

Henry Finch Memorial Fountain

Condition report



The report is based on visual observations and discussions as per our meeting with the client held on the 2.2.22.

It was agreed that any structural or design changes would be phased and at this stage minimal intervention was the preferred option.

Masonry and bronze lions heads

The former drinking fountain's structure is constructed in a pinkish granite (origin unknown) with what should be four bronze lions heads. The structure has been preserved considerably well over its lifetime to date and there are no signs of structural movement.

Apart from removal of the original finial cap there are only minor modifications and repairs, presumably when the drinking fountain was decommissioned and historically over the years. These mainly consist of mortar repairs to the drinking bowls and impact damage to exposed or protruding arrises.

There are areas of missing pointing from the joints although this again is relatively minor. The replacement mortar should be a composite of fine aggregate and prompt cement in view of its water resistant properties.

The carved inscriptions and decoration to the granite remain very sharp and distinctive. There are no signs of original highlighting i.e. gold leaf etc but this possibly could have been lost through years of weathering.

Image 1 shows the distinctive decoration , inscription and original lions



lions head.

head. Image 2 shows the missing

1

2

Further to the replacement of the missing lions head we would propose the following for the existing heads.

In the process of doff cleaning lightly agitate the verdigris with soft brushes ,this procedure should remove the surface patina. We would suggest consideration of light buffing in selected areas to re-introduce some shadowing in the patination. Following the work above being undertaken we would suggest treating with two coats of renaissance wax applied following pre warming of the bronze.

Services

The water and electric supply / connections to the fountain could not be established or verified at the time of the visit. The drainage system at the fountains location is also a fundamental part of the working system and would need further tests to clarify its usability.

In summary an extensive evaluation of all the above would be necessary including the introduction of a pumping and circulation system with filtration and UV components.

Budge Cost summary

We can advise that the budget costs based on minimum intervention , replace lions head , cleaning and minor pointing to the granite and highlighting the inscriptions and decorative designs.

Doff clean the structure = £2,500

Minor pointing to open joints = £750

Lions head , scan existing lions head , produce pattern , cast bronze lions head and fitting = £5,110

Gold leaf inscriptions and decorative designs = £6,000

This proved to be a difficult one to quote locally so I have had a contractor estimate from photographs. This estimate would probably be improved if an alternative method i.e. a suitable matching product was applied.

Also if gold leaf is used the structure will need to be entirely encapsulated.
= £1,500

Pumping system and components = £18,000