

SIR ROBERT PEEL STATUE
WINCKLEY SQUARE
PRESTON

CONDITION SURVEY REPORT

Issue Nr: 01 Date: 29/01/15

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 FWP have been commissioned by Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan to carryout a Condition Survey Report of the Sir Robert Peel statue.
- 1.2 The statue is located to the east side of Winckley Square (which is a conservation area just off the main town centre) in Preston facing the Cross Street entrance to the Square.
- 1.3 Sir Robert Peel, then Prime Minister, succeeded in the abolition of the Corn Laws in 1846 and was held in esteem by the poor of the country. Following his death in 1850 and funded by public subscription a statue was commissioned to be sculpted by local well known portrait sculptor Thomas Duckett senior.
- 1.4 The statue, sculpted from a single block of limestone, was unveiled on Whit Monday, 31st May 1852 and erected where it currently stands bearing the inscription 'Sir Robert Peel Baronet' and 'Erected by Public Subscription 1852'.
- 1.5 The unveiling ceremony took place in the presence of local dignitaries and the town Mayor Alderman Thomas Monk whose name was originally inscribed on the plinth, however following Monk's imprisonment in 1858 the inscription bearing his name was subsequently removed by the town council.
- 1.6 The statue is classified by English Heritage as a Grade II listing (27 September 1979) with an ID number of 392202.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF STATUE

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2.1 The following is the description contained in the English Heritage listing for the statue

Statue of Sir Robert Peel Opposite Cross Street, Preston

Description: Statue of Sir Robert Peel Opposite Cross Street

Grade: II

Date Listed: 27 September 1979

English Heritage Building ID: 392202

OS Grid Reference: SD5388329082

OS Grid Coordinates: 353883, 429082

Latitude/Longitude: 53.7561, -2.7009

Location: 10 Winckley Square, Preston, Lancashire PR1 3HX

Locality: [Preston](#)

Local Authority: Preston City Council

County: [Lancashire](#)

Country: [England](#)

Postcode: PR1 3HX

PRESTON

SD5329SE WINCKLEY SQUARE

941-1/11/305 (East side)

27/09/79 Statue of Sir Robert Peel opposite
Cross Street

GV II

Monument to Sir Robert Peel (d.1850). Erected 1852; by Thomas Duckett of Preston. Limestone. High square pedestal with moulded base and banded top, surmounted by statue of Sir Robert Peel standing with his left hand on a draped rock behind him and his right hand at his waist, wearing a top coat, and a pair of trousers the tightness of which attracted contemporary criticism ("The clothing appears to cling to the lower limbs as though it had been soaked in water": Hardwick, History of Preston, 1857). The pedestal is inscribed "SIR/ ROBERT PEEL/ BARONET" with "ERECTED/ BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION/ 1852" on the plinth, while its base has a linear hollow in place of the original inscription "THOMAS MONK ESQ., MAYOR" (erased following Thomas Monk's sentence to penal servitude for life in 1858, convicted for forging a will).

Listing NGR: SD5388229082

3.0 CONDITION SURVEY

3.0 CONDITION SURVEY

Generally

- 3.1 The survey was carried out on 13 January 2015, the weather was cold but dry.
- 3.2 Any reference in this Report to left / right / front or rear is to be taken when viewed facing the statue with Cross Street to the back of the viewer.

Survey Findings

- 3.3 A level survey of the plinth base revealed that the base was slightly out of horizontal with the rear left hand corner appearing to have settled slightly over the course of time (see Appendix A).
- 3.4 Individual details of the condition of each face / elevation of the statue and supporting plinth are contained in Section 4.0 hereof however a summary overview of the general condition of the statue noted the following:
- the statue is heavily stained from vegetation growth which requires removing
 - the limestone surfaces are heavily weathered
 - there are small sections of stonework that have eroded or spalled-off
 - there are many exposed 'fissures' on stonework surfaces which will lead to further spalling in a freeze / thaw situation
 - there are a small number of open joints in stone support base
 - there are a small number of previous 'poor' repairs
- 3.5 Whilst the statue is clearly in need of attention structurally it is currently in a sound condition however from an aesthetic point of view the statue would benefit from cleaning and specialist minor repairs to preplace spalled and eroded elements and the reintroduction of the inscription and sculptors name to a clearly visible condition

4.0 PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

4.0 PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

Photograph

Nr

Detail Shown

1 & 2	<p>Right hand elevation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vegetation staining • evidence of previous repair • open joint at foot of upper base block • fissures in stone face
3-6 inclusive	<p>Rear elevation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vegetation staining • evidence of previous repair • open joint at foot of plinth base • erosion at foot of plinth base • large open fissures in stone face particularly rear of statue • spalled stonework from 'rock' feature • settling of plinth base
7-10 inclusive	<p>Left-hand elevation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vegetation staining • evidence of previous repair • open joint at foot of upper base block • fissures in stone face • spalled stonework from coat tail
11-16 inclusive	<p>Front elevation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vegetation staining • evidence of previous repair • open joint at foot of upper base block • fissures in stone face • poor previous repair to 'nose' • spalling of stonework to 'cloak' feature • erosion of inscription <p>Generally</p>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature of open fissures
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • erosion of sculptors name and open fissures





















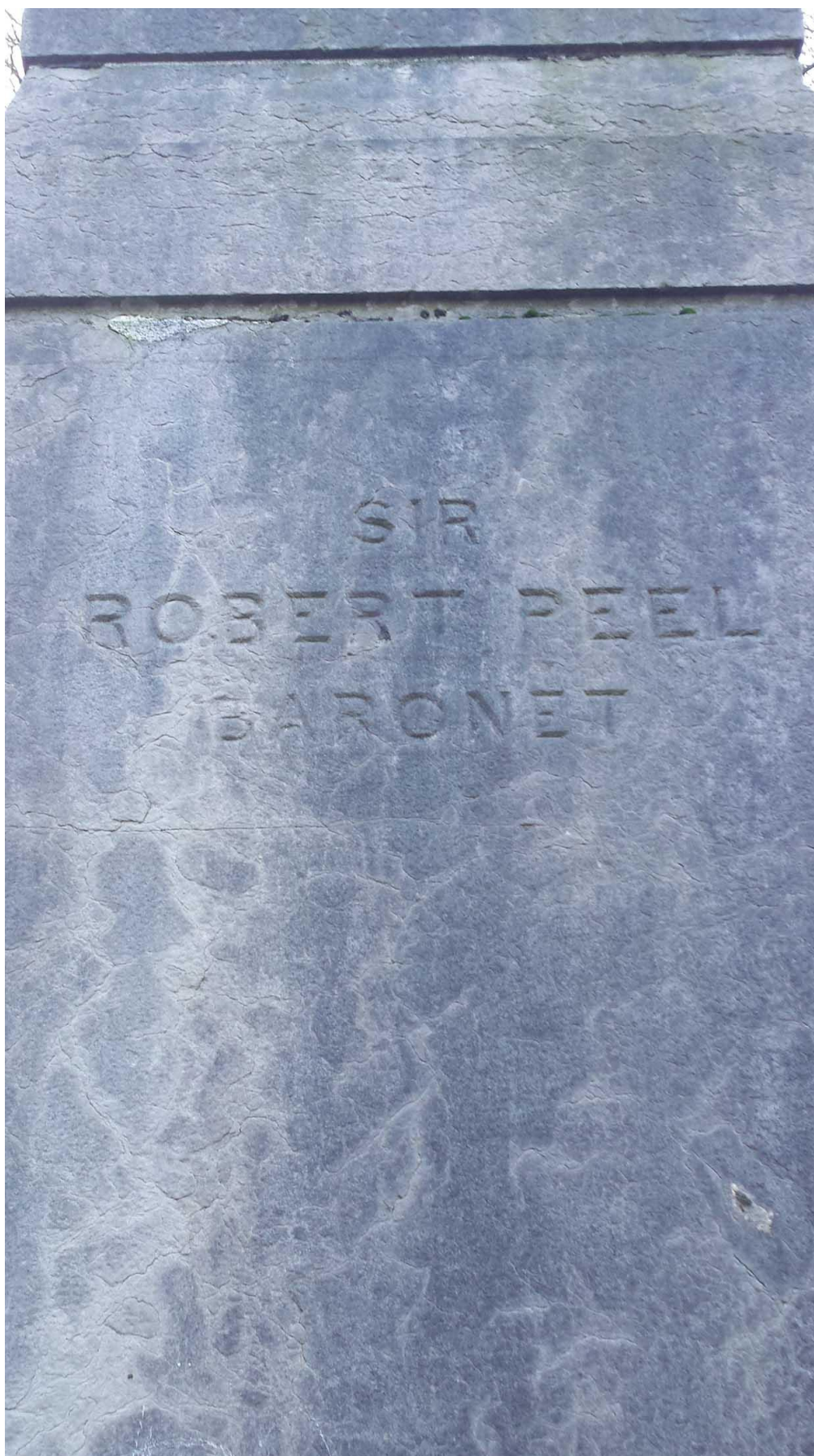












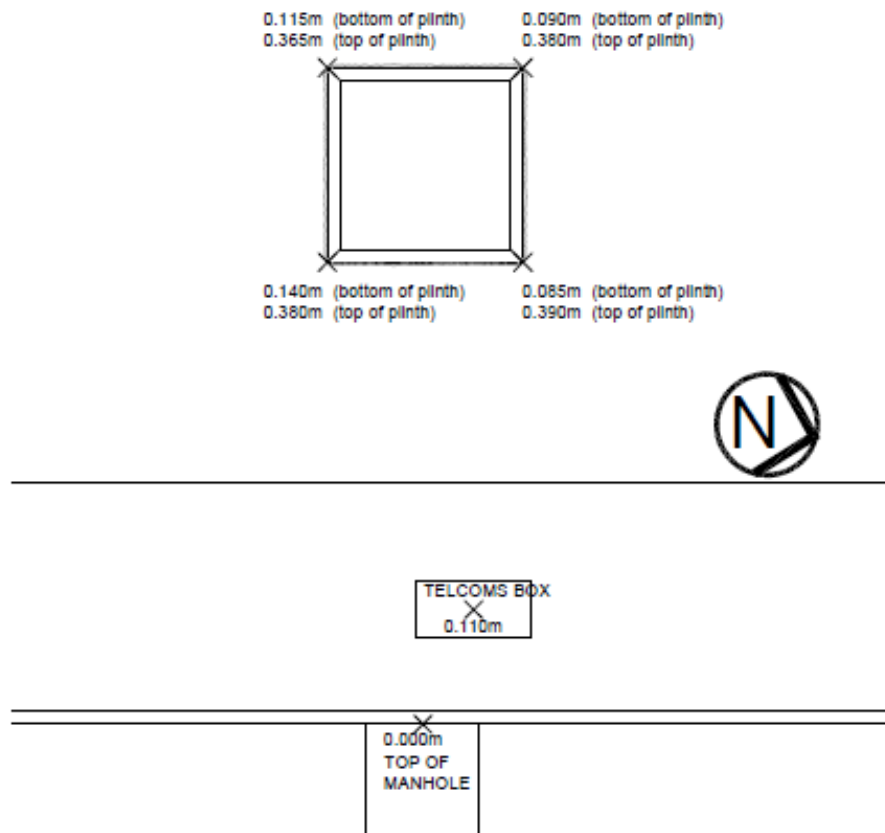


17



18

APPENDIX A: LEVEL SURVEY



All levels stated are based on the top of the Manhole within the Carriageway adjacent the footpath and have been calculated accordingly.

NOTES	REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION
IMPORTANT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This drawing is copyright and remains the property of this practice Do not scale this drawing All dimensions to be checked on site Positions of existing services to be confirmed prior to proceeding 	CLIENT Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan		
	PROJECT Survey - Robert Peel Statue		
	DRAWING TITLE Levels to plinth of Sir Robert Peel Statue		
REVISION STATUS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S: Information issued for feasibility or scheme design. T: Information issued for tender purposes only. C: Information issued for Construction. NB: Only those drawings containing a C revision to be used for construction. 	SCALE 1:50	DATE Jan'15	DRAWN GH CHECKED BC REVISION
	DWG NO. 5423/01		
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