



LONDON STONE CONSERVATION

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Condition Report for the Holl (slab-vaulted) Monument at The Cuttings on Highgate West Cemetery

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Objects Details Description

Title: Holl (slab-vaulted) Monument

Type: outdoor stone memorial

Material: granite obelisk; marble slabs and surrounds; Yorkstone; brickwork; lead lettering

Size: length: 2755mm; width: 1220mm; overall height: 4230mm

(height of slab vault: 2050mm; height of granite memorial: 2180mm)

Weight: unknown

The Holl Memorial is built of grey granite. It consists of four square granite sections. The middle section incorporates the name and details of the deceased, whilst the top section is supporting a simple square cornice.

This granite memorial sits on a Yorkstone base raft, which is suspended over a brick vault. The vault itself stands at about two meters above ground level, extending roughly three metres below ground.



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Both the sides and the front of the brickwork are covered by large white marble slabs, with the front bearing the name of the deceased.

Although the overall the structure remains sound, the marble slab sections have come loose and are now dislocated, exposing the brickwork below. Sections of this brickwork have begun to fail.

Condition Prior To Treatment

In its current condition the Holl memorial has become structurally unstable, thus a hazard.

The reason for the failure to parts of the structure appears to be due to root invasion from the hillside vegetation behind the memorial. Roots seem to be forcing their way between the marble slabs and the brickwork, widening the gap, allowing water to ingress. There are also visible traces of earth and other vegetation in the gaps between the stone and brick vault.

Treatment Carried Out

After careful observation of the overall structure, we decided to remove the marble side and front panels to assess the damage to the brick vault beneath.

Once these panels had been removed, it became clear that while the structure was sound overall, parts of the brickwork were failing.

In such areas, the dilapidated original bricks were cut out and replaced with new stock engineering bricks.

Once the brick structure had been repaired, the marble side and front panels were offered up for refitting.

Due to their large size and weight, and also the side panels fitted on a rake, we decided to improve the strength of fixings. Stainless steel pins were used for the base of the panels, tied into the brickwork below. This would mean that the panels could not slip out at the bottom end.

To ensure that the same stability was afforded to the top, the panels were tied directly into the Yorkstone base, using stainless steel cramps.



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