BRAMM
IMPROVING STANDARDS
381 Preston Old Road, Blackburn BB2 5LL

BRAMM Fixer Licence

Assessment Information 2026

FOR EXPERIENCED MEMORIAL FIXERS ONLY

The BFL Assessment is only suitable for experienced memorial fixers. It tests a range of memorial installation skills to the current BS 8415 standard – not necessarily the methods used every day.

Minimum 6 months as a memorial fixer · Minimum 20 memorials fixed in the last 6 months

A memorial is only as safe as the hands that set it.

1 Why the BRAMM Fixer Licence

More and more burial authorities ask memorial masonry firms for proof of competence. The BRAMM Fixer Licence (BFL) gives that proof: it shows a fixer is competent to install memorials to the current BS 8415 standard.

> **Before you apply**
> The memorial company must be registered with BRAMM, or be in the process of registering, before its fixers can be entered for assessment.

The assessment is in two parts: **the Theory Test** and **the Practical Assessment**.

2 The Theory Test

Format	Online, 76 multiple-choice (tick-box) questions testing knowledge and understanding of BS 8415
Before you start	Watch the short Theory Test video. Have the BRAMM Blue Book or Abridged Blue Book to hand – a paper copy or a digital copy on your phone
Pass mark	**100% correct** – up to 3 attempts allowed
Time limit	None
Equipment	A computer or tablet. A mobile phone screen is too small

3 The Practical Assessment

The practical tests a range of memorial installation skills to the current BS 8415 standard. Every candidate is assessed in exactly the same way, which may not be the method each candidate uses day to day. On the day, your assessor will meet you at the test site and put you at ease.

It has three parts:

Section 1 – Measurements	Your assessor photographs the foundation size, the ground anchor and anchor holes, the dowel holes and the dowels – key parts of BS 8415:2018. You will be asked to show your ground anchor manufacturer's fixing instructions and the BRAMM Blue Book (printed or on your phone).
Section 2 – Fixing	The grave site is marked between two mock wooden bases in a cemetery. You dig and tamp a foundation bed and fix a 2'3" (685mm) lawn memorial on a precast foundation with an accredited ground anchor, dowels and cement paste. No part may be pre-fixed.
Section 3 – Feedback	Your assessor explains every point deducted, after the assessment is finished (see section 4).

Timing – the fixing section

Up to 60 minutes	No points lost
61 – 75 minutes	1 point lost
76 – 90 minutes	2 points lost
91 minutes or more	**Fail**

- **Bring a buddy.** Every candidate must attend with a buddy to help lift heavy components. The buddy can also help make sure the drill and ground anchor are vertical.
- **Skills test.** You will drill a new ground anchor hole in a set position on the foundation – the accurate drilling you need when refixing memorials in situ.
- **Photo evidence.** About 32 evidence photographs are taken, including one of you with the finished, landscaped memorial and a neat, tidy site – as it should be for every memorial. See the **Example Portfolio 2026** for every skill assessed.

Fixing the base to the foundation – what the assessment requires and what BRAMM recommends

In the assessment the base is set on the foundation on a full, even bed of cement paste and an accredited ground anchor is fitted. The base is **not** dowelled or locked down to the foundation, and no points are deducted for that.

In everyday work, however, BRAMM recommends as **best practice** that the base is also fixed to the foundation: with an approved mechanical lockdown system, or with stainless steel dowels where the memorial will not need to be removed later. The ground anchor is a **safety device, not a structural component**: it stops the memorial toppling, but it does not hold the base to the foundation. Safety inspections most often fail memorials at the base to foundation joint, and a dowelled or locked-down base keeps the memorial structurally sound for the long term. See the Abridged BRAMM Blue Book 2026, "Ground anchors for memorials over 625mm".

4 Feedback and results

1. Every candidate starts with full marks.
2. The assessor deducts points for each item that does not comply with BS 8415 or the assessment requirements, and explains why each point was deducted after the assessment is finished.
3. You are asked to score the assessment process out of 10 and to comment on the experience.
4. The assessor shares the portfolio with the BRAMM Internal Quality Auditor, who reviews the evidence before the final decision.
5. A score of **6 or more in both** the Measurement and Fixing sections earns a BRAMM Fixer Licence.

No refunds

A refund is not given if the candidate fails the assessment.

Practise first – BRAMM strongly recommends it

Run through every skill several times before the day:

- check the hole sizes
- dig a foundation bed
- drill an accurate hole
- mix cement
- check the ground anchor instructions
- time a full test run

5 What to bring on the day

Memorial components

Item	Specification
Headstone	2'3" x 1'9" x 3" (685mm x 535mm x 75mm)
Base	24" x 12" x 3" (610mm x 305mm x 75mm)
Reinforced concrete foundation	36" x 18" x 3" (900mm x 450mm x 75mm), with the correct diameter ground anchor hole. **Trough foundations are not permitted.**
Ground anchor	Accredited stainless steel ground anchor, with the manufacturer's written instructions
Dowels	Stainless steel, grade A2 or A4, threaded or smooth, minimum 6" x 16mm diameter (150mm x 16mm). Not pre-fixed into the base or headstone – fixed with cement paste at the assessment
BRAMM Blue Book	The Blue Book or Abridged Blue Book – printed or on your phone

Tools and equipment

☐ Transport trolley (sack truck)	☐ Long spirit level, about 18" (450mm)
☐ Wheelbarrow	☐ Sand for levelling the foundation
☐ Plastic sheet or tarpaulin to lay out tools	☐ Pointed trowel
☐ Strong string line	☐ A bag of in-date cement
☐ Heavy ground rammer / tamper	☐ Suitable wooden skids
☐ Tape measure, at least 8'0" (2.4m)	☐ Water, sponges and drying / cleaning cloths
☐ Spade	☐ Road cones and / or warning tape

Drilling equipment
A 110v portable generator (or a fully charged battery drill if preferred) with either wet coring or professional SDS dry drilling equipment, able to drill an accurate hole to the size your chosen ground anchor requires.

- **PPE** is advised as set out in each product's guidelines. The use of PPE is the candidate's responsibility.
- **Manual handling** is the employer's responsibility.

6 Questions, appeals and complaints

- If you have any questions or concerns, contact BRAMM or your assessor before the practical assessment day.
- Policies are available on request.
- To appeal an assessment decision or make a complaint, contact BRAMM Head Office on **01452 346741** or **bramm@bramm-uk.org**.

Verified
The BRAMM Fixer Licence assessment is verified by AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group.

A memorial safely fixed – a cemetery safer for everyone.