

Captain Robert Falcon Scott Statue

On 9 February 1917 in “glorious weather” in front of a “large assembly of citizens and school children” (who were granted a special leave of absence to attend) the white marble statue of Robert Falcon Scott was unveiled.

A number of speakers reflected on the scientific contribution of the explorers with Mayor Holland noting that the “memorial to Captain Scott would remain a permanent reminder to the generations of the future that the Englishmen of these days were worthy upholders of the noblest traditions of their race.”

100 years on, a project team consisting of specialists in their field are making great progress towards repairing the earthquake damaged statue of Scott.

Current Status

On 11 January 2017 the statue of Scott was released from Quake City and transported to a Council storage facility, where it will be prepared for repair.

A number of stakeholder interviews were conducted between October 2016 and January 2017 and the consultation process is now complete. Written submissions were also received. Stakeholders were unanimous in their desire to see the statue repaired and returned to the original plinth. A report detailing the outcomes of the consultation is underway.



The Weekly Press publisher, Bishop collection, Canterbury Museum. Ref 1923.53.762.

Over the past months the project team evaluated multiple repair options for the statue and has identified one preferred repair strategy. This innovative design includes pinning the legs with carbon fibre rods and thread, and a form of base isolation between the statue and the plinth to give it added protection.

It has been decided to create a mock-up of the repaired statue and seismically test that. This will help determine



The Scott Statue being transferred from Quake City to a Council storage facility.

the repair strategy. We have to accept the possibility that the testing may show the repair can't proceed under the current thinking.

The materials that will be used to create the mock-up repair, and the repair itself, have been ordered and are on their way from the US, UK and Australia. Materials include carbon fibre rods, thread and epoxy adhesives.

The project team is currently creating the mock-up of the statue's right leg, ensuring the break surface is accurately replicated. The large block of Carrara marble (the same marble as the statue) that will be used to carve the mock-up is on its way from Italy.

Two international experts in the repair of marble statues have been invited to peer review the project's design and conservation approach. Carolyn Riccardelli and George Scherer are co-authors on the paper "An examination of pinning materials for marble sculpture". The paper was developed following the damage sustained to Tullio Lombardo's Adam, a sculpture carved from fine Carrara Marble. This paper has been a 'terms of reference' for the project team.

Discussions are also taking place with contractors and manufacturers looking ahead at the methodology for repair and site set-up.

What's Next

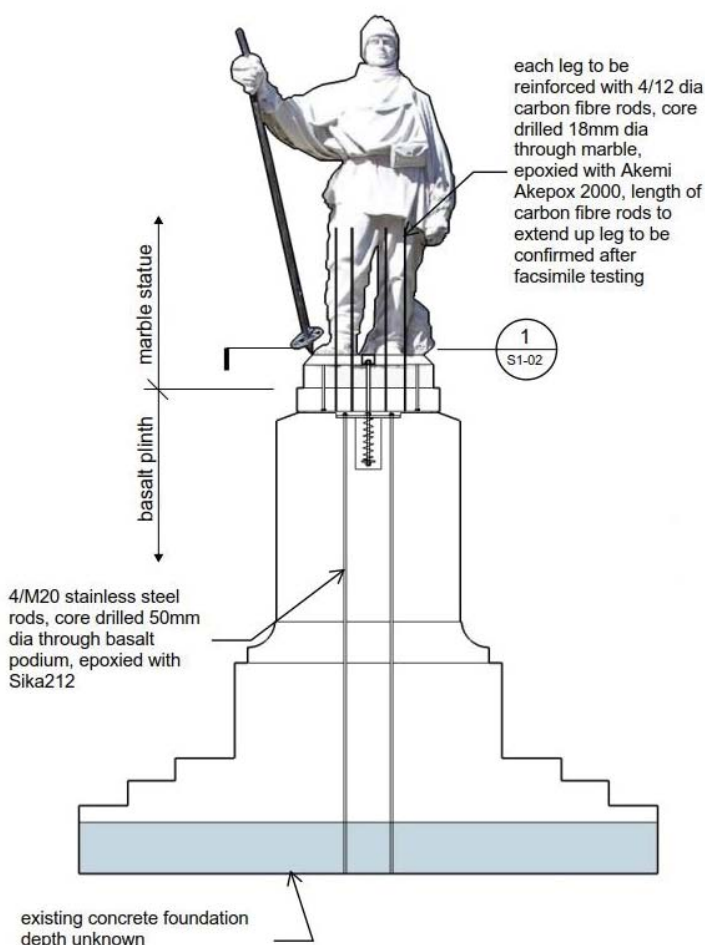
Seismic testing of the mock-up repair will be undertaken using the latest technology. The tests will provide the project team with valuable information on whether any adjustments are needed to the design before starting the statue's repair.

Due to the statue's heritage classification in both the Christchurch City Plan and with Heritage NZ, a resource consent will be applied for. The results of the consultation will be included in this consent application.

The project team will continue to develop the methodology for repairing the statue and logistics, carefully reviewing each step of the repair with any risks identified and mitigation measures put in place.

Provided Resource Consent is granted and the seismic testing of the mock-up goes to plan, the project team will look to commence repairs on the statue in May 2017, with a view to reinstate the statue in time for the opening of the Antarctic Season 2017. This will be a fitting tribute in its centenary year.

If the repairs are unable to be completed on the statue, further consultation will be required to determine the next steps.



Mark Whyte (sculptor) creating a plaster cast of both sections of the leg in late January.

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