

Method Statement from Victoria Cross Trust

We have assessed this memorial as being suitable for a method of cleaning by a Doff system which utilises only water and no chemicals whatsoever and can remove the surface dirt that has accumulated on the surface of stone such the types contained in Brigg memorial. We note from photographs that the Ventnor memorial does not have any obvious surface delamination, however we would ensure the memorial is inspected fully before work commences. Should any be found before our attendance we can assess by photo in advance and when we arrive. You should note that if any surface stone beneath bronze plaques or wreaths has 'rusting' present (a turquoise stain in the stone work), that the Doff system will not remove this without having to become highly invasive. We therefore, do not attempt to remove this as it has become part of the natural patina of the memorial itself.

The Doff system uses only water that is converted into low pressure high temperature steam emitted through porcelain tipped lances to direct the steam onto a narrow area that allows the operator to maintain absolute control of the cleaning and how close to place the lance in proximity to the stone. This allows us to draw back the lance and the steam when cleaning a delicate area such as intricate carving or leading lettering. It is also least invasive on areas if some form of delamination has occurred as mentioned above. Such control of cleaning cannot be achieved when using a pressure washer for example which is total inappropriate for the cleaning of this memorial.

The areas around carvings and lead lettering will be cleaned with the lance set drawn back just to ensure that less pressure is applied at those points although the Doff system is designed to pinpoint the cleaning area and be sensitive to such situations. Please note that the Doff system is NOT a pressure washer.

Our equipment is fully portable and can be supplied with water either with direct connection to screw thread taps or if not available as in this case directly to our water bowser which is carried within our van. This allows us to get close to the memorial and often keep generators and other plant equipment inside the vehicle reducing the risk to the immediate area and the public. We would need to re-supply the bowser and can utilise either a standpipe or support from the Fire Service who have previously re-topped the bowser on similar work in the Brigg area. We would require if necessary, access for a Ford Transit van containing our equipment to be able to park reasonably close to the memorials therefore if there are any parking restrictions we would ask that we are given dispensation to park and complete the work.

Our team will be supplied with PPE that resists heat emitted by the Doff, waterproof clothing and eye protection as detailed within the risk assessment below. The area immediately adjacent to our equipment and memorial will be cordoned off and supervised throughout to prevent the public getting into the work zone, although the location itself should stop this.