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The Feversham Monument  
The Market Place  
Helmsley  
**Investigative survey**



By Peter Pace Architect and Ebor Stone CompanyLtd.  
on behalf of Helmsley Town Council

**24th February 2016**

## **A – Background -**

1. The investigation was commissioned by Helmsley Town Council, to determine the safety and security of the monument.
2. The investigation was undertaken by Peter Pace Architect (who completed a condition survey from ground level in June 2015), and Andrew Adamson Director of Ebor Stone Co. Ltd, who specialises in conservation of stone work to ancient buildings and has worked with the architect over many years.
3. The investigation was conducted from a hydraulic platform, with both architect and stone mason on the platform, and able to reach all parts to allow hand testing of the stonework and a close visual view.
4. As stated in the Condition Report the monument was extensively repaired in the 1990's mostly to the lower and middle sections. The upper section either did not require much work or was not included in that programme of repair, and it is here some problems were found. .

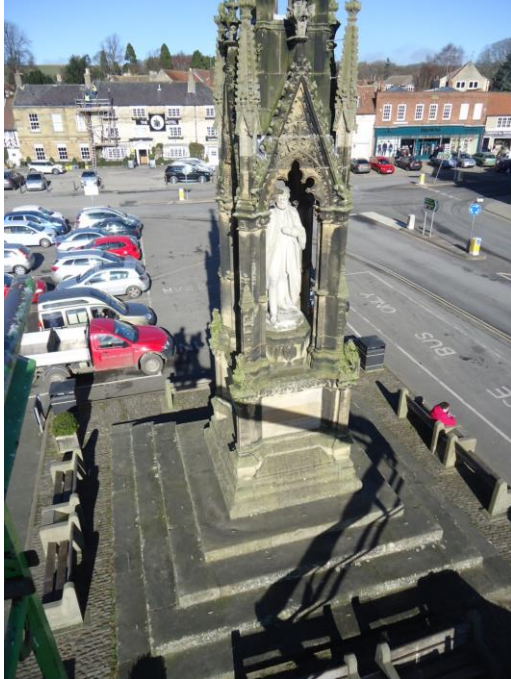
## **B. Conclusion**

The monument is generally in good condition, but there are a number of defects which require addressing –

- i) The Apex cross is fractured down the shaft. This is likely to have been caused by the fixing dowel rusting and expanding. The situation is serious as the stone is weakened and in a strong wind could be damaged further or even fall.
- ii) A few of the pinnacle tops are loosened, The fixing dowels are still intact but the mortar to the joints has eroded allowing the pinnacle tops to move slightly. Over the years this will lead to further loosening. As a large hydraulic lift platform or a scaffold will be required to reach and remake the apex cross, the opportunity will be available to address these other less urgent matters where a simple application of slate wedging and mortar will deal with the problems.

### C. Details of the Investigation :

Base Area –



The stone work has been well repaired with small areas containing inserts which are firmly fixed, as well as larger pieces such as pinnacle which are also well secured, using a mixture of bronze and stainless steel ties.

Middle Area –



The canopy has a lead lined base. This is sound, though at the edges the junction with the stonework is not tight. Redressing the lead will help and the application of Fosroc lead mastic seal is advised.

The top finial on the south side twists on its dowel and requires wedging and pointing to secure.





The top of the pinnacles to the north and south sides are also twisting on their dowels and need to be similarly re secured.



*North east*



*South west*

The upper part, apex cross is fractured on the North face, which extending from the centre of the cross to the shaft.



*North face*



*South face*



*North Face*

The fracture is consistent with the expansion of a ferrous dowel rusting and expanding, causing pressure which leads to the breaking of the stone into separate parts, which may well separate and fall either as individual pieces or all sections together. The situation is potentially dangerous, though it is not possible to determine how long it will take before the stonework reaches the stage where it is sufficiently loose to break up.

It is advised the apex cross is removed and repaired in the near future. Unfortunately it is a such a size and weight this could not be undertaken from the hydraulic platform used for this investigation. A much larger and stronger platform will be needed which could take the weight of two men and the stone cross itself. This will allow the cross to be removed and copied ready for a new one.

The other minor works could be undertaken at the same time.

Competitive tenders could be sought for the work.

## Summary of works -

Apex cross – to be renewed

Middle stage pinnacle tops to be resecured

Lower section Finial to be secured

Lead to base of niche to be redressed and sealed



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