

Trooper Potts VC Memorial

In order to assess the risk of finding tree roots and Archaeological items of interest further exploratory work was undertaken in April and May 2015.

- We have tested on the other side of the wall for evidence of significant tree roots at the edge of the wall to the Forbury Garden where the Roll of Honour is to be placed. This evidence is provided separately.
- We are now aware of the thickness of the paving stone and the underlying foundations on site.

Evidence of the Paving and the foundations underlying the site of the memorial

Dr Jenkins was able to seek information from the company which undertook the work of restoring the gardens, including construction of the paved area on which the memorial will be positioned, **LDA Design of London.**

Their Director, Sally Prothero, has provided photographs of work in progress on the paved area outside the Gardens entrance and has commented about the depth of the paving and the sub base as follows:

“This is a link to some of the photos (*shown below*) of the paving outside the Gardens entrance. Paving is 100mm thick and on a sub- base of at least 150mm + 50mm bedding, but can’t be sure exactly how deep the sub-base goes. Hope this is some help. “



In particular it is useful to note in the above images the substantial foundations to the paved area and the unusually thick paving stones.

Conclusion

The maximum depth of the planned foundations was to be 400mm. In the light of the above images of the garden wall foundations and the information about the substantial existing paving and sub base / bedding (totalling a min of 300m) we conclude:

1. Should it be necessary to undertake excavations for the base of the plinth it is most unlikely that we will come across tree root penetration or archaeological items of interest.
2. It may be possible to exploit the existing paving and sound foundations and erect the plinths direct on top of the paving without the need to undertake foundations. If possible this will minimise site disruption. This is being tested by our architects, Robert Rigby Architects of Reading.

Richard Bennett

15 May 2015