying

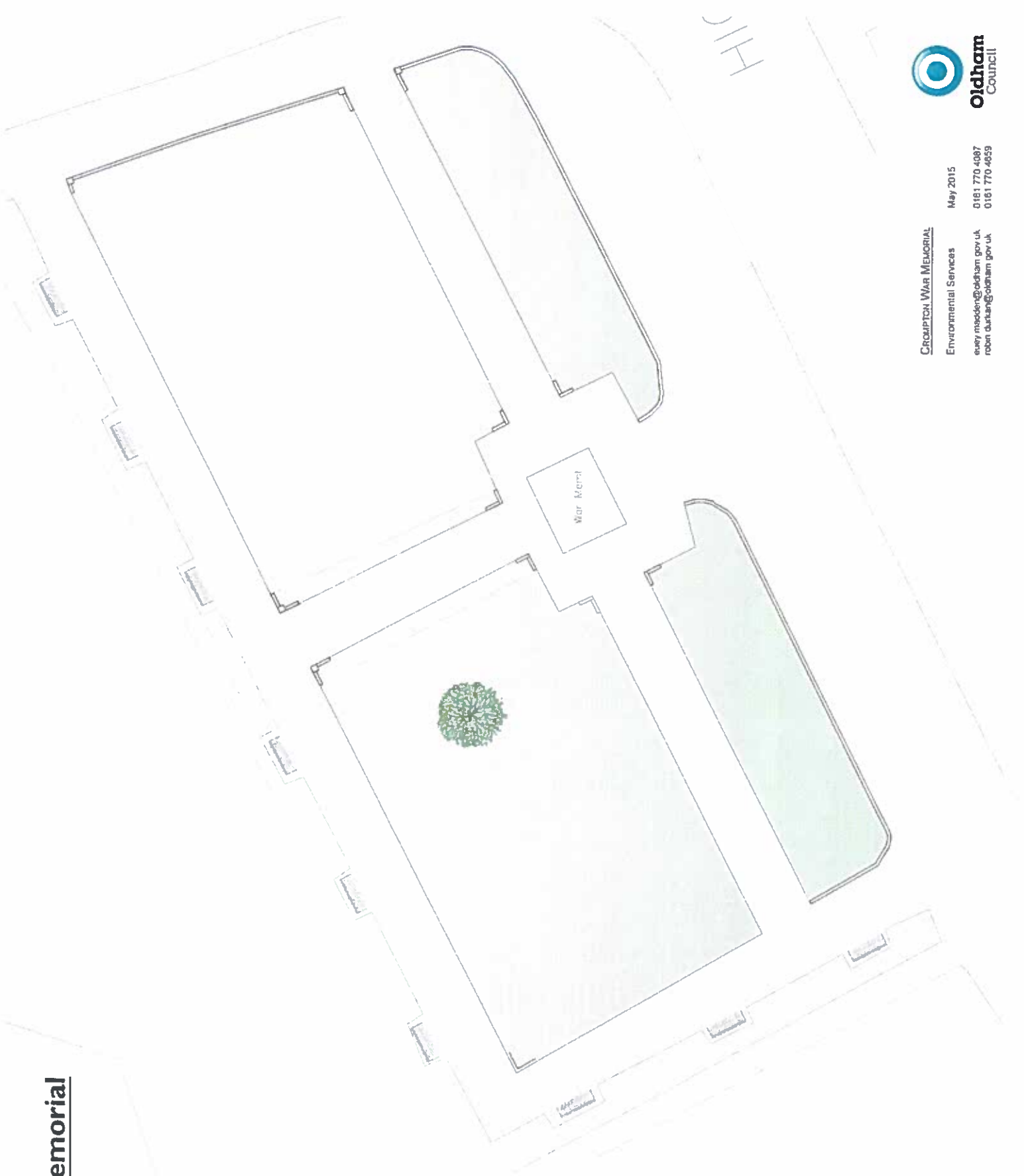


### LITTER BINS

Replace all litterbins on site with Oldham standard

### REMOVABLE MEMORIAL BED

Existing memorial bed reduced with 2 new similar beds along each side of the central path for temporary memorial crosses etc  
Other times of year can be seasonal bedding/herbaceous species



### CROMPTON WAR MEMORIAL

Environmental Services May 2015  
 every.madden@oldham.gov.uk 0161 770 4087  
 roben.duckling@oldham.gov.uk 0161 770 4659



Oldham Council



# Crompton War Memorial

## Improvement Proposals



### CROMPTON WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION

Crompton War Memorial is a Grade II listed monument comprising a bronze statue of a male figure protecting children from two marauding beasts on a stone base which display rolls of honour on 3 sides and an inscription reading:

*IN MEMORY OF MEN OF CROMPTON WHO FOUGHT AND GAVE THEIR LIVES TO FREE MANKIND FROM THE OPPRESSION AND BRUTAL TYRANNY OF WAR, 1914-1919, 1939-1945*

Considered to be of special architectural and historic interest, this is an exceptional example of a war memorial.



LEFT:  
Rear & right elevation of  
the memorial  
BELOW:  
Asset & location plan

The restoration of war memorials should only be carried out to protect and preserve the monument, as the processes to clean and maintain in a pristine condition may be detrimental to the structure, essentially accelerating decay or causing unnecessary damage.

The proposals are to carry out comprehensive surveys to assess the structure of both the stone and bronze elements and appoint a specialist heritage architect to oversee the recommended restoration which will likely be:

The removal of the 'bronze' paint and stripped to expose the bare bronze surface and the patination process repeated then sealed with a wax to protect the finish. Following this a maintenance regime to reapply wax will be agreed to avoid further extensive works as this in the future.

The stone steps and plinth may require some re-pointing but only where there is damage or to prevent future damage to the stonework. A similar approach will be taken to any treatment to the surface of the stone, for example to ensure any text isn't lost or the fabric of the stone is not at danger of damage.



ABOVE LEFT:  
Crompton War Memorial  
ABOVE RIGHT:  
Steps to the memorial  
FAR LEFT:  
Front elevation of the memorial

### CROMPTON WAR MEMORIAL

Environmental Services

January 2015

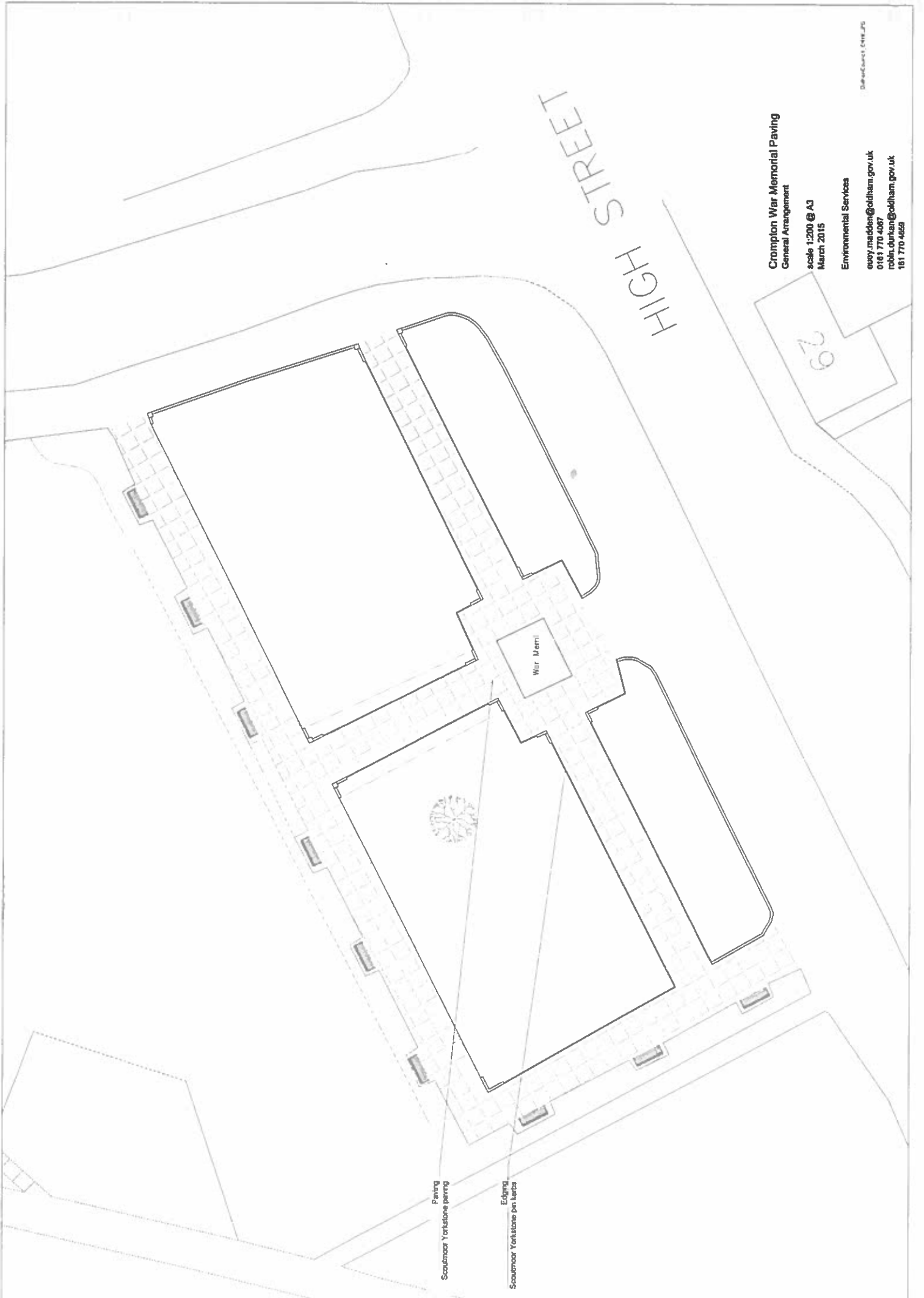
euey.madden@oldham.gov.uk  
robin.durkan@oldham.gov.uk



**Oldham**  
Council

0161 770 4087  
0161 770 4859





HIGH STREET

Crompton War Memorial Paving  
General Arrangement

scale 1:200 @ A3  
March 2015

Environmental Services

esey.madden@oldham.gov.uk  
0161 770 4067  
robin.dunham@oldham.gov.uk  
161 770 4059

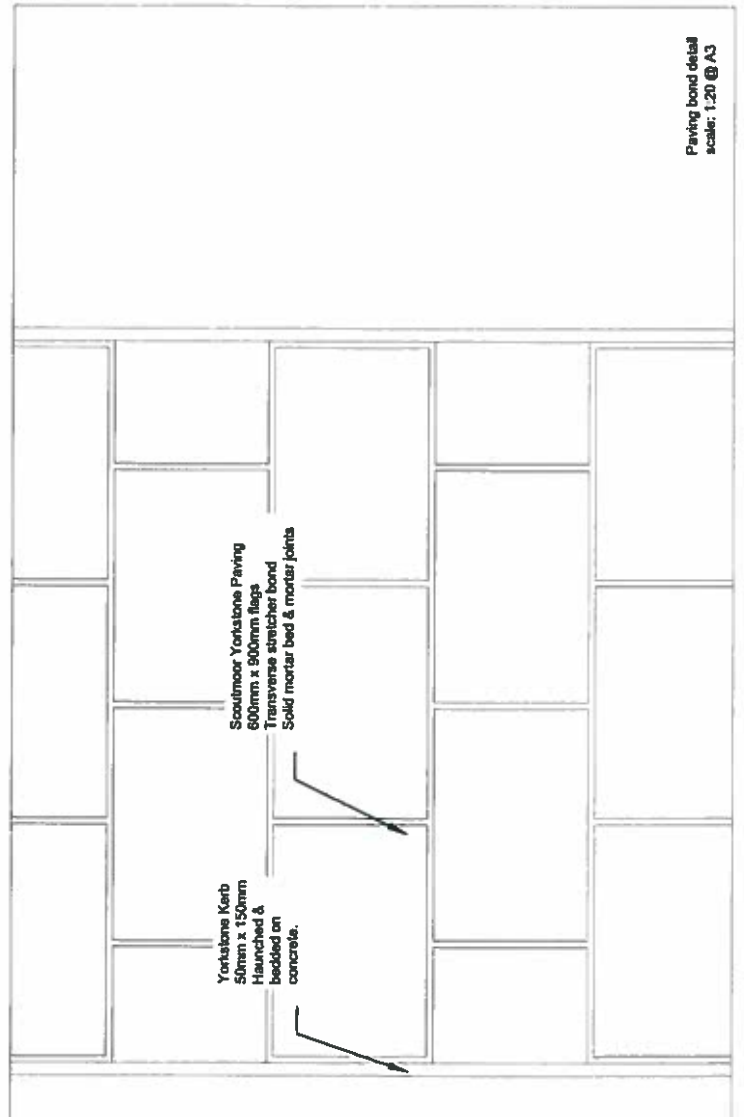
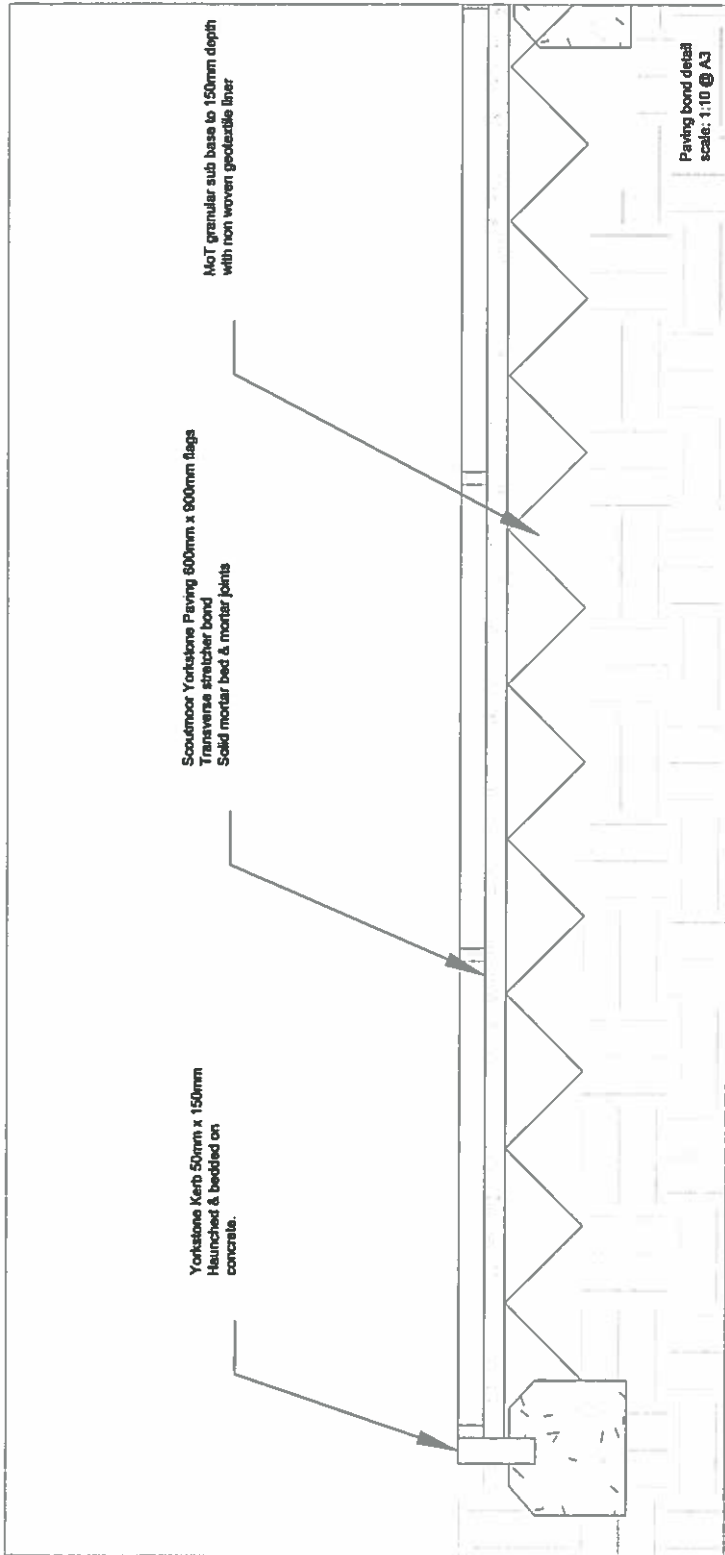
D:\Projects\ENR\15

Paving  
Scoutmoor Yorkstone paving

Edging  
Scoutmoor Yorkstone (on kerb)

29





Crompton War Memorial Paving  
General Arrangement

scale 1:200 @ A3  
March 2015

Environmental Services

essey.maddison@oldham.gov.uk  
0161 770 4087  
robin.dunstan@oldham.gov.uk  
181 770 4039

