

Heritage Impact Assessment Relocation of the South African War Cenotaph | Ashburton

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for Ashburton District Council
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Heritage Impact Assessment
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and scope of report

This independent Heritage Impact Assessment has been commissioned by Ashburton District Council and relates to a resource consent application for relocation of the South African War Cenotaph from Baring Square East to Baring Square West, Ashburton.

The purpose of the report is to identify the heritage significance and values of the Cenotaph, to assess the impact of the proposed relocation on those heritage values, and to provide recommendations and/or suggest mitigation measures where necessary.

1.2 The site and surrounding environment

The Cenotaph is located roadside at Baring Square East, facing into the square towards East Street. It is surrounded by paving, water features and a variety of mature trees, shrubs, and other planting.

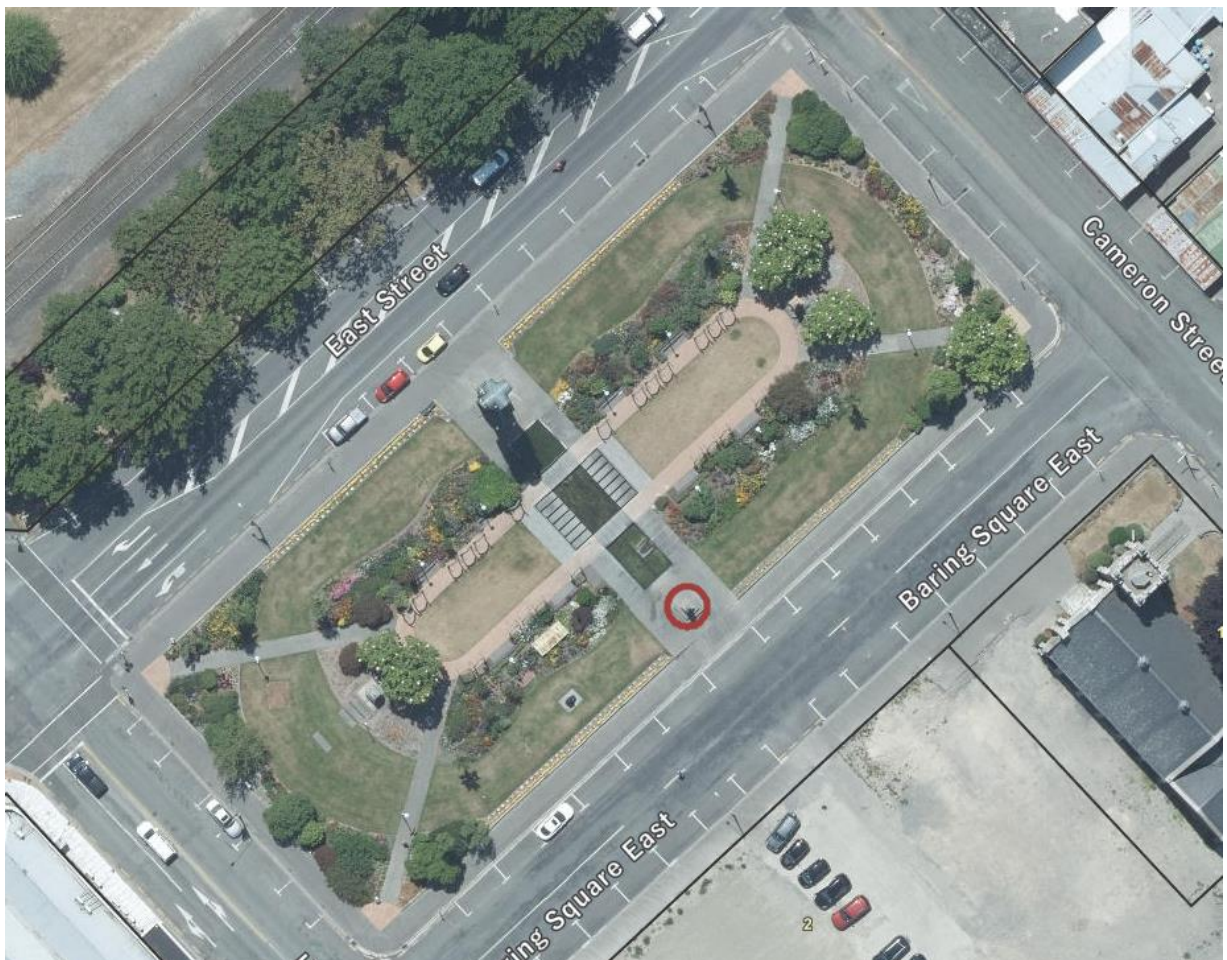


Figure 1: Location of the South African War Cenotaph in Baring Square East (Source: Canterbury Maps, accessed Sept 2022)

Baring Square East is also home to the statue of founding father John Grigg, the concrete archway arbors (informally known as the 'whalebones') which were established to commemorate the centenary of the Ashburton Borough, and the clocktower contributed by the Ashburton County to mark the centenary of the County.

It is important to note that the South African War Cenotaph was previously relocated and does not currently sit in its original position.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

2.1 Background

The new Civic Centre project is underway adjacent to Baring Square East. The building will include the library, civic centre, civil defence emergency operations centre, information centre and administrative areas. The project also involves the rejuvenation of Baring Square East and includes pedestrianising the central section of road and creating a 'civic plaza' linkage between Baring Square East and the entrance to the library and Civic Centre.

Initially the plan for this area included the retention of the South African War Cenotaph in-situ, as was shown in preliminary designs and artists impressions. However, as plans have progressed, Council now wishes to relocate the Cenotaph away from its current site. I understand the reasoning behind this is two-fold:

- Council envisages this area will be utilised as a multi-use space for various types of public events and as such it would be more versatile as an open, unobstructed area; and,
- As the space will be used for events and activities, Council is concerned that should the Cenotaph remain in-situ, it may be at risk of damage.

2.2 The structure

The South African War Cenotaph is located in Baring Square East and takes the form of an obelisk with a four-sided square base that tapers into isosceles pyramidion at the apex. The structure is made up of individual tiers of material - the base tiers form a concrete and plaster plinth, which sits under a local bluestone tier, and this in turn is topped with four tiers of polished red granite.

An inscription on the north-western face of the main granite tier details the names of the fallen and a Latin quote taken from Horace's *The Odes* which roughly translates to *It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country*.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
1900-2

DAVID BRUCE
HUGH EDWARD COLLISON
ALFRED EDWARD PEARSON
BASIL EDWARD ST JOHN STEPHENS
ROBERT HENRY BRAMLEY UPTON
ARCHIBALD WOOKEY

ERECTED TO THEIR MEMORY BY
THE PEOPLE OF ASHBURTON

DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI

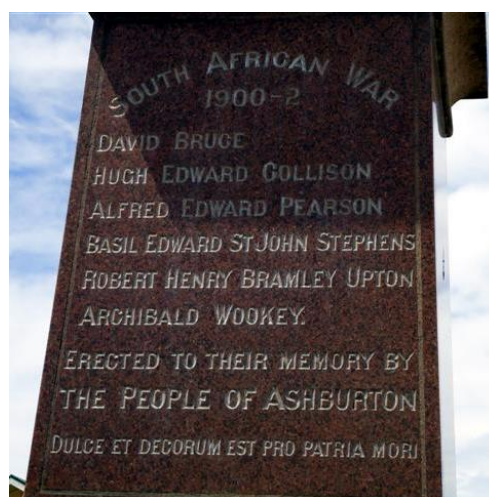


Figure 2: Inscription on NW face of Cenotaph

2.3 Proposal

The proposal involves relocating the South African War Cenotaph from Baring Square East to Baring Square West, to be positioned in line with the larger memorial to WW1/WW2. The below location plan identifies the existing position of the Cenotaph in blue and the proposed location in red.



Figure 3: Current location of the South African War Cenotaph in Baring Square East marked in blue, proposed relocation site in Baring Square West marked in red (Source: Canterbury Maps, accessed Sept 2022)

Council has contracted stone mason Brent Robertson to undertake this work. Mr Robertson has assessed the structure and provided the following analysis of tier condition and methodology for the relocation:

Tiers

- The base concrete & plaster plinth cannot be moved and will be replaced like for like in the new location.
- The first tier of natural stone is local basalt (bluestone), which has existing cracks & load fractures, so the engineer has suggested it be replaced. A sufficiently sized rock has been sourced via Timaru Bluestone Industries to replace it and this will be processed to replicate the perimeter edge chisel detail.
- The main tiers of the Cenotaph are polished red granite, and the stone mason has advised that they should lift and relocate without issue. They are in good condition, with one of the tiers showing some historic chipping at base joint and the last obelisk tier having minor historic damage and residue of earlier spray tag staining showing as a stain shadow. The stone mason has confirmed that he does not expect the granite to fail unless there are hidden stress fractures.

Methodology

- Each stone section will be removed via Hiab lift.
- A lifting bracket will be used to spread the load weight from the base and strap the vertical sides in order to eliminate as much lifting stress as possible.

-
- Upon reconstruction they will core drill and stainless-steel pin between tiers.
 - Each section will be levelled & spaced for joints using stainless steel packing washers (traditionally this would have been lead).
 - The joints will be filled with grey sanded grout similar to existing.
 - When all pieces have been relocated and installed, the monument will be cleaned.
 - Minor historic chips will remain.
 - The spray tag residue will be pulled forward using poultice & the face repolish finished as required.

3.0 HERITAGE VALUES

3.1 Heritage status

The South African War Cenotaph is included as a Group B heritage item in the Operative Ashburton District Plan's Schedule of Heritage Buildings/Items. It is identified as the 'Boer War Cenotaph' and included as heritage item 107 on District Plan map U53. Group B heritage items are places of historical or cultural heritage significance or value to the district and their ongoing conservation and protection is highly desirable.

The South African War Cenotaph is not included on the New Zealand Heritage List Rārangī Kōrero, nor is it protected as an archaeological site under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 as it was constructed after 1900. However, the land that the Cenotaph is currently located on, and the land that it will move to was associated with human activity prior to 1900, and as earthworks will be required to dismantle and reconstruct the Cenotaph, any archaeological implications must be considered.

3.2 Brief history

South African War

The South African War, also known as the 'Second Anglo-Boer War', was the first overseas conflict to involve New Zealand troops. It occurred due to a culmination of long-standing tensions and was fought between the British Empire and the two Boer Republics over the Empire's influence in South Africa. The war lasted from October 1899 to May 1902.

Premier Richard Seddon offered New Zealand's support to the British war effort and over the course of the two-and-a-half-year conflict, 10 contingents of volunteers totalling more than 6500 men, plus 8000 horses, travelled to South Africa, along with doctors, nurses, veterinary surgeons and teachers. Sixty-seven of those were from the Ashburton District. Seventy-one New Zealanders were killed in action or as a result of their injuries. The New Zealand volunteers also had to endure the harsh climate and landscape of Southern Africa, with a further 159 dying from disease or in accidents.

Of the six men recorded on the Ashburton South African War Cenotaph, two were killed in action, one died of injuries sustained in fighting, two succumbed to typhoid and one was killed in an accident.

Troopers Memorial

The idea of a memorial was originally considered in 1902, shortly after the war had ceased. The mayor at the time was W.H. Collins, and the chairman of the County Council was Mr C J Harper. The Fallen

Troopers Memorial Committee was established to decide how to appropriately mark the sacrifice of those who had lost their lives.

A number of suggestions were put forward regarding what form the memorial, known at that time as the Troopers Memorial, should take and where it should be located. This was being discussed at the same time as plans were being made to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII, so when tenders came in considerably higher than anticipated, the Coronation Committee agreed to pool its funds with the Troopers fund. Various ideas were put forward for the type of structure and its proposed location, including a fountain in Baring Square, or a band rotunda in the domain. This lack of direction prompted the Ashburton Guardian at the time to highlight the 'extraordinary diversity of opinion' within the Committees.



Figure 4: Photograph (looking SW) of the Grigg statue and Cenotaph c1920s (Source: Ashburton Museum)

Eventually the incompatibility of a combined memorial was accepted, acknowledging that one was celebrating a joyful international event and the other was the saddest memorial of the community. So, with minimal funds available, Christchurch architect Samuel Hurst Seager was commissioned to design a simple obelisk of red polished granite to honour those who has died.

The Cenotaph was constructed in the centre of Baring Square East and unveiled by the mayor in front of a large gathering on 17th October 1903.

Baring Square East

Ashburton was laid out around two central squares either side of the railway line and main highway, Baring Square East and Baring Square West, named after Lord Ashburton, the Honourable William Baring. During the early 1900s Baring Square East was managed by the local Beautifying Association which had surrounded it with a wrought iron railing fence, planted a line of trees around the margin and created some flower beds and internal paths.



Figure 5: Postcard of the Cenotaph before the 1976-78 redevelopment of the square (Source: Ashburton Museum)

Baring Square East underwent major redevelopment in the build up to celebrating the County Centennial in 1978. The main feature was the restoration of the old Post Office clock and construction in 1976 of its new home in a tower designed by Warren and Mahoney Architects. The clocktower's location on the East Street side of the square, and the installation of a water feature in the centre, prompted the relocation of the Cenotaph to the opposite side of the square adjacent to the Baring Square East road.

Figure 6 shows historic aerial photographs from 1940-44 (left) showing the Cenotaph in its original position in the centre of Baring Square East, and from 1980-84 (right) showing the Cenotaph in its relocated position following the remodelling of the square in 1976-78.



Figure 6: Historic aerial photographs 1940-44 (left) and 1980-84 (right) (Source: Canterbury Maps, accessed September 2022)

3.3 Heritage significance

The assessment of heritage significance of the Cenotaph is guided by the criteria outlined in the HNZPT Act 2014, the definition of historic heritage in the RMA, and best practice standards from HNZPT.

Historical and social values

Historical and social values that demonstrate or are associated with a particular person, group, organisation, institution, event, phase or activity; the continuity and/or change of a phase or activity; social, historical, traditional, economic, political or other patterns.

The South African War Cenotaph has historical value as a representative example of over 40 locally funded memorials that were erected around the country to commemorate New Zealand's contribution to the South African War. It signified New Zealand's first memorial building effort and was a way for communities to show pride in the local men who gave their lives. These monuments also demonstrated a growing sense of national identity which was occurring in the early years of the twentieth century. The Cenotaph stands as a permanent reminder of New Zealand's and more specifically Ashburton's role in this war and the community's pride in being an active and contributing part of the British Empire.

The South African War Cenotaph has social values as it stands as a physical expression of how the community mourned at the loss of their local people in the war. It is an acknowledgement of the sacrifice that these men made and shows pride in the fact that this community contributed to the British war effort. It is important in its role of providing a focal point for grief and remembrance for loved ones and the general public.

Cultural values

Cultural values that demonstrate or are associated with the distinctive characteristics of a way of life, philosophy, tradition, religion, or other belief, including the symbolic or commemorative value of the place; significance to Tangata Whenua; and/or associations with an identifiable group and esteemed by this group for its cultural values.

The South African War Cenotaph has cultural significance through local esteem and commemorative values.

The community rallied for a memorial to honour their dead and fundraised for its construction, showing a genuine esteem for what it stands for. Through the Ashburton District Council, the Cenotaph continues to be maintained as a public structure and its local heritage importance is acknowledged through scheduling in the District Plan.

The South African War Cenotaph commemorates the service and sacrifice of community members in the war, symbolising both pride and sorrow. The construction of this monument just one year after the war ended symbolises public attitudes and their desire to acknowledge both the contribution and the sacrifice. The inscription and list of names reinforces the commemorative nature of the memorial.

Architectural values

Architectural values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular style, period or designer, design values, form, scale, colour, texture and material of the place.

Ashburton's South African War Cenotaph is a simple structure in comparison to many of the other South African War memorials around the country, many of which take the form of architecturally elaborate statues or fountains and some of which are large prominent landmarks. The form and simplicity of the Ashburton monument was a result of the minimal funds available.

Obelisks originated in Egypt where they were typically erected in commemoration of the rulers and have continued to be a popular monument for their striking yet simple design. Although not of note in its architectural merit, the Cenotaph does have aesthetic value associated with its instantly recognisable purpose and function as a war memorial which conveys sentiments of grief and pride. The names of the local men who died in the war promotes reflection and contemplation.

Contextual values

Contextual values that demonstrate or are associated with: a relationship to the environment (constructed and natural), a landscape, setting, group, precinct or streetscape; a degree of consistency in terms of type, scale, form, materials, texture, colour, style and/or detail; recognised.

The South African War Cenotaph is one of a number of memorials within Baring Square East and Baring Square West, including the WW1/WW2 memorial, the archway arbors, the John Grigg statue and the clock tower. As such it is a significant contributor to the wider civic commemorative landscape of central Ashburton.



Figure 7: Photograph (looking north) of the 'Trooper's Memorial', Baring Square East, Ashburton, with the Post Office in the background c1920s (Source: Christchurch City Council Libraries)

4.0 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

This report assesses the proposed relocation of this scheduled heritage item against the following legislative requirements and provisions relating to heritage values:

4.1 Resource Management Act 1991

Historic heritage is defined in Section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) as 'those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities: (i) archaeological; (ii) architectural; (iii)

cultural; (iv) historic; (v) scientific; (vi) technological'. Historic heritage includes: '(i) historic sites, structures, places, and areas; (ii) archaeological sites; (iii) sites of significance to Māori, including wahi tapu; (iv) surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources'.

Section 6f of the RMA recognises as a matter of national importance 'the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development'. All persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA are required under Section 6 to recognise and provide for these matters of national importance when 'managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources'. There is a duty to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment arising from an activity, including historic heritage.

In accordance with the requirements of the RMA, the Ashburton District Plan sets out the Council's policies and strategies for managing the natural and physical resources of the district. The South African War Cenotaph's inclusion in the District Plan's Schedule of Heritage Buildings, Structures and Sites is discussed in section 3.0 of this report, and the relevant policies and objectives are discussed in section 6.0.

4.2 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

The purpose of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA) is to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage. The HNZPTA protects all places occupied prior to 1900 that may provide archaeological information on the history of New Zealand, regardless of whether or not they have been recorded. An archaeological site is defined by the HNZPTA Section 6 as follows:

'archaeological site means, subject to section 42(3), –

(a) any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure) that –

- (i) was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 or is the site of the wreck of any vessel where the wreck occurred before 1900; and*
- (ii) provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand; and*

(b) includes a site for which a declaration is made under section 43(1)'

In accordance with Section 42 of the HNZPTA, these sites may not be damaged or destroyed unless an authority to modify an archaeological site has been issued by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. This authority is tied to the land for which it applies, regardless of changes in the ownership of the land. Any individual who knowingly damages or destroys an archaeological site without having the appropriate authority is liable, on conviction, to substantial fines under Section 87 of the HNZPTA.

Heritage New Zealand also maintain the New Zealand Heritage List Rārangī Kōrero, the purpose of which is to inform members of the public about such places and to assist with their protection under the RMA (1991). The South African War Cenotaph is not included on the List.

4.3 ICOMOS New Zealand Charter 2010

The International Council on Monument and Sites (ICOMOS) New Zealand Charter provides essential guidelines on cultural heritage conservation. It is widely used in the New Zealand heritage sector and forms a recognised benchmark for conservation standards and practice. The Charter should be used as a basis for any works relating to a heritage item or its setting.

5.0 **ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED RELOCATION**

Under 12.7.4 of the Operative Ashburton District Plan, the relocation of a Group B scheduled heritage building / item to another location within the property or to another property is a discretionary activity. As a discretionary activity, the Council has the ability to consider all actual or potential effects.

This assessment of effects reviews the proposal and assesses the actual and potential changes that will occur due to the relocation and the positive or adverse effects on heritage these may have.

5.1 **Effects on the physical values**

The proposed methodology for relocation and the necessary modifications involved are detailed in section 2.3 of this report. It will be impossible to relocate the Cenotaph as a whole. Consideration of the modifications and the impact of these on the structure's heritage value is as follows:

- The base concrete & plaster plinth cannot be moved and will be replaced like for like in the new location. It is highly likely that this plinth was constructed to accommodate the top tiers of the Cenotaph when it was relocated in 1976 and as such is not part of the original structure. In addition, this is a functional, rather than decorative element of the structure. I do not consider the construction of a new concrete and plaster plinth will have any adverse effect on the heritage values of the South African War Cenotaph.
- The first tier of natural stone is local basalt (bluestone). The stonemason confirms this tier has existing cracks and load fractures and has therefore suggested it be replaced. The retention of this bluestone tier would be preferable - we cannot guarantee that this tier was not replaced during the relocation in 1976, however there is also no evidence to indicate that it was. If the principle of relocation is accepted, then the structural stability of the Cenotaph in its new position is essential to ensure the maximum longevity of the structure. As such, relocating an unsound tier would not benefit the heritage item. A suitable bluestone rock has been sourced and it is proposed for this to be processed to replicate the perimeter edge chisel detail. I agree that, if the bluestone must be replaced, this is an appropriate solution. The replacement of this layer will reduce the authenticity of the original heritage item.
- The main tiers of the Cenotaph are polished red granite, and the stone mason has advised that they are in good condition and should lift and relocate without issue. One of the tiers shows some historic chipping at the base joint and the last obelisk tier has minor historic damage and residue of earlier spray tag staining showing as a stain shadow. I acknowledge that a methodology for relocation is in place to maximise the protection of the heritage item during relocation and to minimise potential lifting stress and damage as much as possible. The stone mason has confirmed that he does not expect the granite to fail unless there are hidden stress fractures. In the knowledge that the structure has been successfully relocated in the past, there are little concerns that this cannot successfully occur again. With appropriate measures in place to ensure, as far as practicable, that the red granite tiers are safely moved, I do not consider the relocation of these tiers will have an adverse effect on the physical values of this Group B heritage item.

The South African War Cenotaph is not recognised for its architectural merit, taking the form of a simple obelisk, but it does have aesthetic value associated with its instantly recognisable purpose and function as a war memorial which conveys sentiments of both grief and pride. Although the replacement of the bluestone tier will reduce the authenticity of the Cenotaph, I consider its aesthetic values will remain regardless of whether the structure remains in its current position or is relocated to Baring Square West.

During deconstruction and reconstruction works there is a potential risk for accidental damage to occur. The risk is moderate given the nature of the proposal, but I consider it can be minimised through an appropriate methodology which provides a detailed process for removal and reinstatement.

It is preferable for the deconstruction and relocation to occur in one stage therefore avoiding the storage of the structure and staged reconstruction. This will avoid the additional risk of two moves and the risk of damage during storage. It will also avoid the adverse effects of the Cenotaph being unavailable to the public for period of time, although this can be mitigated to an extent through temporary signage and interpretation.

In the event of any accidental damage arising from the proposed works, remediation should be undertaken as like-for-like repair and in accordance with good practice conservation principles set out in the NZ ICOMOS Charter.

Recommended conditions of consent regarding the above points are included in section 7.1 of this report.

5.2 Effects on setting and character

On completion of the works, the South African War Cenotaph will be permanently instated in its new location. The works will result in both temporary (during construction), and permanent changes to the setting of the heritage item.

It is noted that no defined setting is allocated to the Cenotaph within the Ashburton District Plan schedule. The heritage item's immediate setting was compromised when it was relocated from its original position in 1976, however it has always sat within Baring Square East and as such the proposed relocation will detach it from the wider setting that it has occupied since its construction.

The relocation will also change the appearance of Baring Square East and Baring Square West. However, I acknowledge that the Cenotaph currently sits in a commemorative landscape, with other memorials within Baring Square East, and that it will be moving to a commemorative landscape adjacent to the main WW1/WW2 Cenotaph in Baring Square West. I consider the new setting will therefore be different but no less appropriate.

Consultation with veterans from the New Zealand Remembrance Army confirmed that they consider the move to the proposed new location to be a positive one, because it would be complementary to the main (WW1/WW2) memorial. I consider the effect on Baring Square West will therefore be beneficial. The effect on Baring Square East will be adverse as it will lose a commemorative structure, however as the square is in the process of redevelopment, this loss must be balanced with the benefits to the community of the new design. The overall character of neither square will change as both squares are currently, and will remain, commemorative landscapes.

I am also aware that when the location of the proposed memorial was first being discussed in 1902, a number of options were considered. There does not appear to be any documentation of a clear reason for its positioning in Baring Square East rather than the other locations considered. That coupled with my above comments, the benefits of the relocation site and the fact that its original setting was already compromised in 1976, leads me to conclude that the setting of the Cenotaph is important but not integral to its cultural heritage value and although its relocation will undoubtedly alter its setting, this will have minimal adverse effects on its heritage values.

5.3 Effects on the historic, social, and cultural heritage values

Section 3 of this assessment establishes the main heritage values of the South African War Cenotaph to be historic, social and cultural. This heritage item is a physical representation of pride and mourning, an acknowledgement of sacrifice, a symbol of New Zealand's contribution to the British war effort and most importantly it is a focal point for remembrance. These values relate to what the structure symbolises rather than where it is located.

I consider these heritage values will be retained with this monument regardless of whether it remains in-situ or is relocated, providing the proposed site of relocation provides equal or better public visibility and accessibility. I consider this to be the case, as Baring Square West sits on State Highway 1, so the visibility of the Cenotaph will be improved, and its location and adequate parking mean it would be equally as accessible as it currently is.

The proposed relocation site's proximity to the WW1/WW2 Cenotaph also means the South African War Cenotaph could play a greater role in annual memorial services, which are held in Baring Square West. This in turn goes further to ensuring that Ashburton's contribution to the South African War is not forgotten or deemed to be of lesser significance to that of later wars.

5.4 Effects on archaeology

Although the structure itself was not constructed pre-1900, the land that the Cenotaph is currently located on, and the land that it will move to was associated with human activity prior to 1900, and as earthworks will be required to dismantle and reconstruct the Cenotaph, Heritage New Zealand's advice was sought. They provided the following comments:

With regards to the potential for this project to impact pre-1900 archaeology:

- As the monument was constructed in 1903, there are no concerns for moving the monument itself.
- As the current plinth base was most likely constructed in the 1970s and having reviewed historic imagery of Baring Square East prior to its redevelopment at that time, there are no concerns for demolition of the current plinth.
- Brief research into Baring Square West does not suggest a high likelihood that subsurface archaeological remains are present, however an Accidental Discovery Protocol (ADP) should be followed in the event of unexpected archaeological remains being found during excavations for the new plinth base or any project earthworks.

Further to the above advice, the recommendation for all works to proceed under an ADP is included in section 7 of this report.

5.5 Effects on community and visitor experience

Due to the commemorative nature of memorials, they are incredibly important to the community and their removal or relocation can generate an emotional response. For that reason, it is important that people can see a clear end result and what impact, if any, the proposals will have on their engagement with the memorial and their visitor experience. Within their proposals, Council have clearly identified how the structure will be deconstructed, where it will be relocated to and how it will be reconstructed in its new position.

I consider the accessibility and surrounding commemorative landscape of the proposed relocation site to be equal to that of the existing site of the Cenotaph and conclude that the visitor experience should be similar to that in its present location. However, consultation in this matter is important.

The following consultations with relevant groups have taken place:

- **Ashburton Returned and Services Association:**
The RSA President confirmed that, at their Executive meeting in early 2022, the Committee unanimously agreed that they would not oppose the Council's plans to relocate the South African War Cenotaph and would leave the decision of the relocation site up to public consultation.
- **New Zealand Remembrance Army:**
The NZRA Chief Executive confirmed that he had consulted with veterans and the move to the proposed location would be an excellent one, particularly as it would be complementary to the main memorial (meaning the WW1/WW2 Cenotaph).
- **Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga:**
The HNZPT Area Manager confirmed that as the memorial does not sit in its original location and the plinth was most likely replaced in the 1970s, HNZPT is comfortable with the proposed relocation. They also noted the appropriateness of the relocation near the WW1/WW2 memorial. The HNZPT Archaeologist confirmed that all works should be done under an Accidental Discovery Protocol.
- **Historic Places Mid Canterbury:**
Historic Places Mid Canterbury intend to discuss the proposal at their September meeting.

The general consensus, in consultations to date, is that the memorial could play an equal commemorative role on the relocated site, as it does on the existing site. However, in addition to the above, I would strongly recommend public consultation either prior to or as part of the resource consent process to enable members of the public to consider and respond to the proposals.

5.6 Concept of relocation

The ICOMOS NZ Charter advises that a structure or feature of cultural heritage value should remain on its original site as the on-going association value with its location is essential to its authenticity and integrity. The charter makes it clear that relocation of a structure in order to clear its site for a different purpose, is not a desirable outcome and is not a conservation process. It is acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, a structure of cultural heritage value may be relocated if its current site is in imminent danger.

This heritage item was relocated during the 1976-78 redevelopment of Baring Square East and does not sit on its original site. In addition, due to the materials of the current plinth, it is likely that this section was newly constructed during the redevelopment to accommodate the relocated bluestone and red granite tiers above. I acknowledge that the 1970s relocation only removed the structure from its original site by less than 20m and retained it within the wider setting of Baring Square East, so the perceived impact of the current proposal is greater as it would relocate the Cenotaph to Baring Square West. However, in heritage terms the authenticity and integrity of the structure have already been compromised.

The need for this relocation and the alternative options for keeping the Cenotaph in-situ must be considered. Council's original plans for the new Civic Centre and Baring Square East redevelopment showed the structure being retained, but subsequent discussions have raised the benefits of this area being an open multi-purpose space for public events and activities. It is not uncommon for memorials to be relocated and there are many examples of this occurring throughout the country. As towns and communities grow, the purpose for which areas are used often changes and memorials are relocated in order to avoid damage, ensure their longevity or to make way for other uses. This should not be

viewed as diminishing the importance of the structure or reducing the significance of what it represents to the town and community. The fact that this Cenotaph is no longer in its original position and has gone through the process of relocation and reconstruction in the past, lessens its authenticity and opens the possibility for the concept of a well-conceived relocation to be appropriate.

5.7 Conclusion of effects

It is possible for the Baring Square redevelopment to take place without the relocation of the Cenotaph. However, I understand that this would reduce the functionality of the proposed civic plaza space. It is therefore a case of assessing the alternatives and balancing the benefits of the redevelopment to the community, with the concerns over relocation of the Cenotaph.

Taking into account the fact that the Cenotaph is not currently located on its original site, that the main heritage values (historical, social and cultural) will be retained, and that that the proposed new site is equally appropriate in an existing commemorative landscape, I consider that the relocation would have minimal additional adverse effects to those that have already occurred.

6.0 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The proposal has been assessed against the following relevant objectives and policies contained within the Operative Ashburton District Plan:

Objective 12.1: Historic Heritage - To protect significant historic heritage in the district, including historic buildings, places and areas, wahi tapu sites and areas and archaeological sites, from adverse effects of subdivision, land-use and development.

Comment: this overarching objective aims to protect heritage items from inappropriate change and development. War memorials are an important part of a community's history and identity. They represent both pride and grief and provide an important focal point for remembrance. The inclusion of the South African War Cenotaph on the District Plan schedule acknowledges its importance and the desire for its protection.

Policy 12.1C To use methods and rules in the District Plan to protect historic heritage listed in the heritage schedule from adverse effects of land-use, subdivision, and development.

Comment: The District Plan identifies the relocation of a Group B heritage item as a discretionary activity and section 5 of this report assesses the actual and potential changes that will occur due to the relocation and the positive or adverse effects these may have.

Having considered these effects it is concluded that although changes will occur to the location and physical structure, the significant heritage values of the Cenotaph, being historical, social and cultural values, will remain. The proposal adopts an approach that is both appropriate in terms of its methodology and can be undertaken without adversely effecting those main heritage values. The Cenotaph's form and purpose will be as easily appreciated and understood as in its current position. Any temporary risk associated with the relocation can be appropriately managed through proposed mitigation measures. It is also evident that the proposal may result in beneficial effects in terms of the new location being adjacent to the WW1/WW2 Cenotaph and therefore more appropriate for remembrance services.

Policy 12.11 *To recognise the HNZPT as a consenting authority for all pre-1900 archaeological sites.*

Comment: Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga have been consulted both in regard to the heritage aspects of relocation and the archaeological impact.

Overall, it is considered that that the proposal meets the intent of the heritage objectives and policies of the Ashburton District Plan. The relocation will result in changes to the structure and location of the Cenotaph, however these do not adversely affect the commemorative values of the memorial. The relocation to a similar commemorative landscape will ensure an equally appropriate setting and accessibility to the public and the proposed location close to the WW1/WW2 memorial will be beneficial in providing access during remembrance services.

7.0 RECOMMENDED MITIGATIVE MEASURES

In assessing the relocation of a heritage item, consideration should be made of mitigative measures that may help to protect the heritage values and minimise any adverse effects of the proposal.

7.1 Conditions of consent

Should Council be minded to approve the relocation of the South African War Cenotaph, works will need to be controlled to ensure an appropriate methodology and avoid accidental damage during construction. It is recommended that the following matters, which have the potential to reduce potential adverse effects of the proposed relocation, form the basis of heritage-specific conditions of consent:

- I. A works plan, consistent with the methodology provided by the stonemason, is prepared for certification prior to the commencement of works. It should, as a minimum, include:
 - Pre-start meeting requirements with contractors
 - Structural inspection prior to deconstruction or lifting
 - Methodology for deconstruction, relocation including transportation, and reconstruction
 - The methodology for removal of the existing concrete and plaster plinth
 - Protocols for on-site compliance and communication
 - General works sequence
- II. A photographic recording of the heritage item be undertaken before, during and after relocation and be provided to Council for their records.
- III. That the deconstruction, relocation and reconstruction be undertaken as one stage without the need for storage of the heritage item.
- IV. If accidental damage or reduced condition occurs to the South African War Cenotaph as a result of the proposed works, the consent holder shall be responsible for undertaking remediation to a standard at least equivalent to the existing condition. The process for remediation of accidental damage will be agreed with Council.

7.2 Archaeology:

In accordance with the guidance provided by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the Accidental Discovery Protocol (ADP) attached in Appendix 1 of this report, should be followed in the event of unexpected archaeological remains being found during excavations for the new plinth base or any

project earthworks. I would recommend that an archaeological advice note requiring the use of an ADP be attached to any consent.

7.3 Public consultation:

Public consultation should be undertaken at an early stage to ensure the community is aware of the proposal and to engage with those who may be concerned with the relocation or wish to obtain further information.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The relocation of the Cenotaph will inevitably have some degree of impact on its heritage values. The assessment of effects has determined that the historical, social and cultural values of the Cenotaph are the most significant. It commemorates contribution and sacrifice, is a physical representation of pride and mourning, and a focal point for remembrance. These values relate to what the structure symbolises and will remain regardless of where the Cenotaph is located.

The contextual values will be affected, due to the structure's removal from Baring Square East, but it is acknowledged that it will still be located within a similar commemorative landscape.

The physical values of the heritage item are most at risk through the potential for damage during the process of relocation. I consider the proposed mitigation measures should serve to minimise this risk.

There are also potential benefits to the proposed relocation adjacent to the WW1/WW2 Cenotaph where remembrance services are held.

In addition to the above, the fact stands that the South African War Cenotaph does not currently occupy its original location. The relocation of the structure and the presumed new concrete and plaster plinth during the 1976-78 redevelopment of Baring Square East compromised the heritage item's authenticity and integrity. I consider that the proposed relocation would have minimal additional adverse effects to those that have already taken place.

Arlene Baird
Era Consulting
September 2022

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Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Archaeological Discovery Protocol

In the event that an unidentified archaeological site is located during works, the following applies;

1. Work shall cease immediately at that place and within 20m around the site.
2. The contractor must shut down all machinery, secure the area, and advise the Site Manager.
3. The Site Manager shall secure the site and notify the Heritage New Zealand Archaeologist. Further assessment by an archaeologist may be required.
4. If the site is of Maori origin, the Site Manager shall notify the Heritage New Zealand Archaeologist and the appropriate iwi groups or kaitiaki representative of the discovery, and ensure site access to enable appropriate cultural procedures and tikanga to be undertaken, as long as all statutory requirements under legislation are met (*Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act, Protected Objects Act*).
5. If human remains (koiwi) are uncovered, the Site Manager shall advise the Heritage New Zealand Archaeologist, NZ Police and the appropriate iwi groups or kaitiaki representative and the above process under 4 shall apply. Remains are not to be moved until such time as iwi, NZ Police and Heritage New Zealand have responded.
6. Works affecting the archaeological site and any human remains (koiwi) shall not resume until Heritage New Zealand gives written approval for work to continue. Further assessment by an archaeologist may be required.
7. Where iwi so request, any information recorded as the result of the find such as a description of location and content, is to be provided for their records.
8. Heritage New Zealand will advise if an archaeological authority under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* is required for works to continue.

It is an offence under S87 of the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* to modify or destroy an archaeological site without an authority from Heritage New Zealand irrespective of whether the works are permitted, or a consent has been issued under the Resource Management Act.

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