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www.londonstoneconservation.co.uk
tel:0845 500 2501

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Condition Report for the Russel & Lloyd (slab-vaulted) Monument at the Cuttings on Highgate West Cemetery

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Objects Details and Description

Title: Russel & Lloyd (slab-vaulted) Monument

Type: outdoor stone memorial

Material: marble; marble surrounds with cast iron fence; marble slabs; Yorkstone; brickwork; lead lettering

Size: length 2750mm; width 1200mm; height 1795mm

Weight: not applicable

The Russel and Lloyd Memorials are built in white marble. They consist of four square sections, the front section incorporating the names of the deceased, bedded on a Yorkstone raft.

The Yorkstone is suspended over a brick vault, clad in large marble panels.

The front panel incorporates the name and details of the deceased.

The vault stands at about two metres above ground level, and extending roughly three metres below ground.

All of the marble surrounds were loose, with some of the panels damaged and completely dislocated.

Most of the cast iron fence was either missing or damaged.



Reg. Office: Unit 25, Enterprise Row, Rangemoor Rd. Ind. Area, London N15 4LU
Director: Florian Kirchertz GCGI
VAT Reg.No. : 877 4192 81
lse@londonstoneconservation.co.uk

Secretary: Sae Na Ku GCGI
Company No. : 04912178
Fax: 0870 236 0564





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Although the overall the structure seemed sound enough, the brickwork below showed signs of failure, with bricks deteriorating or missing altogether.

Condition Prior to Treatment

In its current condition, the memorial has become structurally unstable, a hazard to its surroundings.

The reason for the failure to parts of this 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, thus allowing water to ingress. There are also visible traces of earth and other vegetation in the gaps between the stone and brick vault.

It is clear that the brickwork at the front of the monument is failing.

Treatment Carried out

After removing the marble side and front panels to assess the damage to the brick vault beneath, the extent of damage to the brickwork became clear.

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

The structure was braced with steel props to stabilize the vault during the works.

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 the side panels fitted on a rake, we decided to fix the panels at their base with stainless steel pins, 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.

To avoid future dislocation the narrow gap between the brickwork and the marble was filled with grout. This would also further aid the consolidation of the structure as a whole.

To guarantee that vegetation does not disturb the structural integrity of the memorial in the future, we inserted a reinforced concrete barrier at the back of the memorial, between the brick vault and the hillside, to divert any kind of ingress away from the actual structure.



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