

**Annex 5****List Entry****List Entry Summary**

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

**Name:** HMS L55 Memorial

**List Entry Number:** 1428144

**Location**

HMS L55 Memorial, Clayhall Royal Naval Cemetery, Clayhall Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 2BE

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Hampshire	Gosport	District Authority	Non Civil Parish

**National Park:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** II

**Date first listed:**

**Date of most recent amendment:**

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### Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Legacy Number:** Not applicable to this List entry.

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### Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

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### List Entry Description

#### Summary of Building

A commemorative monument to a naval disaster of 1919, constructed in 1928.

#### Reasons for Designation

The memorial to HMS L55 is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- \* Historic interest: as evidence of the tragic impact of the First World War;
- \* Artistic value: a restrained and dignified memorial of good-quality, well-crafted materials;
- \* Group value: for its place in the Royal Naval Cemetery and its relationship with the other listed memorials and the cemetery chapel, and within the wider naval landscapes of Haslar, Gosport and Portsmouth.

#### History

The HM Submarine L55 memorial dates from 1928 when the remains of the crew were repatriated after almost a decade, following the raising of the sunken vessel the previous year.

The L55 was a British L-Class submarine, built on the Clyde, that had been in service for only a year before being sunk during the Allied intervention into the Russian Civil War. On 4 June 1919 the submarine unsuccessfully attacked two Bolshevik destroyers that were laying mines to protect Petrograd (now St Petersburg) and in so doing suffered damage and was sunk. Although the Bolsheviks claimed responsibility for sinking the vessel there is some doubt, as it sunk in an area heavily laid with British mines.

In 1927 the L55 was raised by the Russians; their policy not to allow British war ships within their waters was upheld, and the remains of the crew were collected by a British merchant ship before being transferred to HMS Champion to make the journey home. 32 coffins were buried in a communal grave on 7 September 1928.

The submarine went on to have a chequered career under Russian control, sinking for a second time, along with 50 men, in 1931. She became a training craft, but was damaged in 1941 and was finally broken up in 1953.

**Details**

A commemorative monument to a naval disaster of 1919, constructed in 1928.

**MATERIALS:** the memorial is constructed from dressed limestone.

**DESCRIPTION:** a screen memorial with a stepped arched head on a shallow rectangular base. The die has a raised border and five raised panels, the central one of which is flanked by the inscription '1914-1919', and incised onto the panel is: 'HERE ARE RECORDED / THE NAMES / OF THOSE OFFICERS / AND MEN OF / HM SUBMARINE L55 / SUNK / IN THE BALTIC ON / THE 4TH JUNE 1919 / WHO LIE BURIED / IN THIS GRAVE'. The outer four panels bear the names of the 42 victims arranged alphabetically with their ranks and ages.

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**Selected Sources****Websites**

Clayhall Cemetery, Haslar Heritage Group, accessed 5/3/2015 from  
[http://www.haslarheritagegroup.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=49:clayhall-cemetery&catid=20:the-buildings-of-haslar&Itemid=109](http://www.haslarheritagegroup.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49:clayhall-cemetery&catid=20:the-buildings-of-haslar&Itemid=109)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 'Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery', accessed 5/3/2015 from  
<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2044620/HASLAR%20ROYAL%20NAVAL%20CEMETERY>

The Spectator, 1 September 1928, p3, accessed 5/3/2015 from  
<http://archive.spectator.co.uk/article/1st-september-1928/3/the-british-submarine-l55-was-raised-in-russian-wa>



## Heritage Category: Listing

County: Hampshire  
District: Gosport  
Parish: Non Civil Parish

For all entries pre-dating 4 April 2011 maps and national grid references do not form part of the official record of a listed building. In such cases the map here and the national grid reference are generated from the list entry in the official record and added later to aid identification of the principal listed building or buildings.

For all list entries made on or after 4 April 2011 the map here and the national grid reference do form part of the official record. In such cases the map and the national grid reference are to aid identification of the principal listed building or buildings only and must be read in conjunction with other information in the record.

Any object or structure fixed to the principal building or buildings and any object or structure within the curtilage of the building, which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1st July, 1948 is by law to be treated as part of the listed building.

This map was delivered electronically and when printed may not be to scale and may be subject to distortions.

**Grid Reference:** SZ6094998597  
**Map Scale:** 1:1250  
**Print Date:** 1 February 2016

**Number:** 1428144\_1  
**Name:** HMS L55 Memorial

This is an A4 sized map and should be printed full size at A4 with no page scaling set.

