

Site Survey 1st February 2006

Lower Chimney

There is very little to report other than to reiterate the minor concerns contained in the 2004 reports.

No discernable deterioration was noted.



Conclusions & Recommendations

These are essentially the same as in the 2004 report.

- The chimney is in reasonable condition and much of the growth that recently covered the structure has been cut back or killed. It is important that this is kept under control and annual maintenance is recommended.
- The ragged edges where presumably walls ran out from the chimney tower should be tidied up by rebuilding the ends. This will prevent stonework working loose over time and help prevent further deterioration.
- The top should be accessed and any loose material re-bedded or removed. This should be done immediately as there does appear to be a danger from falling masonry. From ground level it could not be seen if this recommendation had been carried out and so is repeated here. Loose stones falling from height would constitute a considerable danger to both pedestrians and motorists.
- In the next few years consideration should be given to repointing as this is beginning to deteriorate and could affect the long term stability of the chimney.

Arthur Richards

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Upper Chimney

There is very little to report other than to reiterate the minor concerns contained in the 2004 reports.

No discernable deterioration was noted.

The crack on this face noted in the previous report has not extended or widened. However it has not been filled either and remains open to the weather. Freezing water in the crack is liable to cause further damage.



Conclusions

- It is recommended that a survey firm be appointed to measure movement of the top of the tower. It would also be useful to install studs either side of the vertical crack above the opening. These can then be measured to establish if the crack is widening or extending.
- Further visual surveys should be carried out at 12 monthly intervals
- Although there is no immediate cause for concern, consideration might be given to internal strengthening at some point in the future. This could be achieved by the introduction of steel hoops resin bolted to the inside of the chimney.

History

The chimneys at Troopers Hill near St. George form well known Bristol land-marks which dates back to a time when this area was mined for coal, copper and clay etc

Extensive repointing of the upper chimney was carried out in 2001.

Previous condition surveys of both chimneys were carried out at the end of 2004. The conclusion on that occasion was that there was little cause for concern other than the possible continued movement out of vertical of the upper chimney and loose stonework on the lower chimney.

It is difficult to predict if the upper chimney is still moving without detailed survey information taken over a period of time.

Unfortunately the council no longer possesses the facilities in-house to monitor movement of structures of this height and it is recommended that external survey firms are consulted with regard to future monitoring.

It is reported that the Friends of Troopers Hill have expressed their own concerns about deterioration of the chimney(s) and it would be interesting to hear of this in more detail.

Observations in this survey are very much the same as those for the 2004 surveys and this report should therefore be read in conjunction with the earlier surveys.

REPORT PREPARED FOR
Andrew Searle
Technical Services PTSD

STRUCTURAL INSPECTION
AT
TROOPERS HILL CHIMNEYS
Re-inspection

1st February 2006



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